

The Jacob Journal

Spreading God's Word through Bible Translation July 2015



The Gospel Must First Be Published Among All Nations

Didinga New Testament Nears Completion

In June, I (Tom) spent a few weeks at our translation center in Juba, South Sudan. I worked with the Didinga translation team finalizing the books of Exodus and Jonah for inclusion with the soon-to-come Didinga New Testament. I began working with the Didinga project 15 years ago and it is so good to be part of the finalizing of the New Testament.

Bible translators often come across ideas in the Biblical culture that are very different from their own culture. The practice of circumcision is an unknown idea to most Didinga people. This posed a challenge for the translators. How can they translate this unknown idea to make it understandable to the people? They tried to use a descriptive phrase 'to cut the skin', but this could refer to cutting skin anywhere on the body. In the neighboring tribe, young male warriors practice cutting the skin on the face in a pattern of lines which signifies how many enemy warriors they have killed. The translators tried a more specific phrase 'to cut the skin of the male organ'. During the community reading of Exodus, a church leader said that this phrase is not suitable for reading in church because it mentions the male organ. It was agreed that they would put the potentially offensive information in a footnote to help the reader better understand this key Biblical term. This issue is a matter of on going discussion among the Didinga community and church leaders.



Members of the Didinga community put the final touches on the grass roof of this typical Didinga home. Similarly, the Didinga translation team is putting the final touches on the Didinga New Testament.



Community reading of the freshly translated Didinga Scriptures.



Didinga Translation Team Leader Dominic Timan in front of his home in Chukudum, South Sudan.



Exodus and Jonah approved for inclusion with the Didinga New Testament.



The Keliko people live in a remote area of South Sudan. They are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Keliko New Testament.



Keliko translators Seme and Enos greet each other in front of a church in the Keliko homeland in South Sudan.



Keliko children playing the bongo drums commonly used in worship.

Keliko Community Eagerly Awaits the Coming of the New Testament

While in Juba, I also worked with the Keliko translation team on checking the books of Exodus and Jonah. One of the privileges of doing linguistic work is you get to see first hand evidence of God's hand on the various languages. God is the one who confused the languages of the world at the Tower of Babel and it is amazing to see His unique fingerprints on each language. In the Keliko language they have many colorful idioms using the word *ésí* which means 'heart'.

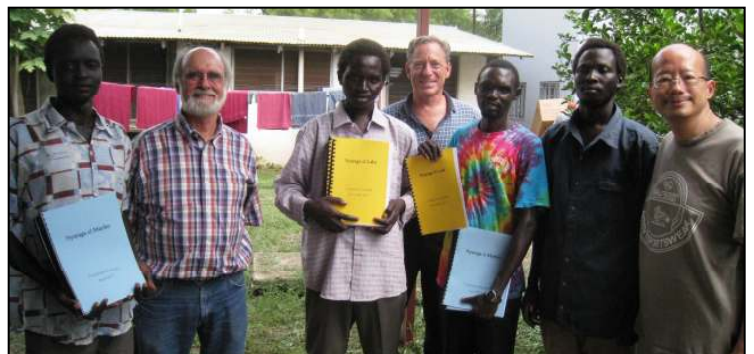
- ésí* *ĩdríkídri* – cool heart – kind
- ésí* *múké* – good heart – gracious
- ésí* *ĩzāngā* – sad heart – discouraged
- úmbékí* *ésí* – tie heart – be patient
- 'bākí* *ésí* – put heart – trust
- ésí* *céré* – all heart – wholeheartedly
- ésí* *ve* – burn heart – angry
- ésí* *ũká* *ũká* – cruel, cruel heart – arrogant
- ésí* *tete* – heavy, heavy heart – stubborn
- ésí* *ũkpó* *ũkpó* – strong, strong heart – courageous

Gospels of Mark and Luke on the Way to the Laarim Homeland

I was very pleased to see newly printed Gospels of Mark and Luke being taken to the Laarim homeland. This year, I am working with the Laarim translators on the book of Genesis which will be included with the Laarim New Testament.



Keliko translation team celebrate the approval of Exodus and Jonah for inclusion with the Keliko New Testament.



Gospel of Mark and Luke on their way to the Laarim homeland in South Sudan.



Jacob Brothers Excel at RVA Theater

As one of RVA's top thespians, Travis had left some pretty big shoes to fill in the RVA drama scene. Jordan has risen to the challenge and has carried the Jacob torch well. Last November, he performed brilliantly in the role of Joe Ferone in *Up the Down Staircase*. In February, he played the role of CS Lewis in *Narnia*. In June, he was outstanding in the role of Guy in *Behold, Here's Poison*. Bravo to the talented Jacob Brothers! Jordan completes his junior year at RVA this month and comes home to South Africa on July 15th for a well deserved break.

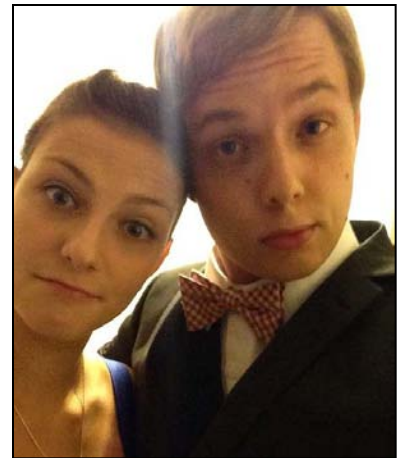
Prayer & Praise

- ◆ Praise for Tom's busy and fruitful trip to South Sudan in June!
- ◆ Praise that Exodus and Jonah have been approved for publication in both the Didinga and Keliko languages!
- ◆ Pray for Tom's trip to Zambia (July 17—August 9) to translate the book of Acts with the Shanjo language group.
- ◆ Pray for wisdom for Sharon as she serves as Wycliffe South Africa Human Relations Director.
- ◆ Pray for Tom as he prepares for checking Laarim Genesis in September.
- ◆ Pray that the newly dubbed Jesus film will have an impact on lives in western Zambia.
- ◆ Pray for Travis as he resumes his nursing studies.
- ◆ Pray for Jordan as he completes his junior year at RVA and returns home for a rest.
- ◆ Pray for Sharon's parents who are both struggling with health issues.

Thank you so much for your interest and partnership with us as we reach out to the Bibleless people of Africa!

Travis & Sydney Update

Travis and Sydney are enjoying their first year of marriage in Pensacola, Florida. They are both busy working at Chick-fil-A and are active in their local church. Unfortunately, Travis had to postpone his nursing studies this past semester due to lack of finances. Good news is he is resuming his nursing studies in July. Please pray for continued blessings as husband and wife and for wisdom for Travis as he resumes his study program.



Sydney & Travis in Pensacola

Personal Address:

Tom & Sharon Jacob
1 Citra Street
Van Riebeeck Park 1619
South Africa

Cell phone: +27-713265311

Email Tom: tom_jacob@sil.org

Email Sharon: sharon_jacob@wycliffe.org.za

Email Jordan: jjacob16@rva.org

Travis & Sydney Jacob
8101 Tippin Ave. Unit M
Pensacola, FL 32514-4767
USA

Email Travis: travisjacob11@gmail.com

With thankfulness and blessings,

Tom & Sharon



Partners in Bible Translation

www.wycliffe.org

For Financial Involvement:

Please make gifts payable to:

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200

Please include a note: "Preference for the ministry of Tom and Sharon Jacob"

To give online:

www.wycliffe.org/partnership.aspx?mid=3B7378