

LE ROUX'S NEWS

Shakawe, North-west Botswana | Botshelo Trust

Overview:

Bible Translation

1. San-languages Oral Bible Translations
2. Thimbukushu Oral Bible Translation

Equipping believers

3. Discipleship conference and 12-week Bible studies
4. Firm Foundations
5. Mukhanyo Courses
6. Cape Town Training with Wycliffe and SIL
7. Kenya

Young Children

8. Playgroup at Botshelo Trust
9. Playgroup Network including surrounding villages

Botshelo Trust

10. Infrastructure Development
11. New office appointment

Some personal news



We have been thinking of sharing a more personal news letter for quite some months now. (If you received the Botshelo Trust Newsletter in December 2016, yes, that was our last newsletter and it was more formal - and less personal).

We have, like everyone really, been quite busy and time just flew by. So here it is - our latest news and prayer requests

1. San Bible Translation

We are thankful for the good news from the Nata area of Botswana, where the San are now in a position to drive their own translation work. This meant that Botshelo Trust could be freed up from that responsibility, of coordinating two additional languages in the eastern part of Botswana. Now we are able to focus on our own area – particularly on the Ju'huansi (the God's must be crazy-flim's language), and also with Scripture engagement work. Slowly, through the discipleship network initiative, we want to become more involved also again with the Khwe people.

We still give thanks to God for the progress being made now by our partners amongst the San in the Nata area, also in Ghanzi, Gobabis and surrounding areas, and in the Tsumkwe/Mangetti Dune and Tsintsabis areas, whilst we (Botshelo Trust) are focusing on the North-western part of Botswana.

2. Thimbukushu Bible Translation

We are very thankful for the progress made - it has been an initiative driven by the hambukushu people from the beginning. local churches and the chiefs on

both sides of the border between Namibia and Botswana have expressed this need, initially for an Old Testament in their mother tongue, to support the existing New Testament, which many feel also needs to be revised.

Good news is that WycliffeSA recently indicated that they have funding for an initial oral translation project. Also, when the Bible society of Namibia attended the translation committee meeting the other day, it seemed that there could even be a possibility of supporting a full written Bible. We thank God for blessing the efforts of all those involved, especially Paulus Chapi from Botshelo Trust, who has been selflessly working hard to make this work a reality.

3. Firm Foundations

One of the highlights we have had this year, has been the training week by Franz Bense, who is an expert in teaching a panoramic, chronological overview of the Bible. Whilst it was meant for our oral translators in this area, we had many from the local churches attend, and we are thinking of utilising this training as part of our support we should give to local disciples in general. Our dream is that we can help people share the Gospel in a similar way in their mother tongues, in their own communities, so people can get an overview of the bigger picture, with a Gospel emphasis.



4. Discipleship Conference & future network

Johannes Aucamp and his family from Topia-ministry (Training of Pastors in Africa) visited us the week after the Benzes. He delivered a week-long discipleship conference. It was an encouraging week during which all were once again reminded of the great commission: go and make disciples. The local group committed to continue meeting for at least the next 12 weeks and follow the disciple-making Bible study. This in turn spurred us on to start thinking about a discipleship network. We hope in the future to start a network in the surrounding villages through which we can encourage, support and equip persons of peace and through such a network drive real disciple-making in many smaller communities.

5. Mukhanyo

We have 2 diploma students, soon to do their first exam. We have learned many lessons about these courses and we lift these 2 students up to Him.

We also have a group of women doing the certificate course. Their



Prayer request

1. Praise God for the smaller cluster design with the San Oral Bible translation project, which has enabled Eben to focus more on Botshelo Trust and local discipleship network initiative.
2. Praise the Lord for funding for the Thimbukushu translation. May God guide and protect the way ahead, especially in giving wisdom to Paulus Chapi and the Steering Committee.
3. Thank God for individuals like Franz and Johannes who have come at crucial times to help equip us and refine the vision of our ministry work.
4. Focus and stamina for the students who are very committed to the Mukhanyo courses.
5. Thanks for the Cape Town Conference that spurred everyone on and injected us with new ideas that we hope will lead to more people meeting our Lord.

progress has been delayed by the fact that it has been planting and then harvesting season (and women do most of the farming in the area). The ladies are eager to continue, but we are patiently waiting for things to settle first.

6. Cape Town & Kenya

Paulus Chapi, Moronga Tanago, Sonner Geria, Dahm XiXae and Blesswell Kure attended a conference and training opportunity with Eben in Cape Town at the beginning of May. It was insightful but also very encouraging. The experiences there really put more energy into our dream of a discipleship-network.

Paulus and Sonner will also be travelling to Kenya for a 2 months course (this will be the second time they attend such training). The previous time it was a learning experience and both challenging and rewarding. We pray it will be similar or better this time round.

7. Botshelo's own Playgroup

Botshelo Trust's playgroup is going from strength to strength. This children are attending and learning and because of the great stimulation, developing their skills and attitudes. We are still struggling with basic resources like reading/picture books, imaginative play material, etc. But the teachers are doing so well with relatively little and their attitudes can also only be praised. Please thank God with us for Kgathego, Mma Kadima and Edna - our 3 teachers.



8. Playgroup network

The playgroup at Botshelo Trust forms part of a network of playgroups. We share training, resources and funding. Phia recently completed a year-long curriculum and accompanying student workbook for the playgroups to use and we have sources funding to construct a building through the network. The network teachers were also recently handed the Children's Bibles donated by various individuals and we will be starting to tell the "Big Picture Story" with all the playgroups from now on. We hope to give the children (and the teachers) a good idea of the golden threads of the Good News. We hope to follow this up with the Look, Listen, Live series of Bible stories in different mother tongues.



9. Facilities

We are very excited about a multi-use Learning Centre that will be the main stage for all activities of our ministry in Shakawe. Our plot had a 25m x 11m concrete slab that we are roofing and building up to create a space for events. We hope to also renovate the toilet facilities further and build a hub for the playgroup network. Other than our big building, we also build a second meeting venue that can double up for an accommodation. We have been using it fruitfully until now and we hope that it can benefit our ministry and other community events more and more as time passes. (Funded by Share for Smiles through SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund).



10. A new appointment at Botshelo Trust

Eben has been swamped by the sheer amount of work and the different aspects of the work kept pulling him from side to side. A huge gift to him, has been the appointment of an administrator, Nduva Haidongo, who will be also handling most of the financial processes. This is a great burden lifted from Eben's shoulders and we praise God for sending us the perfect person for this position.



11. Personal news

In the Le Roux household all is going really well. We have so much that we are grateful for:

- Eben is more at home this year than any of the previous years since we moved to Botswana (We Praise the Lord for this!!! He answered our prayers.)
- *Good health and growth:* Our family has not had any serious health concerns and all the children are growing and learning and loving life. Little Phia (8) and Laurika (6) is doing well with the homeschooling - and so is their mommy ;-). Annamarie (soon-to-be-4) is a constant source of joy and quirky sayings and Abraham (14 months) is everyone's favourite "chubby cheeks". We honour God for his love and providence.
- *New neighbours:* We have been joined by Eben's sister and her family as they look into business opportunities in this area. It is good having more family close-by and the children are thrilled daily by having their cousins as neighbours.
- We have had some passport issues lately, which forced us to travel to South Africa for a second time in a very short space of time. Luckily, Eben also heard that he will be having his Botswana citizenship interview at the end of May, which, if he succeeds, will make life and work much easier for the years to come.
- Phia and the children look forward to some time in South Africa in July, during which time Eben will join his father-in-law on a tour of Egypt, Israel and Jordan. We are grateful for this opportunity as we know it is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Thank you for your love, support and prayers. Greetings in Christ Jesus,

The Le Roux family



Prayer request

6. Please pray for Paulus and Sonner during their travels and time in Kenya. It is difficult to be away from home this long, and the coursework is challenging...
7. Also keep Sonner in your prayers as he recently lost his only daughter (6-year old Macho) and he is still very much grieving.
8. Praise God for the good work done at the playgroups. There are many obstacles still, but the greater picture is one of growth and success.
9. Praise God for the opportunity to build new facilities: May the buildings contribute to the work that needs to be done. Also, may there be few obstacles in the way during the building process.
10. We thank God for Nduva Haidongo. May He give her all she needs to perform her support duties to a high level
11. We praise God for sending us Moronga at the right time for the right moment in time. May God give him wisdom for the decisions he has to make in the near future. Whatever his path may be, may this open up even more opportunities for many more people to come to know God.
12. Thank God with us for the continued financial and prayer support from churches and individuals that makes it possible for us to continue our work in this area.