

Consulting for Christ

Enabling Bible Translation in Ethiopia

February 20, 2019

Rain Is Coming

Rain! After months of dryness, we had our first rain this morning. The first rain is always special. It washes off the layer of dust that has settled on everything. It also signals that the hot dry season is over and promises that more life-giving rain is on the way. Rain is seen as a blessing here. So many people rely on it to water their crops, supply food for their animals, and provide water for drinking and washing.

Like the first rain, God's Word has come to the Dirayta people. The translation team just released a recording of the whole New Testament. The team continues to work on the final editing, and they soon hope to send the manuscript off to be printed. Pray that God will bless those who listen to the recording. Pray that he will bless the work of the translation team as they do their final edits.



Jim with the Dirayta translation team: Rev. Hatano, Mirjami, Yohannes, and Alemnesh



The Konso translation team: Estiphanos, Rev. Abera, and Rev. Nataye

The Konso translation team is also close to finishing their work. I will be working with them in March to help check over their revisions to the New Testament. Then they will be doing final editing on both the Old and New Testaments. They hope to have the whole Bible printed later this year. Pray that God bless their work!

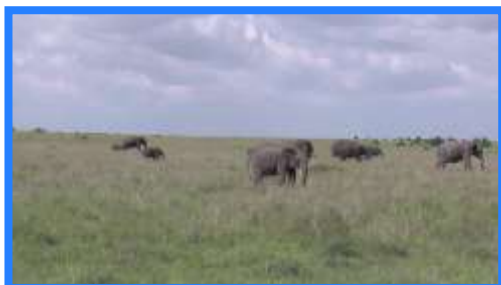
The Zayse translation team is hoping to finish all of the consultant checking for their New Testament by the end of this summer. I recently finished checking over Matthew with them, and will be working with them in March on 2 Corinthians. Pray that God will also bless their work. For all three of these teams, please pray for wisdom, health, unity, and endurance as they near the finish line for their translations. Thanks for partnering with us to bring rain of God's Word to these groups!



Jim with the Zayse translation team: Pieternel, Mulatu, Tsegaye, and Tadele

Family News

We were blessed to have our youngest son, Joel, come to visit us in January. As part of his visit, we took some vacation and did some sight-seeing. I went with him on a short trip to the Danakil Depression in the north of Ethiopia. Then Susan and I joined him on our first-ever safari. We saw lots of animals and had a great time!



Left column (Danakil Depression), from top: Jim at sulfur spring; a pool in the salt flats; Jim at rim of volcano. Center column (safari): Susan in safari van; cheetahs; elephants. Right column (safari): Jim, Susan, & Joel at Rift Valley; Masai men dancing; white rhino with baby; lion.

Pray...

- Jim works with the Konso team March 11-22, and with the Zayse team March 25-29 on 2 Corinthians. Pray for good communications with the teams, for mutual trust, for good health, for wisdom, and for leading by the Holy Spirit.
- Continue to pray that God will keep us healthy, and that he will keep us safe on the busy roads here.
- Continue to pray for peace! Pray for wisdom for the country's leaders.
- Pray for the 15 students in the Bible translation program at the Mekane Yesus Seminary.
- Pray that our ability to speak Amharic will continue to grow.
- Pray for the 3 teams who are nearing the finish line for their translations (Dirayta, Konso, and Zayse). Pray for wisdom, health, unity, and endurance.

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