



Harley Street

Update on Matthew and Rachel Harley
Working with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Jos, Nigeria



Issue 13: April 2009

www.wycliffe.org.uk



Working on the Kadung language

Bible translation student fieldwork

From Jan-May each year, about half of our BA and MA students at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria (TCNN) go out on fieldwork to start up or facilitate language development projects around the country. This semester, it has been my job to supervise them all, and so this has meant quite a bit of travelling and a lot of consulting. This is by far the

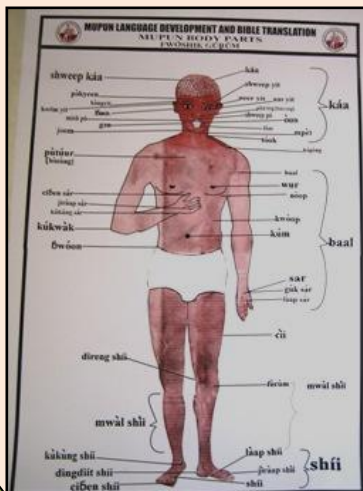
most challenging part of the course for them, as they set out not only to put into practice what they've learnt in the classroom, but also to motivate community ownership of the project, and sometimes cope with very basic living conditions or even outright hostility. One student, working on a previously unknown dialect of an undescribed language (not his own), was given a room barely big enough to fit his mattress in. On his first night he encountered two scorpions. He has to walk 2km to buy drinking water, 6km to reach the nearest borehole, and 3km to get mobile phone coverage (or else he can climb a tree). There are no churches, no schools, no proper roads, no electricity, and little interest in language development, and yet one local man finally saw the benefits of it and has been coming to help him learn and analyse the language.

For most of the other students however, working conditions are not so harsh, and some are even being paid by the community and have been provided with nice accommodation and a full-time

language helper. A few students have helped to produce posters showing the local names of different body-parts (something which is very popular here). All of our students need your prayers. They return to school in a week's time to write up their research, but we don't want the projects to lose momentum in their absence. We want all of these tiny mustard seeds to grow into mature and healthy language projects.



The Kadung language development office



Mupun body-parts poster

The count down begins...

Rachel: There's only 8 weeks to go until the end of term! It's so exciting to think that school will soon be over and we'll be heading home for our 7 month furlough. Whoopee! I just can't wait for all the reunions and adventures we're going to have. The challenge over the next couple of months will be to prepare well for our furlough whilst keeping our minds and hearts very much in the present. I want to make the most of the time I've got left with my class and prepare them well for 5th grade. I also have a student teacher in my class this semester, a Nigerian lady called Yop. She is really keen to learn about Western teaching methods so this is a great opportunity for me to pass on some training and experience. This is great timing, because I have decided that after our furlough, I will move on from Hillcrest into a different ministry, although we're not exactly sure what at the moment. During our time in the U.K. I will take a course in using the arts in ministry, which could help to broaden the scope of some language projects or could involve teaching at a theological seminary (not TCNN). Who knows what God has in store? Pray with us as we trust him to reveal the next steps.



Rachel's class surprised her on her birthday by organising a party in the classroom. They brought in snacks and a cake, and made a 'throne' for her to sit on for the day!

Home leave plans

Matthew: Having spent the last 3½ years in Nigeria, we are returning to the U.K. in June for 7 months to spend time with our family, friends and supporters. I will also be involved in training new Wycliffe recruits whilst Rachel does a course in ethnomusicology and performing arts which will hopefully be useful in her future ministry. We would love to see as many of you as possible during this time, so if you would like to meet up, please let us know roughly when would be a good time. We would also be happy to come and share some of our work with you in a small group setting, maybe a weekly prayer group, coffee morning, or Bible study.

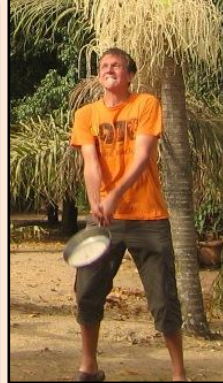
Home leave at a glance

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 8 June: | Arrive in U.K. |
| June-July: | Based in Liverpool & Cumbria, but travelling around the country to spend time with family, friends and churches. |
| 9-15 Aug: | Visiting a friend in Slovakia. |
| 16-22 Aug: | Linguistics conference in Germany. |
| 24 Aug-11 Dec: | Based at the Wycliffe Centre near High Wycombe - Matthew, teaching whilst Rachel takes a course. |
| Dec: | Christmas/New Year in Liverpool & Cumbria. |
| 5 Jan 2010: | Return to Nigeria. |

Pancake pandemonium

Compared to our friends from across the pond, we Brits seem to have so few national celebrations that this year we've decided to make the most of them. So Feb 21 was scheduled to be the pancake party of the century. We invited all the Brits in Jos to bring a frying pan and come and take part in a variety of pancake-tossing competitions in our back garden. It truly was pancake pandemonium. Two pancakes remain stuck up in a tree, and one of our frying pans is slightly mishapen after it came off its handle during one over-enthusiastic toss and was sent flying across the garden!

Contestants compete in the 'big air' pancake toss, reaching heights of up to 25ft.



Please pray for...

- the 16 students, as they come to the end of their fieldwork and write up their research.
- Rachel, to work well with Yop and have a good end to her teaching at Hillcrest.
- us, that we would keep our desire for God deep-rooted and fervent.
- the Bowiri community in Ghana as they dedicate their NT on Sun 19th April. Matthew will be there too, since it was the language he was working on for his Ph.D.
- and thank the Lord for his faithfulness in seeing us through our first 3½ years in Nigeria.

Email: matthew_harley@wycliffe.org,
rachel_harley@wycliffe.org

Website: www.harleysinafrica.co.uk

Address: P.O.Box 953, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria

Mobile: Matthew: 00 234 802 644 9594

Rachel: 00 234 802 644 9595

McDonalds finally arrives in Nigeria?

Fortunately not! Although the new front entrance to the Theological College of Northern Nigeria does look strangely familiar!



Support: Cheques (made payable to 'Wycliffe Bible Translators') can be sent to: The Wycliffe Centre, Horsleys Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 3XL. Please also include a note saying that the gift is for us. If you would like to support us regularly, please ask us for a Standing Order and Gift Aid form.



Looking forward to seeing you soon, Matthew and Rachel xxx