



Harley Street

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



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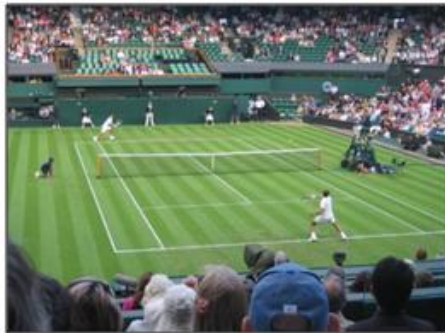
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Home leave draws to a close

Happy new year to you all! Our home leave in the U.K. is now drawing to a close, and although it has not been an easy few months, looking back, there has also been much that we feel thankful for...precious times with family and friends, new teaching and training opportunities, living at the beautiful Wycliffe Centre...not to mention all the home comforts like 24-hour electricity, nice breakfast cereals, and a distinct lack of mosquitoes! Here are a few pictures of some of the things we've enjoyed:



Sharing a Ghanaian meal during the language and culture learning course.



Clockwise from top left: Bob-sledding in Slovakia, rafting on the Polish border, winter sledging in the Lake District, family picnics, visiting Paris, the English countryside, teaching phonology, summer walks in the Lake District, and watching the first day of Wimbledon on Centre court.

The Tuwuli New Testament Dedication

- Matthew



A few days after our last newsletter, the Bowiri community in Ghana gathered for one of their biggest celebrations in living memory - the dedication of the New Testament in their language (Tuwuli). Twelve and a half years earlier, I had been part of the team that helped to develop the alphabet for this language. To see the boxes of New Testaments being ceremoniously carried in, to hear the crowd roar when the first copy was lifted out, and to hear a 12 year old boy reading fluently from Scripture in front of the crowds are scenes that I will long remember.



12 year old Valentine (pictured right) is reading Mark 10:15: "I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." The Tuwuli version reads:

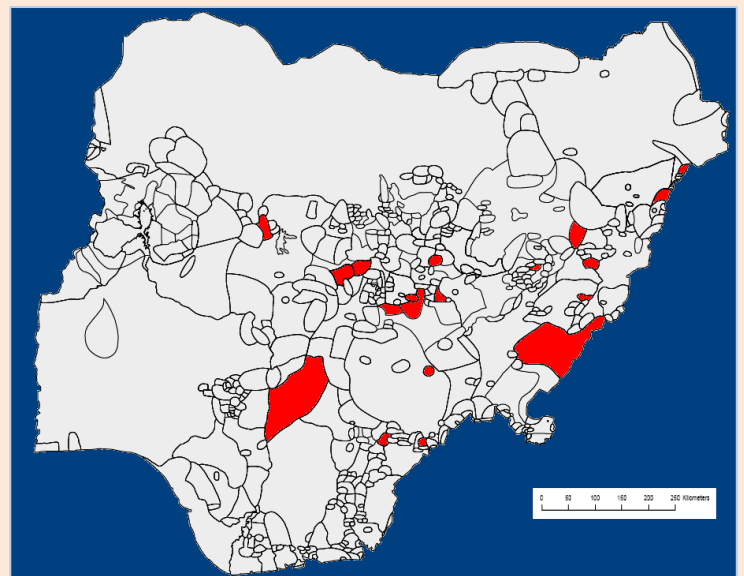
15 "Ɔnɔkɔali mabi mi kī oti kī ɛ́fate Baguma Leḡā Kanyakō nde ayekī obiṣe kabii akena ye akū ne kayo a ɛ́faawo ne Baguma Leḡā Kanyakō kame a dadaada."

A very literal translation would read:

"Truth I-tell you that person that he-not-receive God Chief Eating-place like way-that child small do his body at bottom the he-will-not-enter at God Chief Eating-place inside the ever."

The next step

As we think about returning to Nigeria on 4 Jan, we both feel a sense of excitement about the new challenges and opportunities that God has in store for us. I (Matthew) have just pulled out a language map of Nigeria and stuck a coloured star on each of the 19 language groups (marked in red) that our students at TCNN will be working with next semester. Most of them are languages with little or no Scripture, and some don't even have an alphabet. My role will be mainly to plan and coordinate the four months of their fieldwork placement, but I will also be doing some teaching. As for Rachel, it will be even more of a change, since she will no longer be teaching at Hillcrest, but exploring various opportunities for using her new-found ethnomusicology skills...



Ethno-what?

This is what people say to me when I tell them what I've been studying. Ethnomusicology is about discovering people's 'heart music' - the style of music that touches people in a way that no other style does. Many people around the world have been made to feel that some of their indigenous instruments, dances and song styles are not suitable for worshipping God. An ethnomusicologist tries to sort out which types of music, which instruments and which dance/drama styles are both most culturally appropriate and most spiritually uplifting for each occasion. During our course, we learnt from worldwide examples such as Flamenco dancing in a South American church, which spiced up a communion service, and a radio drama in Africa which gave Biblical insight into cultural problems. I absolutely loved this training and am excited to see how God will open up opportunities for me to use these skills when we return to Jos.



Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning

Many of you will know that the fertility treatment Rachel has had over the last few months was unsuccessful. We are extremely grateful for all the cards, emails, flowers and encouraging verses that many of you have sent us throughout this difficult time. They have been a huge source of encouragement and strength. It makes a big difference to know that we are being thought of and prayed for. Just before Christmas, we had another hospital appointment to discuss the various options ahead of us. One option involves returning to the U.K. for 3-4 months during the Spring for another round of treatment. Please pray that we will have Godly wisdom in deciding which option to take, and that we will trust him and know his peace whatever he has in store.

Prayer points

- for the 20 students doing their fieldwork placements, and for me as I supervise them.

- for guidance for Rachel in knowing which ethnomusicology ministries to pursue.

- that the Tuvuli New Testament would be used well in churches and homes, and that God's Word would transform people's hearts.

- for wisdom in deciding when to return to the U.K.

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We have loved the chance to catch up with some of you over the last few months. Thanks again for all your encouragement, hugs, prayers and support. With our love, and wishing you all a wonderful 2010,

Matthew and Rachel xxx