



Carl and Kelsey GRULKE

MaryJane, Audrey, Judah, Gideon & Isaac

We all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done! - Acts 2:11



December 2019 Update



Hearing for the first time

As part of our work here, we have a lot of meetings with pastors, lay people, *dikgosi* (chiefs), community leaders and more. We are constantly sharing about our translation and engagement efforts in the local languages and we meet a lot of people. This is a story from one of those meetings.



Oboletswe Matlhaope is a Mokgalagari pastor who recently completed his PhD in New Testament theology, working for some time at Cambridge University in the UK. While he was there, he found an old edition of the Setswana Bible in the library translated by Robert Moffat and published in 1872. He opened that Bible to Genesis 1 to read and was astonished to see that the dialect used in that translation looked like Shekgalagari, not the Setswana that he was used to hearing! The dialect that Moffat used in the 1800s (Setlhaping) is quite similar to modern Shekgalagari. It had been some months since he first read those words, but he could still quote them to me perfectly.

When I played the audio from the Shekgalagari New Testament for Oboletswe, he got very quiet. Tears welled up in his eyes as he heard the beginning of the Gospel of Luke. Here was a man who had studied the Bible his whole life, knew Greek and Hebrew and had two degrees in theology, but this was his first time to hear the Bible in his own language. He was thrilled to hear it, insisted that I share it with him right away and he wants to be involved in the project moving forward.

Moments like these are the reason that we work on Bible translation. The words of Scripture come alive in a new and amazing way when they are in the language of the heart. Even for someone who has heard the text before or even preached it before, hearing the Bible in **your language** makes it an entirely different experience.

As we celebrate the season of Christmas, we are celebrating the incarnation of God: Jesus becoming flesh and blood, the divine translated into the human. This translation is the heart of our ministry here; people understand God better when it is in their language.

Pray for people here in Botswana like Oboletswe. Our goal is to bring them the best translation possible in their language so that they could continue sharing the message of the Incarnation through the incarnation of the Word into their language. Thank you for your partnership in striving for this goal.



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GIVING: <https://lbt.org/project/rev-carl-kelsey-grulke/>





Traditional Tswana food, including fried chicken, seswaa (pulled beef), mabele (cooked sorghum meal) & butternut squash


What's coming next?

December 3 LBT Intern returns to US

December 3-15 Kelsey's parents visit!

December 6 Last day of the kids' school year

December 12 Happy Birthday Judah!

 **December 25** Merry Christmas!

January 1 Ngwaga o Mosha (Happy New Year!)

January 2-8 LBT Regional Retreat in Kenya

January 6 Happy Anniversary Carl and Kelsey!

January 6 Project offices re-open after holiday

January 20-31 UBS Consultant visit to projects and...



We have enjoyed having **Tiffany Smith**, our LBT intern, with us for the last several months. She has gotten to experience much of Botswana and what our work looks like here. Please join us in praying for her as she discerns if a career with LBT where God is leading her!

April 2020 Grulkes head back to US!



Yes, we are coming back to the United States next year for some time on home assignment. We are very thankful to have fit this time around the kids' school year so they will only miss 1 term of school even though we will be gone for 5 months.

We plan to spend time at the LBT offices, seeing family and also visiting you! We plan to be in the US from April to August, so if you would like to have us come and visit your church to share about our ministry, please contact us and we can start making arrangements and get it on the calendar.

We can't wait to see you all and share about what God is doing here in Botswana. *Re tla bonana ngwaga e e tlang!* (We will see each other next year!)

How you can help

PRAY We need people praying for each of us, our family, the projects, the translators and more. Look right for more specifics!

GIVE We need the financial support of our partners to make our ministry possible. Give online at **lbt.org** or by mailing a check. Contact us if you want to set up a regular gift.

TELL We need people to support us in raising awareness for our ministry. You can share the mission of Bible translation with your church or friends!

Prayer requests for our family

Praise for a successful school year for the kids!

Praise for *pula* (rain) in Botswana! We pray it's enough to end the drought.

Pray for God's guidance in planning for the future of our ministry in Botswana.

Pray for the Shekgalagari project to meet its goal of a 2020 NT launch!

Praise for the passion of people here for their languages and for the Word of God.

Pray for the Wayeyi project to meet its goal for publication of Mark early in 2020.

Pray for the Bible Society of Botswana as they face challenges from several sides.

Pray that God would continue to provide for our ministry through partners like you.

MONTHLY SUPPORT GOAL

95%



We are honored to have the financial support of many of you for our ministry in Botswana. Your gifts make it possible for us to focus on our translation work. **100%** of the dollars you give to our ministry go towards our budget and ministry costs.

If you are interested in giving a year end gift to our ministry, you can do so online at **lbt.org** or by sending a check with the form below.