

# The Rupprecht Email Update and Prayer Letter

June 6, 2008

Ogoja, Nigeria in transit to USA

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## When Can I Shout, Wahoo?!?!?

Wilma said, not till we get to Mfom. At Mfom the last major mud/rut/hole would be behind us, and for the next eight months we would not have to worry about our awful roads. We were coming home from an important day in Ukele (see below). Just last week a news article proclaimed our stretch of the road as 'impassable'. It is good thing we read that AFTER we had passed that section of the road and had shouted our 'Wahoos' otherwise we might have stayed home and missed out on some real neat stuff. We pray for the local people who are having trouble getting their food products to market because roads are either out or impassable. We thank God for safety on the roads and for 'getting through' the tough spots so that we could experience some real neat stuff...

## Neat Stuff...

I. On Saturday we ventured up to Ukele, you remember, where we had served before and now were trying to get some new ownership established through a regional language committee. After nearly getting caught in a downpour (which made the return road—note above—very much more difficult!) we were able to deliver ostomy supplies to two ladies who had undergone those operations years ago and are REAL survivors. The ostomy bags and supplies were donated by friends of Helena DeMoss (wife of Walt, our former boss at LBT) and brought to Nigeria via our special international network (not that special, but real neat anyway, friends who travel to Nigeria bring extra luggage for us).

II. Then we said our farewells to old Ukele friends in our former village. By then the meeting of the Ukele Language Committee was ready to start—only 4 hours after its announced time.

III. At the meeting significant leadership included a priest from the Roman Catholic Church, significant because they are by far the largest denomination in the area. On top of it, the priest had traveled by motorcycle over our horrible roads for nearly 4 hours to get there—half of that time in rain—we had traveled 3 hours, but in our 4 wheel drive vehicle, which was put to the test.

Substantive business included the hiring of an interning linguistic/translation student for Old Testament translation (he had worked on the project before) and a planned visit to the Local Government Chairman (who would provide access to the elementary and secondary educational system). Both of these were very important steps. Steps which make us think that the committee might indeed be starting to function and making some decisions toward a viable committee.

IV. On another day we met with the Bokyi Committee. They are going great guns and are planning a number of projects and fund-raising efforts. Fun to watch them work!



Fr. Chokpa, Bishop Aya, Fr. Obi (all of the Ogoja Diocese) presenting a plaque honoring Ed and Wilma for their work with the Bokyi Language Committee and Banwet Bokyi. Notice Wilma wearing the medallion.

V. The previous Saturday, we had the people who were trained to conduct Scripture Use workshops come together for a joint sharing meeting. It was great to hear of the progress over the last couple years compared to how poorly Scripture was used when we first got here: much more reading of the Scriptures in the worship services; more vernacular preaching from the pulpit; more careful use of interpreters.

*Thanks for good friends and prayer for them while we are gone. Thanksgiving for good progress within the Ukele Language Committee toward responsible leadership. Pray that they will continue to grow in the Spirit toward a process that leads to a translation of the entire Bible in Kukele. Pray that the Scriptures, in its various uses, will become a primary way for people to come to know the truth of their salvation. Pray that the Yala Language Council will get through their struggles and also move toward significant responsibility toward owning their language programs.*

## We're on our Way—Kind of

Whew! The last packing is done, the final good byes said, and we have left the village on our first leg home. We will be in Jos a few days then spend a couple weeks with friends in Holland and the UK before arriving in the US. *Pray for joyous reunions with friends along the way and pray for safe travel.*

## Furlough Plans

On June 9, we leave Nigeria for our furlough. We intend, with God's permission and empowerment to return to Nigeria in February of '09.

We thank so many of you for already responding with opportunities to visit and share with you. Please note the dates and places (although you will see them a few more times!) so that if we come to your area, we will be able to see you. Please contact us through email or by phone. We will have a mobile phone so should be able to be contacted. If you can't reach us directly, LBT will be able to, so contact them.

### Furlough Itinerary

June	23	Arrive in Chicago	October	5	St John, Darien, IL
	24-30?	Aurora to regroup		11	LWML Rally, Watertown, WI
July	1-12	WI and MI with family		12 & 13	Trinity, Milwaukee, WI
	13	St. Michaels, Richville, MI		19	MN for nephews wedding
	20	Family		23	Women's Bible study, Lancaster, CA
	27	St. Paul, Sac City, IA		23-27	Bakersfield, CA
August	3	Immanuel, Palatine, IL	November	2	St. John, McMinnville, OR
	4-9	LBT Service Center		9	Havillah, Oronville and Tonasket, WA
	10	St. Paul, Bremen, IN		16	Gethsemane, Northglenn, CO
	17	St. Luke, Harrison, MI		23	St. Peter, Watertown, MN
	24	Family Clayton, NY		27	Thanksgiving Day
	31	Family Clayton, NY		30	Family
September	7	Faith, Hot Springs Vlg, AR	December	7	Christ of the Bay, Green Bay, WI
	14	King of Kings, Glenpool, OK		14	
	21	St. John, New Germany, MN		21	
	27-28	Cross Lutheran, Yorkville, IL		25	Christmas Day
				28	

(January 2009 - Arizona and Texas???)

[There are only a couple of Sundays and plenty of 'during the week time' available. Let us know if we could be with you then.]

*We give God all glory and thanks for the many prayer and financial partners He has raised up. A real praying army! We pray, that as furlough plans are made, that God would grant safety in travel and good relationship building along the way.*

*Blessings,*

*Ed and Wilma*



Correspondence should be send to LBT at the address below.

Stateside Phone: 315-222-5740

All gifts should be designated *Rupprecht Ministry* or *Bako Survey Project* and sent to:

Lutheran Bible Translators  
PO Box 2050  
Aurora, IL 60507-2050

Reply to this message or send an e-mail to us at [ewrupprecht@lbt.org](mailto:ewrupprecht@lbt.org) if you:

1. Would like to be removed from our E-mail List.
2. Would like to add another e-mail address to our E-mail List.
3. Are unable to (or would prefer not to) receive attached pictures in the future.
4. Would otherwise like to communicate with us.

### **Bakor Survey Funding**

Preliminary findings indicate that of the eight Bakor languages at least five translations would be necessary for all the peoples to have the Scriptures in a language they can understand. There is a need to help fund costs connected with the survey. \$1,400 is still necessary. *May the Lord provide the support to help bring the Gospel message to all the Bakor peoples.*

*Gifts should be designated 'Bako Survey Project' and sent to LBT.*