

# The Rupprecht Email Update and Prayer Letter

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Ogoja, Nigeria

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## This is What Makes it Really Hard Sometimes...

We just received word this morning that our grandson, Aaron, (son of daughter Kim and Paul Klomhaus) had a snowmobile accident in Northern Wisconsin. He has some broken vertebrae tips, compressed vertebrae but otherwise seems OK. He was airlifted to Milwaukee. Of course, Grandma and Grandpa want to be with their daughter and grandson and their family at this time. (we learned via email---we truly give thanks to God for the VSat setup in our village home!!) *Pray for no permanent damage and complete and perfect healing. Pray for strength for the family during this traumatic time. To wish him well contact Aaron Klomhaus, N1331 Fawn Ridge Ct., Greenville, WI 54942*



## This is what Makes it Really Rewarding Sometimes...

Yesterday, at a meeting with a regional group of pastors, in a discussion about the use of the mother tongue Bible in worship services, and after reviewing some really bad practices in the churches—the way interpreters are being used and how the English Bible is being read (in almost all the churches) and how that leads to really bad understanding (or non-understanding) of the Gospel message, my old friend and former coworker Patrick Lukpata took me outside and with a grin on his face showed me a bunch of Kukele New Testaments he had brought and he said—'I didn't forget'. This is not the greatest breakthrough ever, but it is a huge step in the right direction, because a couple months ago, it was not possible to get any Bible because they were locked up! *Praise God for a huge step in the understanding of how Bibles must be available to the leaders and also the people. Praise God for the initiative that Patrick took to make it happen! Pray that the other understandings for the use of the Scriptures would also be put into practice—preaching in the Mother Tongue, Bible reading in the Mother Tongue, singing in the Mother Tongue, etc., etc.*

## Satan Robbed!

'Satan could not rob me of the privilege of preaching Christ Risen on Easter morning!' were the words of Rev. Kierien Ekpang, who was injured in a serious motorcycle accident on Easter Eve. While certainly in pain, the Pastor



Wounded Pastor Keirein (on left) greets parishioners Easter morning

delivered a message of hope and inspiration to a packed house in the Lutheran Church in Bashuo, Bokyi. The congregation also celebrated his parent's 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and the baptism of 8 into Christ's Kingdom. The service, punctuated with glorious vernacular song and traditional, celebrative dance, was truly an inspiration. *We celebrate the preserving of Rev. Kierien's life. We pray that many would seek the hope shared Easter morning and take on the life of Christ as their model.*



Palms and flowers line the road to our compound on Palm Sunday

## Ron Reviews; Kedra looks for clues

Kedra Larsen, LBT's ethnomusicologist, is deep into her work with the Bokyi and Yala Lutheran Churches, helping them develop appropriate ethnic music for their liturgies. She is helping write appropriate words,



In Bokvi with Rev. Ekpana

guiding in vernacular music for the words and recording them so the various congregations can learn the new liturgical styles. Her work is being helped along by some music already being in place. She will be back in May to see how the adapting process is progressing, also if further fine tuning is necessary. She is applying her work toward a master program at Bethel University in Minnesota.

Ron Merritt, a missionary to the Yala people some 30 years ago, is back to help in the rewrite of the primer series which is used to teach especially the young, non-literates, to read their language. The work also writes down the revisions that will find their way into a revision of the New Testament when that becomes necessary as well as other literature. He is working with a Yala team, Ferdinand Orji, Anthony Okache, Joseph Ajima and Dominick Ogwihi.



With Anthony

Both Ron and Kedra will have been with us for a month and are working tirelessly at their tasks. Ron (unfortunately without his better half, Kathy...) is also able to renew relationships and see many of his old friends. He is also renewing his acquaintance with pounded yam (fufu) and egusi soup (melon stew). We thank God for the good work that both Ron and Kedra are able to do and the good relationships they are developing. *We also pray that the new liturgy and the easier to read primers will become tools to reach more people for Christ and draw them into the Holy Scriptures.*

### Boettchers Done Go

That is to say, after three renewing and interesting weeks in February, Rev. Dave and Ruth Boettcher have returned to their home in Wisconsin. *We thank God for a terrific visit and good travel.*



With friends Simeon and Paulina


### Bakor Survey

The survey of the eight Bakor languages has been completed. We are awaiting the final report, but preliminary findings indicate that 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. If the Lord should lead you to help meet this need see below. *May the Lord provide the workers and the national support to help bring the Gospel message to the entire Bakor peoples.*

### We are Planning. . .

Furlough, that is. We will be starting an eight month furlough starting in mid June. Those who would like to arrange a speaking opportunity, please let us know. We are starting to plan our itinerary. If you would like us to come and share with you, please give us several dates that would be good for you. *We pray for God's guidance as we plan for and anticipate this time of renewal, strengthening and relationship building.*

*Ed and Wilma*



For mail (it takes 2 to 3 weeks and seems to be working well) but after May please send to LBT:

Ed & Wilma Rupprecht

PO Box 45

Ogoja 550241

Cross River State, NIGERIA

Cell phone in Nigeria: 011-234-802-796-9278

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

Lutheran Bible Translators

PO Box 2050

Aurora, IL 60507-2050

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