



April 3, 2004 (returning to USA April 29th)

“Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.”
1 Kings 19:11b-12 (NIV)

In a world of increasing wind, earthquake and fire, may we hear the gentle whisper and respond appropriately.

Special thanks to those of you who prayed for my travel. God had them seat me in business class for the flight across the Atlantic, something I neither asked for nor expected. The flight to Alduba (Banna area) was very smooth.

The 3 Banna translators (David, Getu & Ayke) and I spent most of our 3 weeks together getting all 3 Banna primers (for teaching people to read) ready for printing. Getu learned to use the new computer very quickly, so he and Ayke, with help from colleague Tabby Cox, did a lot of the work on layout. I brought camera copies of both the Banna and the Aari primers with me to Addis Ababa today.



On March 16th I showed Aari church leaders the Aari primers and suggested we hold a tutor training workshop in preparation for Aari literacy. They do not want the tutor training this year and seem unconvinced of the need to make literacy a priority. I am disappointed. We are planning 3 tutor training workshops in August for Banna literacy - one for church leaders, one for evangelists who speak the Banna language, and one for the evangelists' wives.

David had done an excellent job of revising the CARLA draft of 1 Corinthians I sent a few months ago. He and I went through chapters 1-8 and chapters 14-15 together. I plan to spend more time on the Banna language during my next visit. Hopefully we will finish going through both 1 Corinthians and Matthew then.

Praise God with us for:

1. the new computer He provided for the Banna translation team through your gifts (Thank you!);
2. completion of the primer preparation in both the Banna and the Aari languages;

Please pray for:

1. Publication of the Banna and Aari primers to go smoothly and quickly;
2. Preparation for the Banna tutor training workshops, and that somehow the Aari church leaders will be moved to want these in Aari as well;
3. Donna Clawson, who has been heading up the Banna work but is delayed in the U.S.A. due to a shortfall in her monthly support;
4. my work over the next 3 1/2 weeks with Aari translators Duba and Fikadu; we hope to finish revising Joshua, Judges and Leviticus;
5. wisdom as I discuss with SIM leadership the future of the Aari and Banna work;
6. Mother's health and well-being.



With gratitude for your partnership,

Carolyn Ford

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