

# The Bogle Bugle

for our Partners in Bible Translation



Our Indian brother, [Viji](#), recently reported the exciting news that 34 believers were baptized in a Konda village. The church in this village sprang up largely as a result of the [Konda-Doro](#) New Testament, which was dedicated in January 2006. At the urging of church leaders Viji's wife, Minie, is now helping translate the Old Testament as well.

## Contact us!

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## TE Tidings

On July 6, the team released a new stable version of Translation Editor, now available for Bible translators to download.

Our two summer interns are now up to speed. We look forward to more help when we welcome Jon Shaneyfelt later this month. Thanks to God's gracious response to your prayers, Shaneyfelts now have 100% of their needed support!

Tom's upcoming trip to South Asia may be the last TE-related trip there as we turn to focus on helping the Mara cluster project in Africa (see main article this page).

## Imagine That

Imagine a world where the language that you speak — the language that reaches into your heart and soul, your hopes and dreams, your laughter and your tears — has never been written down. Imagine starting school, only to find that all instruction and teaching materials are in a language that you do not speak or understand. Imagine picking up a booklet that contains vital information on the prevention of deadly diseases prevalent in your homeland and having no idea what it is telling you to do to protect yourself. Imagine seeing a jumble of symbols that make absolutely no sense to you, but for privileged others they hold the very words of God. Now, imagine that for the very first time, you hold in your hands an alphabet chart in your very own language. Can you imagine what exciting and enormous potential it holds?

In Musoma, Tanzania, events are taking place to make the dream of a written language, a reality for the speakers of eight Bantu languages – approximately 750,000 people! A series of workshops are underway to develop the orthographies (writing systems) for these languages, known as the [Mara cluster](#). These workshops are being held in Musoma, the Regional capital located on the shores of Lake Victoria.



Already, 3,000 words have been collected and alphabet charts with experimental orthographies have been created in four of the languages. At the most recent workshop, participants were asked to write up a traditional folk story from their language using the newly agreed upon trial orthographies and spelling rules. After careful crafting of their stories, a representative from each language team was selected to read the story aloud. This was the first time that anything had been written in these four languages, and the enormity of the moment had a particularly dramatic effect on the reader from the [Simbiti](#) language group. In a culture where men are rarely seen to cry in public, Julius, tears welling in his eyes, struggled to compose himself as he prepared to read. The idea that his language could be written had simply overwhelmed him.

During the next year, work in the other four languages of the cluster will begin, thousands more words will be collected, and alphabet charts and other materials will have been produced. The goal is to have adequate orthographies for all eight languages by late 2008, which will clear the way for translation to begin. **Now, imagine that!**

The FieldWorks team, of which Tom and the rest of the [Translation Editor](#) team are a part, are thrilled to announce that we have been invited to join with the Mara cluster to help make sure they have the software tools they need to succeed. Cluster projects and other types of strategic partnership are an important key to realizing the goals of [Vision 2025](#). Thanks for your part in this exciting partnership!



One of the highlights of our trip to Grayson Highlands State Park with Tom's parents was seeing (and petting!) the "wild" horses. Amy named this colt *Nibbles*.



### Family and Friends

Over the past few weeks, we've enjoyed visits from some good friends and from Tom's parents.

Besides having a lot of fun, we could share about our ministry on a deeper level than is possible via letters, phone calls, and e-mails.

We've traveled a lot this year so far, but after Tom's trip, we expect to pretty much stay put, so if you have been looking for a chance to come visit us, we'd love to see you!



Partners in Bible Translation

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## Reaching Around the World

For several years the [Translation Editor](#) team has been working to develop software that would help Bible translators around the world, with a special focus on the work in South Asia. There are still many improvements needed in TE, but it's now to the point where the Bible translation leadership there feels it's ready to be rolled out. So the primary focus of this trip is to train users and equip the [Word For All](#) trainers to be able to do the same for new translators in the future.

This past spring as Tom and his colleagues, Ken and Neal, were preparing for their trip, one day they got a bit of startling news: some of the linguists who planned to come to the Translation Orientation Workshop didn't have computers at all or had computers that couldn't run TE. When they heard about the need, New Joy Church (Tom's parents' church) and caring [JAARS](#) donors responded by reaching around the world in love and making funds available to upgrade computers and to buy three new laptops. *We thank God for His gracious provision to meet this vital need.*



Minie (right) in Konda village for the baptism ceremony

## Important Support Update

Last month JAARS announced a new policy that takes effect starting August 1<sup>st</sup>. According to this policy, any member whose support (based on a 12-month average) drops below 85% will be required to dedicate a day or two every week to work on raising additional support. As we reported recently on our website, we have voluntarily reduced our quota to be able to keep our support above the line, but we're still hovering very close to the cut-off. The Translation Editor team is already fighting an uphill battle, and if Tom were compelled to take a reduced assignment it would only get steeper, so we're asking you very kindly to pray about this on our behalf. We do thank God for meeting our needs and bringing us thus far by His grace. May He bless you all richly as you [give](#) to see His kingdom established. *Thank you for your support!*

## Items for Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for hardworking interns. Besides the two young men directly working on TE, there is another one who is working on new promotional videos, which include good footage of our team and information about our work. We thank God for providing top-quality help!
- Our church's youth pastor and his wife have decided to move to Indiana in order to help raise two recently orphaned nephews. The elders believe that at this time our youth ministry should be run by lay people. Please pray with us as we seek the Lord's leading concerning our part in this.
- Praise that the Shaneyfelts got all their needed support. Pray that their house will sell quickly.
- Praise for dedication of the Konda-Dora [audio Bible](#) — pray for distribution efforts.
- Pray for safety and wisdom for Tom, Ken and Neal as they spend three weeks in South Asia.
- Pray for comfort for the family of [Elaine Townsend](#) (widow of Wycliffe's founder, Uncle Cam), who was promoted to Glory on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

All for His glory!

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