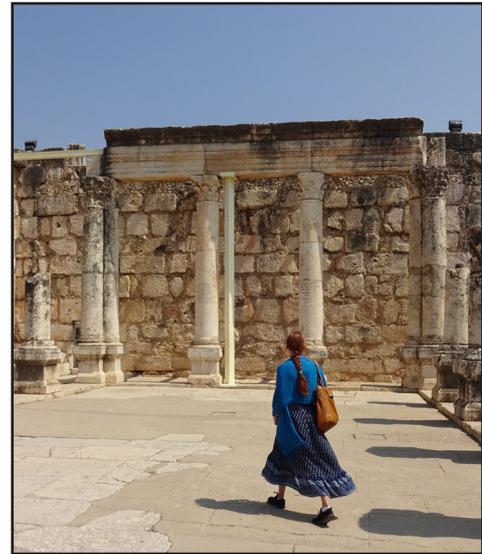




Pentecost 2018: our latest family picture



Exploring ancient Capernaum

Dear friends,

The past months have been rather packed with travel. Part of the reason is that I took over the directorship for the Pacific Group, the small group in SIL that's responsible for Polynesian and Micronesian languages. That means travelling to visit teams, but also to attend meetings with SIL colleagues from other areas.

In April I was in **Bali** for a week of meetings with leaders from Asia and the Pacific. Afterwards, I travelled on to **Darwin** (less than 3 hours from Bali) to be involved in a project that's perhaps a bit unusual. An SIL colleague, David Glasgow, is working on a Bible translation in "plain English", especially for aboriginals. The translation uses the kind of words that these speakers would use everyday. The sentences are short, and the steps in the story are ordered in such a way that it's easy to follow. I was surprised at the number of words that are avoided in this translation. For example, the translation uses "pick" instead of "choose", "real" or "properly" instead of "very" ("real

good"), "mob" instead of "people" or "group", et cetera. We worked on Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians. David and I would sit down together to straighten out exegetical points; then we would go out and visit people at home – usually sitting on the veranda or in the backyard – and read the translation with them, to see if it was clear.

Just one example: can you identify this verse from 1 Corinthians? *"If you want to talk about great things, don't talk about yourself, but talk about God, and tell everyone about the great things that he does."*

I hope to continue working with David on this project, but by distance: David keeps sending translated portions to me and I send him my questions and notes.

In May/June Antje and I travelled to **Guam** to meet with the two Pacific Group teams living there and see a bit of their life and work. Antje left after a week – she had her job at Wycliffe Netherlands to go back to – while I stayed another week to work with Betty Amon on the Nukuoro translation. The translation is nearing the

finish line; we're both working on a second and final check of the whole Bible. Please pray for us as we try to finish the translation; even this second check is still a lot of work.

July involved quite a different trip. Mattie **graduated** from high school in June and we celebrated this with a trip to Israel. So in July, Mattie and I spent 10 days in **Israel**, mostly visiting historical sites: from Herod's castle in Caesarea to the medieval alleys of Acre, Roman ruins in Sepphoris, Old Testament Hazor, ancient Magdala, and many more – and of course Jerusalem.

Later that month Antje and I had a vacation together. We cycled around the northern part of the Netherlands with camping gear. It was great to see the different landscapes and the small historical towns, though the heat (up to 35C) was a bit more than we cared for.

Finally, end of August I left for the eastern **DR Congo**. Just like last year, a translation team there needed some work checked by a translation consultant. I spent two weeks in the village of Lolwa with the **Bila** translation team. They started translating the New Testament last year and this was their first experience with a consultant.

The eastern DRC is not a very stable region. Even so, various SIL colleagues live there, working together with Congolese translators and consultants, to make the Bible available in the many languages spoken there. Some areas are unsafe because of rebel activity, but others – such as the road to Lolwa – are safe.

For two weeks, we worked in Lolwa and checked the first 10 chapters of Luke. I don't know the Bila language, of course, so we worked from a French back translation. It was great to be a small part of this project and to see how this team is gaining experience. A Congolese pastor, Ung'i Atido, went with me. Ung'i finished a Bible translation in his own language and is now being trained as a translation consultant. This trip gave him an opportunity to gain experience by observing the checking, taking part in the discussion, and leading a number of sessions himself. There is a lot of checking work coming up in Congo, so hopefully Ungi will soon be ready to take on some of this work by himself.

All the best!

Paulus & Antje, Mattie and Nina



Checking the Bila translation. Left to right: Ung'i (consultant in training), Loku, Poyo (translators), Dieudonné (Bila speaker)

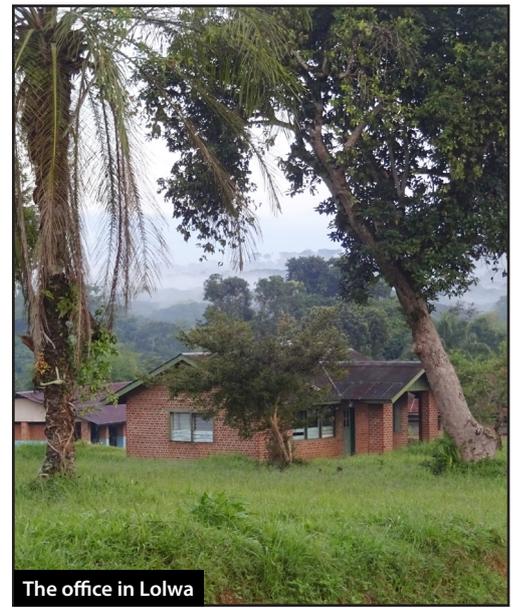


Always wash your hands... ebola prevention

Here are some more pictures of my time in Lolwa.



View from the translation office



The office in Lolwa



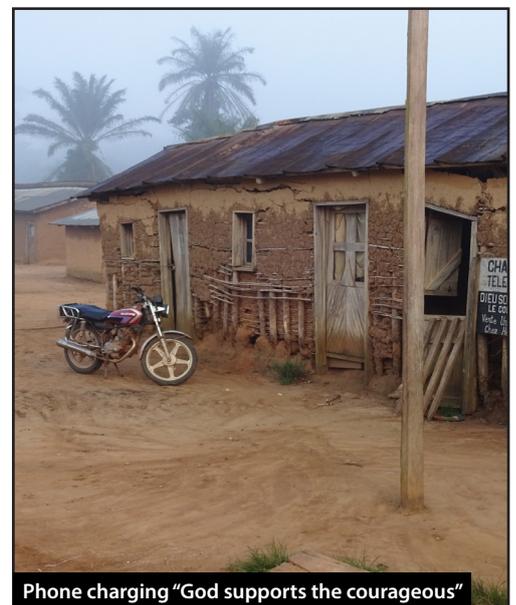
Early morning in Lolwa



Two children sitting on a bench



Our guest house



Phone charging "God supports the courageous"