

The heart of man plans his way,

but the Lord establishes his steps.

plans
establishes

April 2009 | Issue 10

praise

- ❖ **Praise** for God's grace and faithfulness in my life!
- ❖ **Praise** for the generous prayer and financial support of many.
- ❖ **Praise** for the wonderful 20 months I've had as a missionary with LBT.
- ❖ **Praise** for His leading through this difficult time of transition.
- ❖ **Praise** for my courtship with Joshua, a wonderful gift from God.

prayer

- ❖ **Pray** for guidance as I seek the Lord for the next step in my linguistic training.
- ❖ **Pray** for a job and a place for me to live.
- ❖ **Pray** for Josh and me as we seek His face and will together.
- ❖ **Pray** for LBT & those working in Nigeria, especially the leaders within the Yala translation project.

*Thank you for standing
with me in prayer!*

Loved ones in Christ, OUR Lord!

Thank you so much for walking with me and supporting me in this journey with Lutheran Bible Translators! In my last letter, I wrote that I was still waiting and preparing to go to Nigeria to work in language development among the Yala people. As I made these plans, I continued to seek the Lord because He truly is the one who establishes my steps. I am both grieved and delighted to inform you that my plans have changed.

I am no longer going to Nigeria at this time.

CHANGE

grief & delight

In my last letter, I told you that the Africa orientation class I was going to take in Ghana was canceled. After this my departure was postponed a couple times due to visa paperwork complications. During this time, I met a young man named Joshua Wagner, and we began courting. Josh knew of my commitment to Nigeria and LBT, and planned to wait for me to return in two and a half years.

Partially due to my developing relationship with Josh, I again discussed the details of my assignment with LBT and my role within the organization. My going is an incredible investment for LBT, me, the missionaries on the field, and supporters. I was asked to assure LBT of a long-term commitment.

I understand that the risk of sending a new missionary who may not continue after a first term is too great. After much prayer and counsel, I have not received peace for

committing to more than one term at this time. I hope to be in ministry my entire life, but this seems to look different from what I was expecting.

*I have resigned from LBT,
and I am seeking the Lord for the next step.*

I grieve surrendering this dream for which I have been training for several years. This does not mean that I will not go in the future. It seems that God is saying, "Not now."

I delight in the one who leads. His ways are greater than mine, and I praise Him for confirming this in my life. I am learning that no matter how much I plan my life and carry out those plans, He is truly the one who establishes my steps. Not only has He changed my plans, He has given me so much joy in the midst of this change!

JOSH & RUTHIE



THERE ARE NO WORDS

Someone asked me once what I would tell my supporters if I could talk to them face to face. I began to cry. Even now it is difficult to fully express my gratitude.

Your support over the past 20 months (and longer) has been incredibly encouraging and humbling. I am amazed at the prayer support I have received from hundreds of people all around the world such as the United States, Ecuador, Bangladesh, Uganda, Nigeria, France, England, etc. Thank you so much! These prayers and the grace of God get me through each day. Please continue to pray for me.

You have given so generously during this time of economic difficulty. I have been fully supported and this has been encouraging for me, LBT, and other missionaries. I am so grateful that the Lord chose to supply my needs through you. My love for you has grown. Thank you!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR ME?

Please pray for me as I seek the Lord for the next step. I don't know where I'm going to live or work. I hope to stay in Minnesota and continue working toward my master's degree in Linguistics. I am hoping to take the Literacy Megacourse this summer at SIL-UND (University of North Dakota), where I studied for two summers in 2005 and 2007. Josh and I



are also exploring ways that we can minister together. We would love to stay in touch with you as we continue seeking Him.

THE WORK CONTINUES

I want to encourage you to continue supporting Bible translation. I hope to continue in this ministry somehow, and I fully support it! There are several organizations working together to get the Word in the heart languages of the people. Hundreds of millions of people still have NO access to the Word.

Even though I no longer serve with LBT, I have a deep love and respect for the staff and missionaries. They have been very generous with their support and training for me. I have learned a great deal from them and from their example as they work VERY hard to get the Word to the nations.

Please consider continuing your prayer and financial support to LBT.

There are so many opportunities for you to partner with LBT and this ministry. Though I am not joining the project in Nigeria, it still needs you! The Yala translation project has been there before me, will continue without me, and needs your prayer support.

There are also several new missionaries heading to different fields. Please read about them in the insert from LBT and consider partnering with them.

This is my **LAST LETTER** with LBT, so if you would like to continue receiving updates from me, please contact me using the information below.

Visit me at
www.RuthLee86.blogspot.com



PRINCE CHARMING

I would like to introduce you to Joshua Wagner, a special gift from God to me. He loves the Lord and people. We met at a Bible translation meeting, and he asked me out to coffee about five minutes later. It did not take long to see that there was something very deep that our Lord was doing. After Josh talked to my parents a few days later, we began courting.

The Lord deserves all credit and glory in our lives. I met Josh after the date I was to have been in Nigeria. It truly is a miracle the way the Lord has drawn us to each other.

This change of plans was not something that I expected or even wanted, but God has changed my heart. I have accepted this change, and I'm excited to say that I have grown very fond of Josh.

WHAT IS YOUR MISSION?

My personal mission is to live responsibly, deepen my devotion to the cross at any price, and to testify to the gospel of God's grace. **Even though I have now resigned from LBT, I still stand for their mission which is...**

to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts.

Thank you for partnering with me in this mission!

Ruthie Lee

I am unable to receive further contributions through LBT. Please see the insert for giving opportunities! Thank you so much!!!

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