

Hilbert Happenings

Botswana | Lutheran Bible Translators

Life in Maun

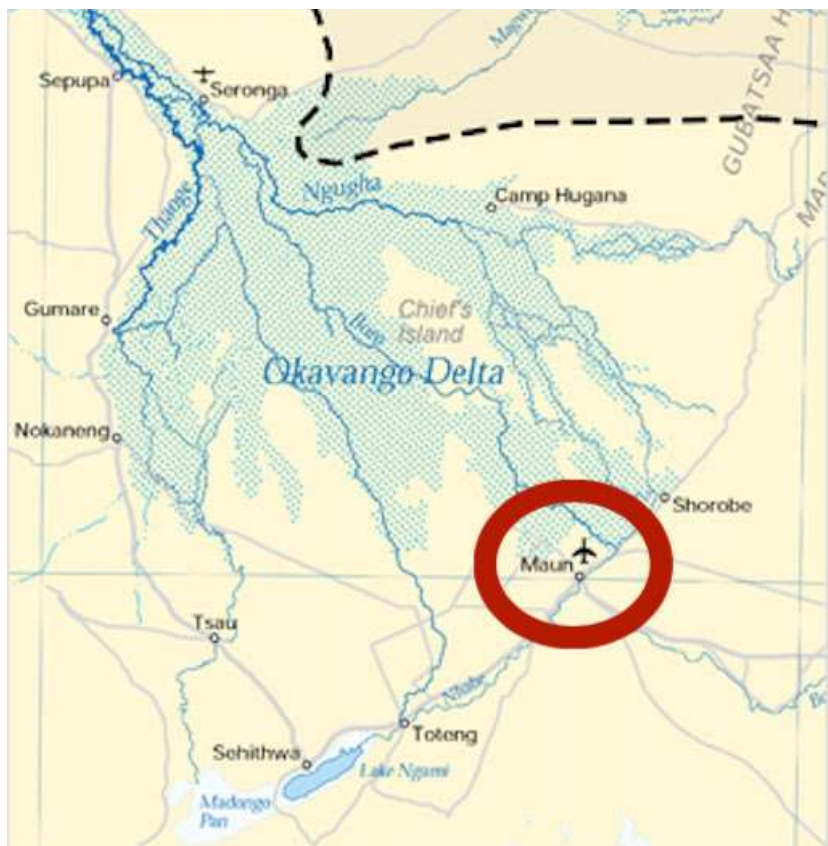
Last November we moved from Kang in the Kalahari District to Maun in the Ngamiland District. The two regions are similar in some ways, but life has significantly changed for us. We would like to take some time to update our partners a little bit on how life has changed for our family.

Maun is still built on top of sand, so just like Kang, it is technically within the Kalahari Desert's borders. The thing that changes the environment dramatically is the presence of the Okavango Delta (one of the largest inland deltas in the world). The delta is listed as one of the seven natural wonders of Africa and one of two UNESCO Heritage sites in Botswana. While some might see Maun as a dusty frontier town, the beauty that surrounds it makes it special. There are many ethnic groups which have traditionally called the region home including the Ilanikhwe and Wayeyi both of whom LBT has been working with.

A few things have changed for our family - when we lived in Kang we homeschooled the kids, in Maun they go to a school called Matshwane (which means 'honey badger' in Setswana). Rob's responsibilities as field rep were helped by the move to Maun as now he is able to help with multiple projects and travel more easily throughout Botswana.

Project Progress

There are quite a few projects that we are helping with so here's a list with some brief updates:



Shekgalagari NT Translation - Recently finished drafting Revelation, 1st and 2nd Corinthians and Romans. Community testing has been taking place about twice a month. On track to finish the full first draft of the NT next year!

Shekgalagari Literacy - Three literacy specialists have been hired to work with Bloom. They will produce thirty books by October during which time we will edit and select the ten best to be printed in 2018.

Shekgalagari Scripture Engagement - The recording of Luke is for sale at the office in Kang and we are working with ministry groups in the Kalahari to help distribute it.

Chiikuhane NT Translation - Still working with the local groups in Kasane to get the project going.

Shiyeyi NT Translation - Rob will act as interim Project Coordinator (in a limited role) while the search for a replacement coordinator takes place.

Field Rep Duties - Rob will be helping new missionaries Carl and Kelsey Grulke visit Botswana for the first time in August. They are planning on moving to Botswana sometime next year.

How to Find out More

We will continue to update our partners on the projects as the year goes on. We are hoping to hold reviewers workshops, community testing, consultant checking and other events that will help move the various projects forward. Sometimes its nice to focus on the details too. It can be a challenge to know what to share in a newsletter! Thankfully we have our Facebook page to focus on all the minutia. You can join our ministry team's Facebook page by sending an email to rob.hilbert@lbt.org. We will be happy to add you.

Thank you as always for your support. The various translation and Scripture engagement projects we are involved with would not be possible without your prayer and financial support!

Blessings,
Rob, Mical, Carsten (6), Annabelle (4), and Josephine (2)



Shekgalagari Literacy Specialists at work learning how to make books in Shekgalagari using Bloom