

THE LEVINE FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO THE TIBETAN PEOPLE



January 9, 2015

Making our "Mark"

One of the greatest accomplishments we have had so far in the history of our ministry is that **we were able to finish drafting the entire Gospel of Mark in the Lowa Tibetan language!** We had originally set a goal for May of 2015, but as the project took shape and the translators became acquainted with the task, we realized that we could finish drafting Mark much sooner than initially expected. We then set the goal to finish drafting the book of Mark by the end of the year. We were able to meet our new goal, and had time to spare. The next step is to peer-check each other's work, which is about 50% done already. At the same time, an electronic version is being prepared so that a fluency-check can be done by native speakers outside the project. A back-translation is also being prepared so that an expert in the field of Bible translation can do a consultant-check. **Once all of the parties involved are satisfied with the translation then we will print the book of Mark and start using it in our church and send it to the Lowa fellowships and will use it as an aid to help evangelization efforts in Mustang.** Since we first started this project we were really stumbling along to find an efficient way to work together and to promote accuracy. When we finished drafting the book of Mark we ended up with four different notebooks and four different computers with varying data on them, but in the end we have refined our process to work together. We have recently started using Google Docs, which allows us to work on the same documents simultaneously. This new cloud technology has saved us a lot of time swapping thumb drives and has promoted accuracy and transparency in our project. As we have been translating, we have had different responses to what we are doing. It has been gladly accepted by some, but some have shown great opposition. Unfortunately, many of those that

have shown opposition are other Christian groups working in the same area. We are happy that those that are involved with helping us accomplish this task have been so faithful. Please pray for them as they continue to labor.

The Machen (The Cook)

We have three translators that work together in the office during the week. If you live in Nepal or other third-world countries, you'll quickly learn that making food is not a task that can be completed in a short amount of time. For a while our translators were making the food, but it would cut two hours into their working time, so **we all decided that we should hire a cook** to come in and make lunch for everyone. **When we were discussing it, they really insisted on brining a non-Christian into the office to work.** I asked why they wanted a non-Christian to come. They said that they wanted to influence them to become a Christian. Sure enough, a few days later they brought a college-aged girl named Pema to the office to make lunch. During working hours they often have open dialogue about Christianity. She came to our annual Christmas party, and has even come to a service. I was really impressed with our translation staff's effort to reach out to the lost. **Pray for them as they teach her about Christ and pray that Pema would trust the Lord as her Savior.**

Training Translators

One of my favorite opportunities each year is traveling to India to help participate in the training of future Bible translators with WorldView ministries. This year I was able to teach a linguistic class on the topic of Phonemics. Phonemics is essentially a course that is meant for students to be able to reduce language to written form in an efficient way. I was thrilled to teach this particular class as we are constantly engaged in this type of work as we have

been developing the written language of Lowa to establish a platform for the Word of God to be received in written form. The students did well and had an opportunity to practice reducing their own native languages into written form. **Pray that God will use them and their education in the future to translate the Bible into their own languages and other languages that are without Scripture.**



Christmas Outreach

Every year we go all out to throw a big Christmas party. People will often come to a Christmas party when they may not come to anything else at the church. We threw a party last year and we had 27 people in attendance. From the Christmas party last year we had a few stick around. Last year those few were guests. We did not know those people very well, but over the past year God has matured them to be the core of our church. **This year, instead of us throwing the party, as we had years prior, our church folk threw the party!** They worked together in unity to prepare everything and the party was a huge success. At first we didn't think many were going to show, but then they all showed up on Nepali-time (late). **By the time everyone showed up, we had 70 people crammed into our little church space!** It was so nice to be able to show the love of Christ to our community and share the reason of Christmas with them. **Pray that we'd have a few more stick around through this year.**

Number Four

We are excited to announce that Sheryl is expecting our fourth child! We are thankful that God has provided us the blessing of children. God uses our children to teach us many things and they are always a conversation starter here in Nepal. There were a few

complications with the delivery of Josiah, so please be in prayer for the health of Sheryl and the new baby and that he delivery will be smoother this time. **The newest member of our family will be born sometime in June.**

Furlough

We will be taking a furlough starting the end of March. So this time Sheryl will be delivering in the States. We have a lot that we want to accomplish during our time stateside. We have a few churches that we have not visited within 7 years that we would like to follow up with and even a few supporting churches that we have never even visited once. We also want to reach out to the Nepali, Lowa, and Tibetan communities in NYC. A few months ago, my best friend, Dawa, moved there. He has been trying to arrange a monthly gathering of Mustangi (Lowa) believers who are residing in the NYC area. We hope to do some short outreach programs among Nepali, Lowa, and Tibetan groups there sometime during furlough. We also hope to spend some time reaching out to my lost family. Our time in the States will be busy, but pray that we will be able to accomplish all of the things the Lord has set out for us to do.

We have a lot to do to prepare for our time in the States. One of the most demanding things is that we need to get vehicle. **If you know of a vehicle that will seat a family of 6 that we could borrow or purchase at a reasonable price, please let us know.** We also would love to come visit with our supporting churches while we are on furlough, and visit with some new ones as well. **If you are interested in having us come during this furlough, please contact us as soon as you can.** You can e-mail us, or schedule a meeting online on our updated website: godfreetibet.com. We hope to encourage and be a blessing to you during this time.

Thank you for all of your prayers, your thoughts, and your support! We also would like to say thank-you for all of the cards, gifts, and packages that were sent this Christmas season. We were spoiled! **God bless you as you serve the Lord in your place!**

Justin and Sheryl Levine