

# The Rupprecht Run

Easter 2011

Scripture Engagement Missionaries to Nigeria  
The last from Nigeria

Vol 7, No 1

*I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.*

*When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble.*

Proverbs 4: 11-12

Six years is a long time. On the other hand, depending on the perspective, it can be a very short time. It seemed like forever, back in 2005, shortly after arriving in Nigeria and after our horrific car accident. Now that we are at the end of that period, we wonder where the time went. Especially since such very interesting and good stuff is happening—right now!

So many of you traveled those years with us. Now that we are weeks from repatriation, the whole thing seems a bit surrealistic. Did God really take a couple of near retirees and send them to Africa—Nigeria? Did they do any good there? Now what?

We like to think that the author of Proverbs had it right when he wrote, 'I guide you in the ways of wisdom...' We didn't always feel that wise, but by God's guidance (and that was REALLY affirmed here these last couple weeks)

## Homeward Bound

The tickets have been purchased and by God's Grace, we will be leaving for the US on April 27, arriving the 28<sup>th</sup>. With us will come our faithful dachshund, Digby. (He is already getting used to his traveling cage.) We are in the process of closing down our home, disposing of our possessions, and in the process of saying farewell. This is a very emotional time as we say goodbye to so many dear Nigerian friends and coworkers. God has been good and we celebrate that.

and direction we were shown the way. When we look back, we see how even the stumbles and the hiccups were training and guiding exercises that helped provide strength, sustenance and grew leadership and ultimately led to real successes.



Part of the 'run' that we have been on. There has been real progress in plans toward producing the 'Jesus Film' and audio Scriptures in six of our languages. A whole bunch of vernacular booklets will have been produced and printed. Up to ten languages are moving ahead toward getting significant portions of their

Scriptures translated—languages that have nothing now.

When God is in control, when the goal is of God, when the 'run' by the best of our abilities, is of God, then the walk can be straight, the steps unhampered and the run without stumbles. To God be all Glory!

Our Stateside destination will be Sugar Grove, IL in the home we vacated seven years ago. The address will appear below. We will not have a phone number until we arrive back in the States, although our email address will stay in effect.

We also celebrate the faithful partnership of you our prayer and financially supporting partners. We do ask that you continue to 'travel' with us a bit longer. We are continuing in relationship with LBT for at least several months upon our return. Several activities are already lined up and we expect more. We thank God for the faithfulness of all our partners over the years. *We pray for a continued relationship with us personally and with the mission opportunities of Lutheran Bible Translators.*

## Work. Did I say Work?

Our just completed Scripture Use Seminar has kept us very busy (see 'There is Fire...') in addition we are completing a number of print projects, Orders of Worship for 4 languages, Catechisms in 2 languages, Transfer Primers (for readers of English to learn read their own mother tongue) in 3 languages and dictionaries in two languages (may have to take those to the US with us). We are also coordinating the 'Jesus Film' project, and recording of the audio Bible for six languages (responsibility for this is being handed over to several other organizations) and the coordinating of a Luke Partnership project which will help 10 languages translate the Gospel of Luke and produce the 'Jesus Film' over a three year period. Again other organizations will work with resident LBT staff to make this happen. Pray that these print materials will be received well and that they will be used to extend the Mother Tongue use of the Ukele, Yala, Yatche, Bokyi, Mbe and Ekajuk languages.

## 'There is Fire on the Mountain' . . .

. . . are the words that greeted us Saturday night. Ed's co-director of the upcoming The Scripture Engagement Seminar, Rev Fr Chokpa phoned Ed and was speaking in parables—not a good omen. The Seminar was planned to start on Monday and now there was 'Fire'? The emergency meeting on Sunday divulged the problem, the venue where we were planning to hold the Seminar would not be available, but that Chokpa had gone ahead to secure another site. The fact that such a place would be available on such short notice is not only remarkable, it could be called a miracle. But then we saw God's hand in so many ways during the 5 day Seminar. In fact, the new location was much better than the original one!

38 gathered from 9 denominations and 15 languages. The purpose of the Seminar was to discuss and promote the use of the Mother Tongue in the proclamation of the Scriptures in various Ogoja ministries, churches and parishes. The hope was that mostly clergy, Pastors, Reverends, Rev. Fathers and Evangelists would attend. We wanted the leaders to be trained so that they could carry the message to the next level. We believe that goal was achieved. God blessed our every effort even though there were complications and concerns (including a falling ceiling fan).

Many feared that the many denominations including so many flavors of Protestants—main line churches and Pentecostals—with the Roman Catholics would be inviting a major melt down. It did not happen. In fact all were amazed at the common ground found in the desire to communicate the Good News of the Bible effectively by using the Heart Language in outreach efforts. *We pray that the participants will quickly organize the next round of Scripture Engagement outreach, hopefully before the end of the year.*





### **Water!**

The village of Iboko, where we live, has long suffered vary bad and an inadequate water supply. With the help of a caring congregation, Cross Lutheran, Yorkville, IL (also our home congregation), the problem has been alleviated. Thy partnered with the village and a bore hole was drilled and now people enjoy good, clean water. *We thank God for the provision of a good source of water for our friends in Iboko and pray that the water that is Eternal will also indwell them so that they might never thirst again.*

### **Buff, Sandy, Ruth, Marilyn, Pris, Bev = Lots of Fun and Good (God) Work**

Revisiting old times and places was fun, as friends and coworkers joined us in January for almost two weeks. Sandy Tebbins Buffington, Pris Craw and Ruth Kruse had served as medical staff at the Immanuel Lutheran Hospital, Yahe and Bev Knuth Fritz had served as a teacher at Hillcrest many years ago under the LCMS World Mission. Sandy's husband and Bev's sister-in-law, Marilyn were great 'new comers'. Part of their mission was to conduct Traditional Birth Attendant demonstrations and clinics as Sandy remains a consultant with WHO and is a recognized author and consultant. One is reminded of the fact that Scripture Engagement also reaches out to mothers and children with medical needs. *We give thanks for memories of the 'good old days' and pray for continued ministry and help to Traditional Birth Attendants.*



**We Finish Strong--Together** We need each other to support and pray together for each other's ministries and daily needs. We also need you and thank you when you support the ministry of LBT (and our own, the Rupprecht Ministry). We take these relationships and partnerships very seriously. Please share your concerns with us as well.

May God bless you!

*Ed & Wilma*

Ed and Wilma Rupprecht

Scripture Engagement Missionaries to Nigeria

### **Continued Prayer Concerns:**

1. We pray for an uneventful transition for us as we return to the US. Pray for safety in travel, a pleasant and enjoyable time of fairwell

2. We thank God for granting six years of ministry and service to us. For keeping us in His care during that time. For providing for us and sustaining us in every way during that time. For the many opportunities of ministry that were granted.

3. We pray for our friends that we leave behind, that they remain faithful and they are a testimony to God's blessings and goodness.

4. Pray that a planned Bible Translation Workshop for the Mbe language in April will continue to bring together the skilled and talented people required for the privileged and specialized task of Bible Translation.

5. Pray for a free, fair and peaceful election process for the important Presidential and Federal elections in April.

6. We pray that peace will prevail in the several conflict areas of Nigeria.

7. Thanksgiving for a truly inspired and blessed Scripture Engagement Seminar and for the great leadership. We pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to use the attendees to be more effective in reaching the lost of Ogoja with Mother Tongue ministry.

8. We pray that the print material being freshly distributed, will be effective in helping people to more effectively read their languages and worship their God by being able to read the vernacular Scriptures.

9. We pray that our praying and financially supporting partners are able to provide for the resources necessary to accomplish the work.

Please stay in touch:

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All gifts should be designated to the following account:

**Rupprecht Ministry** and sent to:

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LBT Phone: 1-630-897-0660

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### **The Electronic Rupprecht's**

Monthly Email update: Contact Ed at: [erupprecht@lbt.org](mailto:erupprecht@lbt.org),

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