

After picking peanuts, catching up with friends, worshipping in Gumuz language with Gumuz believers, our hearts rejoice at all God *has done*, *is doing*, and *will do* through His Word in the Gumuz language. We THANK YOU for your prayers and support in making it possible!



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## THE RACE CONTINUES

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Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses... marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus...

Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV

### Revisiting the Past

We took advantage of the holiday school break to make a family trip out to the Gumuz area, which for Andrea and the kids was the first time back in more than a year and a half. While still productive in Travis and the team working for 2.5 days, the primary purpose of the trip was the visit old places and old friends.



It was great connecting with the translators and their families, as well as our church friends from Gesas mountain. Whether here or there or with you back in the US, we love seeing the full smiles that break across the faces of old friends upon our arrival, the true friendship within the body of Christ is so easily rekindled. The kids particularly enjoyed climbing their favorite trees again, harvesting peanuts with the Gumuz believers, seeing our chicken coup still in service and of course Nigist, the friendly dog of the Catholics with whom we lived. (see the photos on the back page)

The most encouraging part of the trip was probably attending church Sunday morning on Gesas mountain (where we lived from 2010-2015). A community of worshippers which has nearly doubled to 150+ in the last two years, entirely under Gumuz leadership, singing and praying with great joy, great faith, and unashamed in sending forth bold Proclaimers of God's Word, in the Gumuz language, to the nearby villages. What a joy to have been a part of their spiritual development in the early years, still today with ongoing visits of encouragement, and in the future as the Gumuz Scriptures will continue to sink deeper and deeper into their lives.

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## “I Found A Male Child”

A REALLY GOOD translation advisor or consultant has a detective's nose for uncovering places of ambiguity in a text or possible points of misunderstanding, the rest of us just stumble upon them like landmines. Each question we ask is like overturning a stone to see what meaning lies underneath the language. Many times we find a clear and accurate translation, other times a jumbled mess of confusion, and on occasion, a surprise bug we'd never have expected.

This month (January) Travis flew out to Western Ethiopia to perform a consultant check on Genesis 1-11 with the Opo language translation team and their advisor, Josh, from Wycliffe Canada. In studying beforehand, Travis forewent a much needed haircut ☺ to concentrate

on developing a list of questions to ask, many of which turned up nothing beyond an opportunity to affirm the translators for having done well. But a few times, when asking what he thought were routine questions for comprehension, the answers he received were not quite so straight forward. The fun of exploring a new language and culture!

**Question (comparing Gen 1:14 with 1:3):** “What is the difference between the lights God created on the fourth day of creation and the light he had already

created on day one?” **Answer:** “No difference, he just created more of it.” **Result:** The text was changed to ‘light’ on day one, and on day four, ‘things which give light (shine)’.

**Question (Gen 4:1):** “Eve said, ‘I have found a male child,’ is it common to speak of ‘finding a boy/girl’ when announcing the gender of the newborn?” **Answer:** “Oh yes, we say that about children.” **Revised Answer (following a discussion among the translators):** “Well

actually, a woman uses the phrase ‘I have found a child’ for announcing that she is pregnant, not referring to a child who was already born.” **Result:** No change because the context in Genesis 4 was seen as clear enough to give the correct meaning.

**Question (Gen 4:21):** “When your text says that Jubal was ‘the father of hitters of harps and blowers of flutes,’ does this mean that Jubal himself was a musician?” **Answer:** “No, only his children were.” **Result:** The misunderstood Hebrew idiom “father of” was removed in favor of the preferred interpretation, “Of the harp hitters and flute blowers, he was the man of beginning (the first).” So also, with Jabal in the previous verse, the father of the “livers inside tents and herders of cows (i.e., nomadic pastoralists)”.