



## Entebbe, Uganda

Dave was able to help lead another workshop on community based language development helping mother-tongue speakers analyze their own language situation and make strategic plans for their own language development, including Bible translation decisions. These eight language groups also tested a new methodology for



this workshop, employing various new ideas. Three days after the event, one of the communities gathered all of their 60 village leaders together, shared what they had learned, and began to implement the development plans they had made during the workshop to translate the New Testament into their language. They have been using scriptures from a related language and decided that they really wanted their own. The new method seems to be working better than expected.

Dave also brought back a couple of funny quotes from participants. When one group was asked when they use English (the national language), they said:

"We do speak English, but only in the bar, and only when men are drunk."

When another group was asked to come up with some creative uses for their language, they responded: "Our vision for language development is online dating in our language." Never a dull moment!



## Dallas, Texas

February of each year is the time when the new "edition" of the Ethnologue is "published." The Ethnologue is a database of all the living languages of the world, a database that SIL started and has maintained since 1951. Over the years it has moved from book form to internet database, from 41 languages to our current 7111. It began simply as a listing of which languages were spoken where and whether they had a Bible. Now it is used by mission agencies, as well as others, all over the world to make informed decisions that serve people groups in every corner of the globe. Check it out for yourself at [www.ethnologue.com](http://www.ethnologue.com).

Dave spent 2 weeks in Dallas finishing up his first year as General Editor for the Ethnologue. Although he and 2 others are the core editing team, there are also 80 contributing editors around the world who are the ones getting the actual current data. Besides just updating current data, they are always looking for ways to expand what information they want to include.

## Cherokee, North Carolina

We've mentioned over the last few years about these workshops that Dave has done, like the one above that he did in Uganda. So what are the results? Dave and a colleague have a grant to collect all of that data in a book. What have we learned? What do we need to change? AND What have others done? While we were in Cherokee, we were able to visit and see some of the things being done to try to preserve the Eastern Band of the Cherokee language. This has nothing to do with SIL or Wycliffe, but we also want to learn from others and what they are doing in terms of language development. Also while we were all together, we were able to plan out the next steps in the development of this book.

## **Honolulu, Hawaii**

It's not every day you get to present a paper at a conference, and it's definitely not every day that the conference happens to be in Hawaii during February! So of course, Julie had to go to make sure Dave behaved himself. But instead of Dave misbehaving, it was Julie who had a mishap. She tripped—TWICE—on the same beach, and broke her toe on that second trip.

Anyway, about the conference...Since the Hawaiian language is considered a “revitalized” language, the University of Hawaii always hosts this particular linguistic conference. This year's theme was on endangered languages and technology, so Dave wrote on texting on mobile phones in a particular Filipino language. But the funny thing was, when he went to give his talk, all of the “technology” in the room wasn't working—no computer, overhead, projector, etc., so he couldn't use his powerpoint presentation. He had to go old school—pulled out a couple of markers and started writing all over the white board! The irony was not lost on anyone!

## **Berea, Kentucky**

Next week we head off down the road for some meetings with others on the Ethnologue staff. We actually have a young man on staff who lives in Berea and works remotely, like Dave. Since 2 of us are in KY, the rest just decided to come here. We'll let Julie “translate” in case the others can't understand the locals!

## **Wilmore, Kentucky**

Then it's back home, we think, for a while. Come by and see us if you're in the neighborhood!

As always, we are grateful for your partnership with us in reaching the nations for Christ through the Word of God.

Dave and Julie Eberhard

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