

Sojourner *Express*: April 2020
Nora Hajian



Hello, folks! I write to you from my hometown of Whitehorse, Canada. As many of you know, four weeks ago I made the trip from Musoma to Vancouver, and then to Whitehorse from Vancouver: a 66-hour journey, my father tells me. I am now out of my two week isolation period, and working from my parents' basement suite. Easter weekend was a real blessing: a reminder that the future promises hope, despite the circumstances of the present. As my Dad says, "Death does not have the final word". COVID-19 will not have the final word either.

Thank you again for all your prayers as I traveled! There were a couple of scary moments, but overall it went smoothly, and I felt like God was definitely guiding me through it all. Now that I'm back in Whitehorse, I am absolutely delighted to see my niece and nephews again, including the latest one who was born in December. I am also delighted to see the snow...although it is disappearing very fast now.

My work continues, though not quite as normal, and at a slower pace. I am learning to adjust to being separated from the office team, particularly my colleagues in the linguistics department and the Ikoma translation team. I am continuing to practice my Swahili reading and writing skills, and am preparing to digitally assist the faculty at SIL's training center in Canada - the linguistics department at Trinity Western University - in transitioning their classroom courses to online courses over the summer. CanIL's summer-run preparatory program for individuals who feel called to serve God as linguists is still very important, as there is still much work to be done in the field of Bible Translation.

I cannot claim to know what will happen in the next six months, but I and my colleagues are hoping that we will be able to return to Tanzania by August, *Mungu akipenda* (if God pleases). Keep praying for me and for the Mara Cluster project in general - particularly that God will provide wisdom and direction for the future. In a way, we are glad that our Tanzanian colleagues in the project now have a clear opportunity to 'flex their administrative muscles' and explore areas of potential growth in their abilities: while the New Testaments in the Mara Cluster project are close to being done, the Old Testaments are largely unfinished and we are encouraging the local language communities to have a larger management and funding role in translating them.

Much love,

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