

Brian and Helen's Furlough News,

July, 2003

Who We Are in Wycliffe

Lately, in our travels we have encountered friends and supporters who don't really know or remember what the Wycliffe Bible Translators are all about. So, if you are new to our ministry to the people of Papua New Guinea, or just curious about Wycliffe in general, then read on. You can also visit the web site: www.wycliffe.org

When and how did each of you come to know the Lord?



Helen studies all sorts of tropical "bugs"

Helen became a Christian through the youth group in her church and grew spiritually through her involvement with Young Life ministry during High School. I (Brian) am the "fruit" of a very special Navigator fellowship while at Cornell University. Of course, it is really God who does the calling and makes all the arrangements for heart preparation to receive His Word and His Spirit. See John 15:16

When did you feel called to serve in Wycliffe Bible Translators?

This is difficult to pin-point for both of us. Helen felt the call to be a Missionary Doctor during High School, and I had the "vision" to use my technical skills (as an M.E.E.) while flying up for interviews with IBM in Vermont (1977). It was many years later, while in preparation for going overseas, that Helen and I met and married, while staying in beloved Vermont. By 1981, a few months after our wedding, Helen and I interviewed many mission agencies at the Urbana Missions Conference (IVCF) of that year. We discovered that only a few mission agencies could both use a physician and an engineer, so then it was not hard to narrow the possibilities to the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

What do the Wycliffe Bible Translators do?

Wycliffe Bible Translators is a world-wide organization. Membership comes from over 50 countries and we are working in 70 around the world. Working with partners worldwide, Wycliffe USA is accelerating the pace of Bible translation for the 380 million people who still don't have the Word in their language. *"Like the ripples of a bubbling spring, God's Word continues to spread. Like a river it flows into hearts and minds, bringing life and refreshment. As the waters cover the sea, God's glory is being made known."* - Wycliffe Annual Report 2002

News Flash

Around May 1st David, that world-traveler, flew back to Ukarumpa, PNG to visit friends just before the next Graduation Exercises. He spent some of the time assisting the High School shop teacher. David will return to the States on July 3rd, attend Va Tech Orientation for two days, and then fly to Hume Lake Christian Camps (Fresno, CA) to work for a month before college.

Helen is relieved to have finished her Tropical Medicine Courses at the Uniformed Health Services University. She aced most of her coursework, and made a few new professional relationships. All of this can be useful when we return to the field. She is enjoying NOT being a student at the moment.

I (Brian) have accepted some computer consulting assignments for the PNG Branch. This involves some programming and research on the Internet. I have also recently returned from the JAARS Board meetings and also the Language Software Board meetings, held at Dallas, mid-May.

In June, Helen and I spent a few weeks traveling to Florida, Colorado, and California visiting family and friends. Probably our best times were on holiday in Colorado taking in breath-taking scenery (and yes, I even got to ski in June - Wow!)



Arapaho Basin, But June??

More Facts:

- ✓ 392 languages have a complete Bible; Almost 2,000 have some text of the Bible
- ✓ Wycliffe and its worldwide partners are currently involved in more than 1,500 language projects in more than 70 countries
- ✓ Wycliffe has been involved in a total of 59 Jesus film projects to date

Wycliffe Mission Statement:

To assist the Church in making disciples of all nations through Bible Translation.

How has God used you, His people in New Guinea?

Helen and I support the task of Bible Translators (we help people succeed in their work) when there is no infrastructure to facilitate the work in a given third-world country. Helen, as a primary care Physician keeps translators going in the field when they struggle with infections, injuries, diseases, and possibly, complete medical evacuations (by private airplane) out of the country. We have a small, over-burdened clinic in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea.

Bible Translation is about decoding language and culture. Understanding a newly discovered language well enough to do an excellent translation is facilitated by the use of one or more computers. Computers in harsh environments often fail for any number of reasons, and we use custom software programs that are sometimes difficult to use and understand. I (Brian) help the translators use their computer assisted tools adequately for the task, and I also coordinate International efforts (via the Internet) for our next generation of software development. My official title is "Language Computer Consultant". Even today, while on furlough, I am consulting and programming solutions that help partner-technologists with their computers via the Internet.

As a Christian business man goes about his workday earning a living, he may also spend "extra" time ministering to people he meets along the way. In the same way, we also minister to the people of PNG with whom we have regular contact. We have been actively involved in a local village church located just across the river from where we live. We have many opportunities to teach and sometimes preach and do personal Bible study while we fellowship with our PNG brothers and sisters there. Often SIL/ Wycliffe business will send me to remote village settings, where I am able to speak and even preach in the trade language of the country. My personal goal, and Helen's too, is to always make disciples of Christ wherever God may have us at the moment. This includes our furlough time, while in the States.

The Prayer Corner:

Praise: Thank you for remembering Helen these past months. She exercises regularly in a local swimming pool, and I feel she is getting stronger each month. She even hiked the Colorado mountains recently!!

David was accepted in the School of Architecture, at Va Tech, in Blacksburg, VA.. We are very happy with this choice of school. We have an orientation this month and he will start school August 25th.

Prayer: That Helen will be able to catch up and keep up with her medical reading; that she will keep her eyes and ears open to God's direction.

For David to have a good and safe month working at Hume Lake, CA. and will make wise Christian fellowship choices at Va Tech in the Fall.

That I would get settled into some sort of routine with remote (email) assignments for the Papua New Guinea Branch. It would be nice to do productive work, and still be able to travel and see lots of friends while here in the USA. That I might see and experience the "White Harvest" that Jesus was talking about to His disciples.



Helen triumphantly stands on the famous Continental Divide.

*"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest."
— John 4:35*

Brian C.