

## HOWe THINGS ARE... April 2018

This month I learned at work:

There are at least 400 distinct sign languages in the world.

Most deaf people are born to hearing parents. This means often deaf children do not learn language until much later than hearing children. Sometimes not until they are teenagers or adults.

Literacy rates among the deaf are very low because learning to read for a deaf individual is like memorizing phone numbers for every word.

Deaf translations are video. (And video production is a whole challenge in itself.)

The Deaf Bible Society publishes those videos, Scripture/Scripture portions, on its app and online at its website, <https://www.deafbiblesociety.com/>.

Today, no deaf community has the entire Bible in their language. There is a group translating the Bible into ASL (American Sign Language). They have completed the New Testament and are targeting to complete the Old Testament in a matter of years. Pray!

When the pastor says something about a verse in a sermon, a speaker of a spoken language can handwrite a note in her Bible or add a note in her Bible app. And if your language is sign? A group of developers is working on an app so that when a deaf individual is following along in her Bible app (watching a video of the signed language), she can add a "note". The app pauses the video, turns on the phone's camera to record the note she signs, and then adds it (a link to that video) to that verse in the Bible app on her phone.

### Three ways to give:

1. <https://wycliffe.org/partner/sherylhowe>

2. 800-WYCLIFFE (800-992-5433)

3. PO BOX 628200, Orlando, FL, 32862

Check payable to: Wycliffe Bible Translators'

Note stating "preference for the ministry of Sheryl Howe"

### Sheryl Howe

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I am very pleased to be back at work. I still have to go to the transplant clinic in Winston-Salem two hours away once a week (probably until June).

I'm pleased at work progress made without me: My team rolled out a major technology change to our entire organization and to partners while I was gone.

And, I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to making God's Word available to those still waiting. A global effort needs infrastructure to work well. IT (technology) infrastructure is a large part of that. And that is my group, quietly, in the background, working to meet needs most people don't understand or think about... unless of course something breaks...

Also, I got to "run" a race (a 10k) this month. It was mostly walking, but more running than I'd thought I'd be able to do. Almost normal again.

And I was able to attend some work meetings in Germany in March (like a normal person). We're pretty sure that Stephanie gets to count anyplace her kidney goes as a country she visited. According to the transplant clinic people, Stephanie's kidney is doing its job for me very, very well.

Pray:

- Insurance drama: It'll all be fine eventually. Meanwhile, it's a whole other job for me: interacting with insurance and providers because I'm retroactively eligible for Medicare. Apparently this is not terribly common: qualifying for Medicare for end stage renal disease, not on dialysis, and retroactively.
- Productivity for me: pray for creative ways to get things done when I'm out to go to the clinic one day a week. Pray for me not to be a bottleneck.
- Praise God for how He continues to bring highly qualified technical staff to my team in particular and to kingdom work. There's seems to be some sort of design involved in how God raises up people He's already prepared with the skillset, experience and attitudes needed at just the right time. Pray for more workers (harvest is ready and all that).