

HOWe THINGS ARE... September 2018

What do you technical people do?

- “Most of us don't think too much about our electricity... or our internet. In places where Bible translators work, power may be unreliable if available at all and internet can be constrained and expensive. We know that internet access is a problem in many parts of Africa, but we haven't been able to measure how bad. An ingenious solution engineered and developed by our IT staff for measuring internet access is being deployed in various locations in Africa today in order to understand the reality of the problems and focus efforts to improve internet access, critical for Bible translation work.”
- “Before I became involved with Wycliffe, I failed to understand the complexity of a global mission organization and the infrastructure it would take to support it. I understood medium and large corporations needed highly skilled IT professionals, a lot of them. I somehow didn't connect that the need for corporate IT solutions in missions would match or even exceed the needs in any medium to large corporation. IT infrastructure, the usual things like email and personnel systems and IT security and finance systems, plays a part in each Bible translation project.”
- “We believe computer backups are important. And we believe that there is a real enemy who would desire to halt the work of Bible translation, corrupting computer files, even installing a dreaded ransomware virus on the computer holding precious files containing the Word of God. Backup solutions provided by and promoted by our IT staff protected (and rescued lost) files. Files that ultimately resulted in the Scriptures available today.”
- “As IT help desk staff, I have the opportunity to pray for and to put a translator's mind to ease as we handle tricky computer problems. I believe IT is critical, but even more important may be the work of prayer I have the opportunity to engage in with my customers on the front lines.”
- “Translation consultants are able to connect remotely using tools to share a remote screen or, if bandwidth is adequate, to video conference. IT staff select tools that work well where internet connections are less than ideal and provide solutions that allow translation workers and remote consultants to easily (if internet connections cooperate) make those remote connections using as little of what could be expensive bandwidth as possible. These solutions make Bible translation possible.”

Most of the time my job is super fun. It just doesn't feel like “work”. Except of course when it does... This month has had some of those days... maybe some of those weeks.

And then someone asks me to write up something about what “you people” do. Guess what? It's almost irrelevant whether or not my job feels super fun. I have the privilege of having a part in making God's Word available in every language!

Pray:

- TWO key people have moved on to other roles: one of the people on my director team and my admin assistant. **Pray for those who are picking up extra work and for God to bring the people we need.**
- **Praise:** for the years of volunteer service my amazing assistant has given to Bible translation. She's volunteered her time for years, even when her financial situation changed so she took on a second paying job in addition to her three day a week volunteer job with us.
- **Praise** too for how quickly someone stepped up to take on at least some of the admin assistant position. **Pray for that person to pick up what she needs to know.**
- Wycliffe USA is recruiting a potential new missionary to take on the director role... maybe. He's coming to Waxhaw next month to participate in Check IT Out, a weekend event to introduce IT professionals to IT in missions. Here's how I think you should pray: Pray that this guy is the right person, that God calls him and that his financial support comes in super quick. :) Also **pray for wisdom for all involved.**
- I continue on the once a month transplant clinic plan. **Praise** for feeling "normal". **Pray for two things:** more energy (drug side effect) and for disturbing dreams to go away (another drug side effect).
- I have an adventure next month. Travel makes me so happy. I'll be attending an important work conference in Bangkok (**pray** for the conference, for everyone traveling and for the people coordinating all of the logistics). On the way there, I'll visit Seoul for four days (being a tourist). And then meeting with work colleagues (because it's an opportunity to meet face to face, why not throw in some more meetings) the day before and the day after the conference in Bangkok.

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