

HOWe THINGS ARE...

December 2002

There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world and no kind is without meaning. If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me.
1 Cor. 14:10-11



Entebbe, Uganda: where I hope to be in February

Why?

If all works according to plan, I'll do a three month assignment for the Sudan branch. Sudan is having a civil war so the office for people working with languages in southern Sudan will be in Uganda. I'll be setting up email and network services for the new office.

Was there a burning bush moment?

Kind of, but when I said I wanted one, I wasn't actually being serious. I'm totally okay without sky writing noting, "Sheryl Howe, GO to Uganda for three months". However I think it's pretty cool that before this project even came up, I decided I wanted to go to Sudan. I wrote in my journal that I wanted to go to Sudan but that I had no idea how to make it happen. I told God that it would make for a good newsletter story if God could just make it happen (I also wrote that it would still be a good newsletter story if I made it happen, but would require risk taking for me and I'm not so good with risks). So then when I went to

Personnel to talk about what my next assignment should be, the man said, "I may have something. I just got this email from Sudan". While not actually involving sky writing or bushes, it was sort of a burning bush-like moment.

In other news...

I have the coolest job. We hosted Wycliffe's bi-annual computer conference in November. It's an opportunity for computer folks in Wycliffe to share with each other (and folks from other missions) all kinds of ways that God is using technology in Bible translation. God is doing very amazing things --- in case you weren't already convinced that God is amazing. And it wasn't like some technical conferences where people are demo-ing cool things but you wonder about the practical use for these things. In Wycliffe things are cool if they're cheap, reliable, require no training, run on AA batteries and meet a need.

Stuff to pray about...

- **Praise** that a new person will be joining my department and a volunteer is coming in January to take my place while I'm in Uganda. I'm very excited about this provision of help.
- **Pray** for all the little details involved in this trip. I'd prefer not to forget anything important --- actually, I'd prefer not to forget anything...
- **Pray** for the people working to bring God's word to the people of Sudan. Pray that the move to the new office will go smoothly, people affected will adjust quickly and pray for peace in Sudan.

Sudan facts...

- Sudan's civil war is the longest uninterrupted civil war in the world, 19 years
- An estimated average of 300 Sudanese people die each day of war-related causes.
- Sudan produces more uprooted people than any other country in the world. An estimated 4 million internally displaced within Sudan and another 400,000 refugees in neighboring countries -- Uganda, Kenya and others.
- Sudan is the largest country in Africa, a little more than a quarter the size of the US

Population: 34 million, 5 million people live in the war ravaged South

Official Language: Arabic, total number of languages: 134

My next project deadline is December 15 (yes, I know it's a Sunday, I often set deadlines without consulting a calendar first. It makes life funner). I really (really) want to leave for Uganda without leaving stuff undone. Plus, I set deadlines planning to meet them. No one actually dies if projects run past the deadline, but I'm a happier person when I complete projects on time -- as are the people expecting the project to be completed.

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