

HOWe THINGS ARE...

December 2003

Hello! How are you? You know how pretty much no one I know really knows what I do for a job? I thought this was okay because it's kind of technical and not the best reading material. But then I thought about how I mostly write about my personal life in newsletters and maybe it would start sounding like I'm in North Carolina on vacation... so this letter I'm talking about work...

We had this "Day of Prayer" recently for praying specifically for Bible translation work around the world. I, not being willing to commit myself only to just one area of the world (this confirms why I'm assigned somewhere where I have impact on just about everywhere), I pick the session for those who can't decide which area of the world to focus on (**interrupting myself briefly**
interestingly enough --- last year, day of prayer was before I knew I was going to Uganda. They didn't have this "I can't decide" option last year so I was forced to choose and I picked Africa. No particular reason then, just chose Africa and then I went to Africa. Just sharing... **). So, this time, I pick the session for the not willing to commit people. There's a packet of prayer requests for each area of the world. We, the not-willing-to-commits, don't get the whole packet for each area. We get a couple pages of requests from each packet. I'm all excited realizing that all the pages I got contained requests from people and places I know. I realize everyone in Wycliffe could say the same thing. You meet people. They're missionary-people; they naturally spread out across the globe. However these were places where I have some vested interest because I've worked on something they've needed. At the moment, I'm working on a solution to a problem for Cameroon (which by the way is my least favorite Wycliffe branch --- it's nothing personal: they're in West Africa [icky in terms of infrastructure] and they seem to have more than their fair share of bizarre problems). The thing I'm working on does not qualify as a bizarre problem --- it's fully explainable; it's just ugly to solve and the solution needs to be efficient (i.e., not-ugly).

Stuff you could pray about...

- **Thank God** for his amazing faithfulness. The end of the year seems the time to reflect: God's work in my life over this last year: quite miraculous (my personal opinion)...
- **Pray** for my next short (or, hey, it's all up for grabs, my next long) term trip. Pray for wisdom in deciding where, when and for how long...

I like my job --- the stuff I do: writing little scripts to do things, making little web pages, solving problems. And I like that what I do matters: people's jobs are easier; they're more efficient because I did the stuff I've done. And I really like the end result: Bible translation happens.

Then there's this little bonus: because of what I do, I come in contact with random pieces of information: geography, little factoids about translation and counseling and research methods and a whole array of various topics when I'm figuring out ways to do some email related thing that somebody needs done. Wycliffe is quite the fascinating organization. These random tidbits I learn are way fun --- if there were a trivial pursuit game about Wycliffe, the organization, I could see myself faring quite well. I like how I have my little fingers in all sorts of things.

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