

HOWe THINGS ARE... April 2006

Hi all! So generally, I actually write my own entire newsletter, but there's all this fabulous material for me to lift (or share, depending on how you view that sort of thing). I'm particularly enamored with this one from the president of Wycliffe US...

A Long Walk for a Good Cause...

I recently heard about a mother tongue speaker in Africa who caught the vision and made it his own. He didn't wait for someone to "give" his people the Scriptures. Instead he acted on the vision and set out to turn the vision into reality. Here's the story:

Walter (as we'll call him) is a member of the Tennet people group, who live in the southern part of Sudan. As a teenager Walter wanted an education, but he couldn't get one because of the civil war. So he found his way to Khartoum -- about a thousand miles north of his home -- to seek an education. In Khartoum he barely scraped by in the small Tennet community and failed to get an education. After several years of this, he heard that a translation program to translate the Scripture into Tennet was about to start. He also heard that they were convening people they thought might be qualified to work on this translation, and that they were offering an introductory course on translation principles in northwestern Uganda, in a place called Arua.

He and a friend of his, another Tennet we'll call Ronald, decided they needed to attend this workshop. Walter especially felt this was what God had called him to do. The problem was, they had no money for plane tickets to get to Uganda. But they believed they needed to be there. What to do? They started walking. They could not walk south through the war zone to Uganda, so they took a jog to the east to Ethiopia. They may have walked all the way, or they may have hopped a bus as far as the border -- the details are sketchy. But from that point on, they walked. They walked for nearly a thousand miles south through Ethiopia to Kenya. They had no SUV. No hiking boots. No camping gear. And no money. None. They walked by faith...and lived on hospitality they found along the way. It took them eight months to reach Kenya. When they arrived at the meeting place, they asked if the translation principles course was still on. It was, and they were given bus fare to make the last leg of the journey west to Arua. In due time, they made it to Arua. It was an incredible journey for the mere opportunity to see if Walter might be qualified to work on that translation project. And here's the rest of the story. Walter completed an Introductory Course in Translation Principles in 2002 and went on to become a member of the Tennet translation team. He's proved to be a natural and gifted translator. He's translated the Gospel of John and is very committed to

seeing the rest of the translation completed for his people. And Ronald? He didn't join the translation team, but I have to admit I'm intrigued by the "support" role God gave him. He stuck with Walter for a thousand miles. I wonder if Walter would have made it without him?

I hope your heart is encouraged and amazed at what God is doing around the world. We have the privilege of not only witnessing it, but also participating in it.

Stuff you could pray about...

- The owner of the house where I'm renting a basement apartment decided to sell the house and move to a retirement home (which is good for her, we're happy for Charlotte). It's possible that whoever buys the house will still want to have renters, still want us to be the renters and still want to charge us the same rent. It's also possible they won't. Not terribly excited about living with this uncertainty, moving and/or paying more rent...
- Thank God for peace in Sudan. The 2005 Peace Agreement seems to be for real. Displaced people can return home. Pray for those working on Bible translations who are thrilled to be returning home, but will work there with a serious lack of infrastructure, even by Uganda infrastructure standards.
- Thank God that "God is good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on" (1 Peter 1:3 CEV) --- again with the fabulous material for me to lift... .

So I'm not generally a "hope your heart is encouraged" kind of person, but I do want you to know that I am grateful for people who invest time and money and everything else you do for me so that I can be here.

Home office/financial contributions:

(Enclose a note stating: For Sheryl Howe)



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