

# HOWe THINGS ARE... July 2006

Hi! Thursday ---- day seven of not being able to run because a week ago Thursday I did something to my knee because there was a hole in the road I didn't see because I was running before the sun came up because it's icky hot in North Carolina. I feel there should be widespread sympathy even though the extent of the injury was I couldn't run for a week --- so Thursday, I arrived at work to one of those security notices: software we use has a bug that could potentially be used by some bad guy to do something bad to us. The software vendor has an update to fix the problem but the update has to be tested in our environment before I update the live server.

While I was looking at it... The software has a language selection feature so menus and whatnot appear in the user's language of choice, except we've never made that feature available to our users --- mostly because I didn't realize it would work with our custom webpages but lo and behold... I modified some pages so that the language selection feature works properly and I must say, it's the coolest thing. Let's say you select "Arabic", one of those right-to-left languages. Normally the menu choices are across the top of the screen with "Logout" being the last choice. Select Arabic and the menu choices are in Arabic, of course, but also across the top of the screen in the opposite order (from right to left) so "Logout" ("مخرج") is the first choice. It is cool and also of actual practical use in our world (despite having to this point forced English on everyone who wants to use our web interface to check their email). The major languages we want, except Korean and Indonesian, are already done and I'll try to find someone to translate Korean and Indonesian --- we can support any language we care to and I didn't even know about that right-to-left feature.

You realize I'm highly opposed to talking about work because it alienates/bore people but every now and then work is very, very cool. The coolest work event ever, I had to go to Orlando for some meetings (it's amazing how productive face to face meetings are --- we've had conference calls, not always productive calls...). So, apparently, the cost to take a plane Wycliffe owns was the same as the cost to fly commercial (not sure how that works out but I trust Wycliffe, they're frugal folks: they're not spending more money than they need to just so I can have my own personal plane but it was cool). I pick what time we leave and come back. There's no airport security; it's at the runway two minutes away from my house. Then, when we land at the Orlando airport, we taxi up to the executive terminal where staff from there have no idea I'm not some big important person with my own plane. So much fun. And then on Friday, someone came in to our meeting to give me a message: "Sheryl, your pilot wants you to call him". So then I got to say, "Excuse me. I need to call my pilot". How fun is that? And, they have in-flight snacks on the plane, which also cracked me up.

The end of my work stories.

And what, you ask, is the point of these stories? No need to have a point --- the beauty of personal correspondence: rambling is perfectly acceptable. However, there is a theme, it's just not explicitly stated --- like poetry --- The theme, in case you need one and are opposed to pointless rambling: God is good and God knows and provides exactly what we need exactly when we need it. Like how I'm learning that my identity is based on who I am in Christ and not on what I do but I also needed to know that my work is valuable (enough to warrant my own plane). And how, if not for the security notice, I wouldn't have looked at the software Thursday and maybe some user needs to know that they're valuable (enough to warrant a web interface in their language).

-- Sheryl

**Home office/financial contributions:**

*(Enclose a note stating: For Sheryl Howe)*



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