

# HOWe THINGS ARE...

Sept 2006

Hi!

**“Look and be amazed at what's happening among the nations! Even if you were told, you would never believe what's taking place now.”** --- God *(in answer to complaints about the world being full of evil)\**

Pretty much every day something happens --- God does something --- that amazes me. And you know how sometimes you find something inspiring and then you try and tell someone else and you can't communicate what it was that was so great. The second sentence of the verse: “even if you were told, you would never believe what's taking place now” kind of describes the problem. There's something about the excitement that comes from just being told compared to the excitement that comes from being involved in some capacity --- something you prayed about or something God's given you a passion for... I'm not sure how that works but if you figure it out exactly let me know...

For example: in November, there's a project happening to install VSAT (satellite) high speed internet in Bangui, Central Africa Republic. It's amazing that this would happen. It's not directly related to me at all, but it's incredible.

Pre-Wycliffe, if you had told me that Bangui would get high speed internet, I'd think how nice for them. Or if you told me that the Xavante (pronounced Shuh-VAHN-chee) people in Brazil for the first time ever have the New Testament in the Xavante language... all those things are nice and I'm happy for the people they affect but pre-Wycliffe I don't think I'd qualify these things as stop-in-your-tracks amazing. Something's different about me that now those things come under the high excitement/involved category, not just the how nice/telling category. My favorite part is how being amazed like that is an every day occurrence. Some days it's something “out there”: an inspirational story from the field for instance. Other days it's something a bit closer to me: like how God so clearly directs the lives of the people I work with. And sometimes it IS me --- the very fact that God uses me to accomplish his purposes. Seriously, how is that possible? And it wasn't that he looked for the right person, couldn't locate anyone so settled on me. The big plan was me in this role for this time.

\*Habakkuk 1:5 CEV

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



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## Stuff you could pray about...

- every two years, Wycliffe IT professionals and our partners serving around the world have the chance to gather in Waxhaw for Computer Technical Conference (CTC). Pray for African colleagues from Tanzania, Kenya, and Togo to be able to attend (able to get visas, travel to the US, etc). The conference and training may be the only chance these colleagues have to update their tech skills. Plus, it's nice to meet people I just know by email in person, particularly when there's a culture difference in addition to distance between us. All 400 or so of us who will be attending the conference would like to work together better, to experience unity that God intends for us, and to be using technology to further the Bible translation movement around the world, in new ways even.
- speaking of “me in this role”... I'm seriously considering a new role that has some management stuff in there. As much as I enjoy my ill-defined role that leaves me more or less free to fill in short term in various places around the world, I feel God gave me some management/organization type skills for an actual reason... like I'm supposed to use them (see hiding talents in the New Testament). And so when asked to consider a new role, I'm considering...
- and speaking of “trips”... three possibilities... In November (after previously mentioned Computer Technical Conference), a trip to Turkey with my home church, with three days of vacation for me at the end. I'm SO excited to see Istanbul and go to Ephesus. I've never been to an actual Bible place... Then in January, a trip to Phoenix to see some of you hopefully. And next summer, to Nairobi, Kenya: a missions trip through my North Carolina church to work with people living in Kibera, huge slum in Nairobi. There's work there with people attempting to leave a life of prostitution, which particularly intrigues me because I'm involved in jail ministry --- a place where prostitution is a big issue.