

HOW^e THINGS ARE ...

July 2008

A series of mostly unrelated things...

When I first joined Wycliffe, I remember how frustrated I was at the lack of connection between my efforts and end results: Things I worked really hard at (much effort) failed (little success). Things I did very little to help succeed, succeeded. The injustice was just gnawing.

Guess why it bothered me? Because letting go of the idea that I bring something to the table is so very hard. If I were honest at the point where I was annoyed with the effort that does not correlate with success situation, I'd have said, "Well, of course I need God... to top off my effort".

Yes, I know that isn't how it works. I'm just stunned by how much I don't get it.

So my boss is being sent to Siberia next week. He really is. It sounds like the punch line to a joke. It's a conference. Apparently, they hold conferences in Siberia where my boss presents papers.

Siberia: The people groups of Siberia are spread out over thousands of kilometers of tundra. They speak a number of languages, though the boundaries are blurry and often resemble dialect chains* rather than distinct languages. Pray that God's Word would be provided for these groups. Pray that a team leader can be found to coordinate the work.

*dialect chain: In many places due to mountains, major rivers or distance, the same language has significant changes in pronunciation or meaning of the same word from one area to the next to the next, until the opposite ends of the "chain" cannot understand each other. If the people regard themselves as all one culture, then it is a dialect chain; but if the one end regards the far end of the chain as being different people, then they are regarded as highly-related languages of the same family.

You could pray for:

- Work --- I am tired. I didn't expect how much my new job involves telling people "no" and then people get mad and it's all character building for me and stuff, but not my most favorite thing, Conflict. I'm getting much better at it. So potentially I could be all callous and uncaring pretty soon.
- My boss and other leaders in Wycliffe. Being sent off to Siberia aside, it's not an easy job. They need much wisdom and prayer to lead well, to make difficult decisions...

He who delights in the possession of the Lord Jesus has all that heart can wish.
As for created things... they fail to supply our needs, much less our wishes.
CH Spurgeon (1834-1892)

Last month I went to Washington DC for work. There's an International Relations office there. They're moving to a new location. They needed someone to assess their office network/phone situation. So I go to DC, a place located inside the continental US. They have some terrific storm. It's pouring rain. The Metro is all messed up. It takes a WAY long time to get from the office to the place I'm staying (hauling luggage, couple buses, pouring rain). Then the next day, the bus in to work. Rush hour. Packed bus. Sweaty people. I'm thinking this Washington DC experience, it feels very much like a third world country. Oh, I forgot - and the power was out almost all night. It occurs to me that I have these adventures that up until now I've attributed to exotic locales where I've traveled. The thing is the common thread isn't third world countries; it's me.

Just observing...

A Bible translation team had lived and worked in a village for several years, but their house was later destroyed by antagonistic villagers. All that remained was the foundation. In May this year, they received news from someone who visited the village that on that foundation written in big letters is the word JESUS. One villager said, "We wrote that because they [the translators] left us the foundation to salvation, the Word of God which tells us about Jesus."

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