

In September...

In September, I learned it is possible to literally make oneself sick. Apparently either by allowing stress to build up, crying quite a bit, or losing sleep, you can work up a pretty good migraine that for all practical purposes evinces an illness. Achy, nauseous, fatigue...

Also in September, I convinced 22 otherwise reluctant IT people to have speaking parts for a prayer and praise service for work. They all did great. Every month a different department is in charge of leading a two- hour prayer and praise service. (in support of the whole prayer as our most valuable resource, we ought to devote time and effort...).

September was ITs turn. I came up with this idea that involved a bunch of people having speaking parts. I really, really liked how it turned out (not surprisingly, I made it up. You'd guess I'd come up with a service I like if I'm the one making it up). And I like that 22 people got public speaking experience.

And I also had a fun time planning a staff meeting preparing people for when my boss (the British one) came to visit. I decided we should do language learning. Also, that we should do arts and crafts (we made Union Jack flags). It was hilarious.

I realize this sounds as though I'm not actually accomplishing a whole lot of work (with the crying and making myself sick, doing arts and crafts, and planning prayer services)... However, work got done in there. Plus October will be super productive to make up for September. In October, I'm going to Dallas and hopefully we will have decided on a new phone system for Waxhaw, negotiated a contract to keep the older phone system in Dallas functional, and maybe get some things between Waxhaw and Dallas integrated. I have this hope that the end game will be more efficient IT services. Occasionally it feels like a long shot (or like it won't happen without bloodshed) but I believe that Bible translation moves forward when we can make IT services happen more efficiently. Pretty sure we can't ditch IT services, but if we could do them cheaper, faster, stronger...

(Back on the not much work happening front, one of my goals for my Dallas visit is to convince them to clean up their office space... At first I thought it didn't matter, but lately I've decided that your office environment matters. I'm not making them sew curtains or anything, so don't worry. Just cleaning up a bit).

Stuff you could pray about...

- Let's not reach a point at which I experience another migraine of my own making. Pray for wisdom to notice pre-migraine and stop pre-being sick.
- When I organized prayer and praise, I asked a number of IT people around the world to participate by sending in a blurb about what they do, what specifically they would be doing at the time of our prayer service, and some prayer requests. Many shared personal requests. I've worked with people (remotely) for years and not known personal struggles. I feel grateful that I know now and sorry that I've not known before. Pray that I'll be sensitive to people around me. While the work is important, it's not more important than the people doing the work.
- Thank God that meetings of various kinds went well. I wanted, especially for prayer meeting, for people to be engaged. Prayer should, you know, be invigorating and exciting, not so much somber and nap-inducing.

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Meanwhile, in not-work, I love, love, love the seminary class I'm auditing (N.T. Survey I); I actually registered for my marathon (Nov 12) because I did a 20 mile training run and while it wiped me out, I did survive; next Wednesday, I will be going to a new Pod at jail for Bible study (apparently, my old Pod is being migrated to being a Spanish speaking one); and I'm planning to go to TN next weekend to visit family. Also, I think I may be overbooked just a tad but I don't want to give up anything.