

Hi! Trust all is well!

# HOWe THINGS ARE...

July 2014

"You're doing what?!?" is the title of my part of a conference for IT Professionals interested in using their IT skills in missions/kingdom work. It is much fun recounting the story of how I got involved in Wycliffe. Also, I love how people came up afterwards to say things like, "your story sounds like mine", "I can so relate to how you felt".

Remembering how God clearly was leading in those years - yep, it took years- to get from the first "if you feel like God is saying, 'that's you', call this phone number" message to actually starting work with Wycliffe reminded me of how hard the first year in Wycliffe was. It was emotionally hard and financially hard and spiritually hard. In hindsight, what a great plan God had to make sure that I knew with certainty that this was God's plan. I don't recall a time I doubted that I was where I was supposed to be.

I'd never had a migraine headache before that first year in Wycliffe (I forgot about "physically hard" in my list of kinds of hard). So my first migraine ever, I had this suggestion: "God, how about taking me away from this and putting me back on the sidelines? I could be like a cheerleader or auxiliary something right? Because I don't feel cut out to be the right-in-the-thick-of-it warrior person."

It's messy and bloody and hard here in the battlefield. I'm seeing people experience really hard things and hurtful things and people's marriages suffer and there are people experiencing mental breakdowns and things. It feels like it would be safer and far less painful on the sidelines. Note: in actual fact, I wasn't on the sidelines pre-Wycliffe. I didn't join the war when I joined Wycliffe. All of us are called to engage in a battle. And while the outcome is secure, in the midst of it, it doesn't feel anything like secure. It just seems messy and bloody and hard. I wonder occasionally, "God, wouldn't it make more sense to

## PRAY

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Migraines are not at all pleasant. I would like to never have another.

A Desktop Services Manager, a Linux Sys Admin, a Network Admin, and a Help Desk Tech. I would like one each please.

Fantastic friends and supporters who pray and give faithfully. I am grateful.



## CONTACT ME

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use more fortified warriors? Like drones. Human ones are so fragile... and also messy ...and also have a tendency to forget who the enemy is and engage in fighting amongst ourselves. Way too many friendly fire incidents with humans. Also drones would be far more efficient in that they're predictably obedient. Humans: not so much."

There's a verse I like tremendously: Psalm 131:1 "...I am not involved in things too great or too difficult for me". It doesn't get me a spot on the sidelines or in the support van away from the action. It just reminds me that this is where I'm supposed to be and also, that the too great and too difficult bit: the ultimate victory and the time when every person on the planet has access to God's Word in their own language... that victory is God's and it is sure.

And, not being replaced with stronger, more obedient drone warrior-bots is a good thing. God's plan is good and does not leave any of us in the box. Collectors say things are more valuable if they're still in their original packaging, unopened. Apparently God disagrees. The plan is to use every bit of the talent and skill God's given each of us in service of the kingdom (hey, there's a little nod to the one who buried the talent he'd been entrusted with in the ground rather than risk it). Thanks for the part you're playing in this worthy battle and for making it possible for me to be here, doing this. Thanks for the risks you're taking on behalf of the kingdom of God. It is a great battle and a great privilege to be where He has us to be: in the thick of it where it might be messy and bloody and hard but even more so, where life is truly experienced and where we come to know more our glorious God.

-Sheryl

## WAYS TO GIVE

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