

I had a phenomenal cross-country trip in February. I drove me and my new-to-me car safely 2,219 miles (according to Google, I didn't actually keep track of how many miles it was) in a leisurely fashion (not quite seven days). I'm a huge fan of southern Arizona and New Mexico, and surprisingly, southwest Texas. I remembered Texas just being really tiresome during my last cross-country trip when I moved to North Carolina. This time, I really liked everything San Antonio and west, and then it was lots of traffic San Antonio and east... east Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and South and North Carolina --- all traffic-infested places. I stopped to visit the Alamo in San Antonio; took a brief detour off I-10 to drive along the gulf in Mississippi; saw my parents in Mobile, siblings in Atlanta, and along the way, listened to a couple books and lots of cool sermons. My road trip ended way before I was ready for it to be over.



My possible India trip didn't materialize. I'm sad but I'll probably recover. As you know because I repeat myself on subjects I like, I really, really like to travel. Particularly to see places I've never been. For those keeping score on the traveling thing: my last work trip outside of the US: 2005 and the last time I stepped foot out of the US for any reason: 2010. I'm just saying I'm pretty sure it's my turn to leave the country ...



Yesterday I listened to a sermon from my guy I listen to when I run, pastor of Elevation Church in Charlotte... I have a theory that maybe he is a great preacher with lots of insight or possibly I think he's fantastic because I'm typically listening to him while I'm on my adrenaline-induced running high... Yesterday, he was retelling a story about Mother Teresa that he read in a Brennan Manning book. A man had gone to work in India hoping that he would also receive some clarity from God about the next steps in his life, about what God would have him to do with his life. He had opportunity to speak with Mother Teresa. She indicated that she would pray for him. So he asked if she would please pray and ask God for clarity for him. Mother Teresa refused to pray for clarity for him. The guy indicated that Mother Teresa seemed to have so much clarity in her life. She said she'd never had clarity. What she had was trust.

So that sort of messes up my standing prayer request for wisdom (clarity). Pray as you feel led... The situation that has me wanting clarity and wisdom is: It's so easy to be busy. But I don't just want to be busy. I want my work and my team's work to further Bible translation, right? So out there are choices to make and the implementation of those things. You could pray for me to trust that God's running this show. He cares way more that Bible translation happens and He cares way, way more about the people who have no Bible in their language. He probably has this covered. I could probably safely trust that GOD is on top of the situation.



Contact me:

Sheryl Howe sahowe@wbt.org
6114A Webster Way, Waxhaw, NC 28173
704-765-2002

Home Office/Financial Contributions:

(Check payable to *Wycliffe Bible Translators*,
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Wycliffe Bible Translators

PO Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862
1-800-WYCLIFFE (800-992-5433)
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A former volunteer will be going to heaven soon. I was apprehensive about going to visit him and his wife in assisted living. I expected to find a visit depressing. As it turns out, it was the opposite of depressing. Bruce and Judy don't live (or face death) as those without hope. I came away with maybe a twinge of jealousy over the anticipation and excitement Bruce lives with as he nears the end of this life.