



May 6, 2014

Dear friends, family, and supporters of Sheryl Howe,

This is Debi Clifton, the Director of Global Outreach at Grace Community Church in Tempe, Arizona. I was recently blessed to be able to visit Sheryl in Waxhaw, NC, and I wanted to give you some impressions of my time there, to encourage you in your support of Sheryl and her ministry.

First of all, I'd love to convey to you the beauty of the area where Sheryl lives and works and how worthy of a visit from you it would be. Coming from the Arizona desert, I was just amazed by the green color that highlighted all the environs. Luscious, deep green, accented by flowering trees and shrubs of all kinds. Truly a delight for the eyes! Little Waxhaw is actually the birthplace of Andrew Jackson, and it's a lovely little town.

The JAARS (which stands for Jungle Aviation and Radio Services) and Wycliffe Center is like a small village, with lots of housing units, plus several office buildings for the large work of Wycliffe around the world. We took a two hour tour of the campus, led by two experienced Wycliffe workers who obviously have a deep love for the Bible-less peoples of the world. Sheryl walked around with us, filling in some of the details for us as we asked questions. The airport runways, workshops, IT center, cafeteria, and museums just speak volumes about the multi-faceted aspects of Wycliffe's work.

We spent several hours in the two museums—one on the alphabet, which was fascinating, and in which I could have spent 3 times the amount of time. I seriously wanted to read every word of every sign! Obviously, translating the Bible requires reducing the language to written form, and Wycliffe linguists have been developing new alphabets for languages for over 70 years! Truly fascinating to learn about all the ancient alphabets that have influenced our own language! The Mexico museum highlights the close relationship the WBT founder, Cameron Townsend, had with President Cardenas of Mexico in the 1930s. Cameron and his wife are buried in between the 2 museums.

Many retired missionaries live on campus, and we were blessed to visit with some dear ladies over lunch in the nice cafeteria. I was there to focus on Sheryl, but I also wished I could spend several hours with each lady, as I felt sure they would each have some moving stories about their years of service.

This campus needs all kinds of maintenance, construction, gardening, IT volunteer help, etc. They have housing for volunteers, and they have a person who is dedicated to scheduling and orienting volunteers. I strongly recommend that you consider giving up a few weeks or months of your life to go and be a helping part of this community!

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Sheryl toured us through the IT building herself, which includes several cases of old computers and items that were actually invented by WBT'ers in the past. She was rejoicing in her recent move from a rather dingy office in a corner of the basement level to a bright and cheery office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, which even has a window! We met several of the male workers that she supervises, although the number is much reduced from the all-time high of 57 men that she once supervised, due to a re-organization that I think she organized.

Sheryl gives the impression of being meek and mild-mannered, and generally, I think she truly is, but she is more than capable of holding her own with her male counterparts, and I believe it's a testimony to her capability that she's been managing so many of them for so long. She shared with us some of the heartache and stress that had recently come from having to force the thousands of Wycliffe e-mail users to change their passwords, due to the possible ramifications of the heartbleed virus. This requirement was not universally appreciated. Neither were some changes that she recently instituted on the help desk, but both of the moves seemed to be imminently necessary and well-thought-out to me.

We spent the night in her apartment, met her roommate, and enjoyed a delicious supper and breakfast with her. It always helps me to pray for our workers when I've actually been able to visit them in their home environment, and I think it would help your prayer focus, too. Sheryl's work is critical to the work of Wycliffe, and she could use prayer for all the same areas of life that you pray for yourself.

But there is one arena which is different for Sheryl: she is a runner, and she runs in all kinds of weather. I also noticed that there are no shoulders on the roads where she runs. Would you pray for her safety as she runs, since this is a source of satisfaction, health, and well-being for her? Besides the traffic dangers, there are lots of deer, and she has encountered them as she runs, too.

All in all, it was a wonderful, albeit way too short, visit. I encourage you to consider a visit sometime, but in the meantime, keep Sheryl in your prayers. She is truly a worthy servant of our Lord.

Should you have any questions about what I've written, you may feel free to write to me at [debiclifton@cox.net](mailto:debiclifton@cox.net)

All God's best to you,

Debi

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**HOWe THINGS ARE...** May 2014

Hi! I hope you (a) enjoyed hearing from Debi, (b) are now planning for your trip to North Carolina and (c) are enjoying your day today!

Also, wanting to point out:

(1) My old office was not that bad. Also, most of my team still work where I used to be,  
(2) I did not supervise 57 people at one time. It was a lot though (too many) so I reorganized my group so I have less people reporting directly to me. As soon as God brings along one more manager to fill an empty slot, I will have five direct reports. I'm very excited. Thanks for praying for the manager person.

(3) I do live in the country. Yes, roads have no shoulders (although NC is not as bad as say, the UK) and roads also don't have much traffic. When driving, I'm miffed when there's another car on MY road.  
(4) Did you notice that she included "there's a lot of deer" as safety concern? My campaign to convert people to my perspective on deer as dangerous and potentially evil is working.

Sheryl Howe

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