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# The WAM Report

Serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in computer training and member care

September 2005

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**My journey out of the tunnel...** that's how I, Wendy, describe this past year and a half. I didn't realize I was in a tunnel until I found myself crawling out of it.

After returning from Africa, I was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder. I thought that being back in the U.S. would help me recuperate, but I wasn't getting better.

In October of 2003, I had a sore throat and a painful swollen gland in my neck for eight weeks. Barely making it through the day, I was exhausted, lying on the couch and saying no to the kids' requests for outings and fun. It was breaking my heart. I kept getting worse instead of better. Finally, I cried out to God in frustration, begging for help and healing!

The previous spring, we had been in Colorado where some friends told us about an allergy elimination treatment. It had brought amazing healing to their health problems. I remembered this conversation and wondered if this treatment could help me. After reading more about it, I had hope that it might relieve my fatigue.

I consulted a doctor in our area and began treatments. My sore throat soon disappeared, and not long after, my energy began to slowly increase. Handling stressful situations is still difficult, but I am so very thankful that the Lord brought significant healing through this treatment. I'm feeling more like myself!

Looking back I realized that for many years I had been walking through a dark tunnel, with energy enough for only what was directly in front of me—most of the time my kids and their needs.

**Praise God with us for the light I can see shining at the end of the tunnel!**



We want to thank those of you who have continued to hang in there with us during these hard years. In order to better communicate with you, would you please fill out the card included in this newsletter and let us know your preferences.

## An invitation to become more involved in Bible translation



We feel privileged to support Bible translation work and are looking for more people to come alongside us and share in that privilege. As many of you know, Wycliffe missionaries do not receive a salary but instead look to God to supply their needs through His people. Wycliffe determines how much support each missionary needs each month. If a family is having trouble meeting that quota, Wycliffe helps supplement the monthly support for a limited time of one year. For the past five months, our support has averaged \$500 per month below its required level. We are hoping to soon see a light at the end of this tunnel.

If you would like to help us, here are three suggestions:

- Pray for us to know what the Lord wants us to do to build the financial team we need. Pray for people and churches to respond as the Lord leads them.
- Refer us to a new church near you. If you can give us their name and phone number, we will contact them and offer to visit them and talk about Bible translation.
- Become part of our financial team. You can write to us for more details or donate online at our Wycliffe website [www.wamplus.org](http://www.wamplus.org). (Click on the **Donate Online** link). You will be directed to a secure site and will receive a receipt from Wycliffe in the mail. No gift amount is insignificant. As part of the Bible Translation team, you will be making an eternal difference in the lives of many.

P.S. If our support is not at 100% by March 2006, we will be released from our current job assignments here at JAARS and be required to devote all our time to support-raising.

## The singing wells of Borana

Using simple tools, Borana men living in the Marsabit District of Kenya, East Africa, hew wells by hand 20 or 30 feet deep—sometimes, even deeper—in rocky, dry river beds.

Once the well is hewn, a team of men stand on wooden ladders inside the well. From man to man they pass up a leather *okhole* filled with water. And at that most gratifying moment—as the precious life-giving liquid is passed upward—the men sing. Their singing builds up a dynamic rhythm that lightens the hard work. They sing in praise of cattle; in praise of the owner of the well; in praise of their neighbors who own the largest herds of cattle. They sing to celebrate the life-giving water in an arid desert region. At the top of the well, men take the *okhole* and pour the water into a wooden trough from which hundreds of cattle quench their thirst.



What a beautiful picture of what Bible translation is like. *No one person can do the job alone. It takes a team.* Every Christian can have the privilege of getting the life-giving water to the thirsty. Many hands are needed to bring the Water of Life to the surface, making it available to the Bibleless peoples of the world. Thank you for “passing up the *okhole*” as we serve together in the task of Bible translation.

-adapted from an unpublished book manuscript by Aretta Loving.

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Your Partners in  
Bible Translation,  
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For financial contributions, please send checks to Wycliffe Bible Translators at the address below. Include a separate note indicating “for the ministry of Mike & Wendy Buchanan.” Thank you!

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