



The WAM Report

From **Wendy And Mike** Buchanan

Serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in computing and accounting
at Wycliffe's JAARS Center, Waxhaw, North Carolina

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Much to be thankful for!

As we are in the Christmas season and reflect on the life giving gift of Jesus, we want to list some of the other things we're thankful for:

- ◆ **You, our partners** ...your prayers and support and encouragement are vital for our continued service with Wycliffe.
- ◆ **Skyping and video conferencing** with colleagues around the world, as I did today with an African colleague in Chad, who are all motivated by the same goal- bringing God's Word to the nations. And not only to work with them but the privilege and opportunity to pray with them.
- ◆ **Amazing progress in Bible Translation**—There is active translation and/or linguistic development happening in 2584 languages across more than 170 countries. In 2017 there are six translation projects in Central African Republic (CAR) and one translation in Congo which are nearing completion! Read about one of the projects in CAR on the back.
- ◆ **Family**—We all had a great Thanksgiving time in Cumberland Maryland with Mike's three sisters, parents, niece and David, Ashley and Elizabeth. Reminiscing around the table, enjoying a hike and playing frisbee golf.
- ◆ **Wendy's new adventure** on Sundays as a small group leader for eleven eighth grade girls at our church.
- ◆ **Mike** has trained someone to take his place as Awana commander after nine years in that position. He now enjoys leading a third-fourth grade-boys T&T class instead.



Hiking at the Paw Paw Tunnel



Buchanan clan in Snoopy pajamas!

Progress in Gbeya translation



A colleague who is a translation consultant recently spent several weeks in Bangui, Central African Republic working with the Gbeya translation team (as pictured above) He reported, “we were able to complete the work we needed to do on John's gospel and checked 1 Peter. I hadn't worked on 1 Peter before, and soon discovered that it's not the easiest book to translate! But we did what we needed to do, and the Gbeya team are now one step closer to finishing their New Testament. They have a few short books left to check, and are hoping to do them all by the end of the year. “

One of the challenges of translating 1 Peter comes from the condensed phrases he uses, which need to be unpacked if they are to make good sense in Gbeya (or even in English sometimes). One example is found in 1.3, where Peter says that "According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,..." (ESV). That is a fairly literal translation.

But in Gbeya you can't speak of a hope being 'living'. There's not even one single word for 'hope': you have to use a phrase which roughly translates as 'we put our heart to wait for' something. So what about the 'living' part? What does 'a living hope' actually mean? Peter is presumably using the language of 'living' to go with the 'new birth' and Jesus' resurrection, and he may mean that our hope is certain or sure. Or it could mean that the goal of our hope is (eternal) life. If you can't keep the ambiguity, you need to opt for one interpretation or the other. Which would you choose?

Wendy and Mike Buchanan



We praise God:

- For meeting our needs through an unexpected large donation of financial support from someone we've never met.

Please pray:

- Wisdom for Wendy as she seeks to challenge and teach the girls at youth group.
- Guidance and wisdom for Michael and his team as they strive to provide computer services for various Bible translation organizations.

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Mike + Wendy*

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