

## Praise

\*Shared the gospel with two friends at university!! Both are full of questions and are seeking to know the Truth! See details below.

## Prayer Requests

\*Motivation and discipline for self study of French until we leave on the 1st of June. Opportunities to practice speaking.

\*Salvation of classmates. Enver, a doctor from Albania and Suzanne, a biology teacher from Germany. Continue praying for Gerard and Ingrid. Ingrid told Wendy that she thinks about God more since they've met.

\*Recent cost of living increase for Congo has increased our financial quota by 19%. Pray that the Lord would touch more hearts to join our financial team.

\*Complete healing of Wendy's back and feet and that God's will be accomplished through this situation.

\*Obedience in the heart of whoever God is calling to fill the position of mechanic at the Congo branch.

### NEW ADDRESS!!!:

Michael & Wendy Buchanan

From JUNE 1 to AUGUST 1

SIL/SAVA

B.P. 78

Banfora, BURKINA FASO

INTERNET: Michael.Buchanan@iccs.sil.org

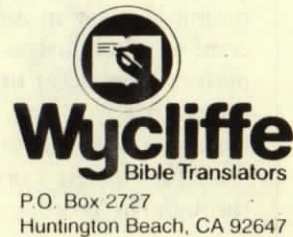
After AUGUST 1

SIL

B.P. 1067

Brazzaville-RP

Congo



## Our first attempt at translation!

This past week we translated the introduction of a resource book from English into French. It is going to be used at an international missions conference in Seoul, South Korea in May. Our text was only 6 pages long. We now understand why it can take 20 years to translate the New Testament! First, we translated the text as best as we could (6 hours work). Then a professor at school helped reword phrases into more natural flowing French (3 hours). The next night a Swiss friend, who speaks English very well, helped refine it even more (another 3 hours). Our hope is that when a native French speaker reads it they will think that the original text was written in French, evidence of a good translation! Below is a brief extrait for those who would like to relive their high-school French!

God is causing His Church world-wide to be more deeply involved in prayer and intercession. We need to provide information to Christians and Christian organizations seeking to be involved in prayer for the peoples of the world.

Dieu est en train d'exhorter son église dans le monde entier, à être plus profondément engagée dans des prières et des supplications pour le monde. Nous devons donner l'information nécessaire aux chrétiens et aux organisations chrétiennes qui ont le désir de prier pour les peuples du monde.

*Your Partners in  
Bible Translation,  
Michael & Wendy*

# THE <sup>Wendy</sup>W.A.M<sup>nd Mike</sup> REPORT

Vol. 3 No. 2 Spring 1995

## Final Edition

(from Neuchâtel, Switzerland)

After 16 months of language study, it is time to pack up our things and head south. This issue of the W.A.M report will, among other things, explain our upcoming plans.

We have said it before but we don't grow tired of repeating it, we praise God for His strength that carried us through our stay here, for His provision of all our needs financially through faithful partners, for His providing us with friends who helped us learn and practice French and for His enabling of our minds to learn it. Although we still make some mistakes in speaking, we can understand almost everything we hear and be understood when we speak. We often catch ourselves thinking in French, even dreaming in French and occasionally throw in French words when speaking English. Sometimes we hear something and we have to stop and ask ourselves, "was that English or French?" Thank you for praying for our French learning. We feel comfortable with our level and are ready to put it into use in Congo for the Glory of God!

## URGENT/IMPORTANT!!

Are you an a maintenance/car repair handyman type? Want a change of pace? The Wycliffe center in Congo has a great need for a maintenance/car mechanic. If you fit into this category, would you pray and seek the Lord's leading. Short term (2 yr.) committment would be possible and learning French not required. Your help would free up translators in Congo who are handling these tasks at this moment! For more info, you can write to Steve Anderson, director of the Congo Branch: **SIL**

**BP 1067  
Brazzaville-RP  
Congo**



# What's Next Travel, Travel!

Our 1st year in Africa is going to be one of moving around quite a bit. To give you a better idea, here is a short synopsis of our plans which may or may not unroll in the fashion we expect. As a famous missionary once said: "Man proposes and God disposes." Happily, His plans are always better than ours and we can rest in His loving care.

May 30, 1995 Leave Paris @ 5:45 PM and arrive in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso at 9:15 PM. We are seven hours ahead of Central Standard Time in the States.

June 4-August 19: West African Life Course (WALC) This course, taught by other Wycliffe missionaries, is held in Burkina Faso and will help us get accustomed to African living. Everything from tropical first-aid, and buying in an open air market, to killing and cooking a chicken or goat. The goal of the course is to help its participants fall in love with Africa and reduce some of the culture shock that goes along with such a big change in cultures.

August 19: Fly to Brazzaville, Congo, arriving at 1:30 in the morning. We will be attending the annual spiritual retreat of the Wycliffe branch. This will give us a chance to meet all the members working in Congo including Michael's big sister Debbie!

Mid-September: Fly to Bangui, Central African Republic. Survey Internship. We will be learning how to conduct surveys under the guidance of an experienced surveyor, Jurg Stalder. We will be there for 6 months.

May '96: Back to Brazzaville, Congo for the Wycliffe branch conference. This will be an important meeting where we will be making decisions such as priority of areas to survey. We will be finding an apartment somewhere in the capital city where we will finally be able to put down some roots for awhile.

# Culture

## Corner

Customs from country to country are always variable and such is the case we have found coming from America to Switzerland. For example:

English is considered a very romantic sounding language. The Swiss can not believe we think the same thing of French.

Bread does not come wrapped in plastic. They say it needs to be able to breathe. "Nude and happy", wrapped lightly in paper!

Dogs have a much more visible role in daily life. People take them everywhere, on buses where they must have a child's ticket unless they sit on the owners lap and in restaurants (under the table). The dogs are very well behaved and almost never cause a problem.

## THE WORD APPLYING TO MY LIFE

By Wendy

I've been studying Hebrews lately with a study guide written by Chuck Swindoll. In Hebrews 2:11-18 it talks about the pain and suffering of Christ. Swindoll then points out what pain and suffering can do in our lives.

First: Our suffering can give us the glory of a compassionate heart. Second: It can crush us into the glory of a submissive spirit. Third: Our suffering can mark us with the glory of a Christlike life. Whether these things are accomplished depends on our response to our suffering. Swindoll asks if suffering has produced (in me) greater submission toward God?

My answer: Yes, my bad feet and back presented the possibility of not making it to Africa - my dream crashing - I feel that the Lord wanted me to have a submissive heart towards whatever path He might choose for me. My back and feet seem to be healing up. Thanks for your prayers.

Another thing that really stuck with me through studying Hebrews was that I always pray for healing when someone is ill (which is Biblical) but I hardly ever pray that God would accomplish His will through the illness or hard times in the life of that person and in those whom his life touches. I felt God telling me that He is much more concerned about having His way in my life than my physical comfort. For just as our salvation was made perfect (complete) through Christ's suffering (Heb.2:10) so are we made perfect (mature) through our suffering. I'm so thankful that the Lord continues to teach me through His Word.

## First steps in Africa!

As we step off the plane into our new life in Africa we covet your prayers! The following are some specifics you can bring before His throne on our behalf during our three month Africa orientation course.

We have somewhat of an idea what to expect as we've seen other missionaries finish up their studies here and move on to Africa. Satan seems to always like to throw a wall of fear in front of those leaving for the first time. We know very little about what to expect in Africa and sometimes our imaginations can run wild.

\*Pray that we might keep our hearts and minds focused on the Truth and that we would choose to rest in His promises.

The African culture is going to be so different from anything we've ever experienced before.

\*Pray that we might have the eyes of the Lord to see our situation the way He does. That God might put in our hearts the same love He has for Africa and its people.

\*Pray that we might have JOY in learning to live in our new culture.

\*Pray for unity among the 30 missionaries participating together during this 3 month orientation time.

The month of July Michael and I will be living by ourselves in an African village.

\*Pray for protection physically and spiritually and that we might be witnesses for Christ.

THANKS FOR CARRYING US THROUGH  
ON THE WINGS OF YOUR PRAYERS!