

## Praise

\*For our progress in speaking and understanding French.

\*For the continuing improvement of Wendy's back.

\*For the international students we have met at the university, and Swiss friends from church.

\*For faithful financial partners and prayer warriors back home!

## Prayer Requests

\* That God might use us to bring others to know Him, including fellow classmates and a Swiss couple, Gerard and Ingrid.

\*God's wisdom and peace in preparing for the move to Congo in June.

\*Complete healing of Wendy's back and feet. Wisdom in caring for them.

\*Understanding for French and an increased vocabulary!!

\*Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out more workers!! Millions still wait to hear His Word in their language.

FOR CORRESPONDENCE:

Michael & Wendy BUCHANAN

Bourgogne 80

2006 Neuchâtel

Switzerland


INTERNET:100303.3410@compuserve.com

## Bonus Section of your newsletter!!

We are the proud recipients of certificates from the l'Alliance Francaise, the academy for the French language. We took exams given in Zurich on the 22 of October in the areas of oral expression, grammar and written composition. And a month later we received our results that we had passed!! This certificate is not presently required for our work in Congo, but you never know when the proof of our level of competency might come in handy. We were encouraged by our professors to give it a try and we are glad we did. Passing has been a nice encouraging BONUS for us!!

At this time last year I, Wendy, set out to read through the entire Bible in a year and I am happy to say that I did it!! Some of it I read in English and some in French. I also lost 20lbs. this past year in Switzerland (and I hope I don't find them later)!! And I've learned to speak French!! Its been a good year thanks to the grace of God, the renewing of my mind and my loving husband! I look forward to next year bringing more changes in my life and yours too!! Please accept this newsletter as our **Christmas Greetings** to you and may this New Year be one of spiritual growth and reaching goals!!

*Your Partners in Bible  
Translation,  
Michael & Wendy*

  
**Wycliffe**  
Bible Translators  
P.O. Box 2727  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

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

Vol. 3 No. 1 Winter 1995

## College Days Again!

Yes the title is true. On the 17th of October, Wendy and I began attending the University of Neuchâtel. We are enrolled in "le séminaire de français moderne" which is a French language program for non-French speakers. There are about 120 students enrolled and while many are Swiss citizens whose mother tongue is Swiss-German, there are also students from Germany, Albany, Iran, Sri-Lanka, Columbia, China, Japan, England and many others. We have classes 20 hours a week with classes each day in various subjects such as grammar, orthography (spelling), phonetics, literature of the 18th century, 2 writing classes and an oral expression class.

Our professors are very good. The classes are basically a refinement of things we have already studied and we focus much more on little details. We have found in French that the exceptions are often longer than the rules!

Having classes an hour earlier than we are use to means that we have joined the rush hour crowd. At this 7:45 we catch the bus with all of the college and high school kids who use the bus system also. And because all the students here return home at lunch time, the buses are always crowded when we take them now. That means standing up and holding on for the ride around these winding mountain roads that were built hundreds of years ago with horse and carriage in mind.

open me...and discover more

about what's been going on

in the world of W.A.M!!



## Survey-whats ahead

We recently had the great opportunity to meet the man who will be showing-us-the-ropes of survey. He has already been doing survey work for 3 years in several different countries of Africa. We will receive our introduction to survey work in the country of the Central African Republic, which is located just north of Congo. We will be stationed in the capital city of Bangui for six months during our training with him. He answered a lot of our questions like:

Will we need the tent we packed for Africa?

ANSWER: No. Setting up a tent in a village when you are guests there is not culturally appropriate. The Africans expect that we stay in one of their homes or guest houses.

Who will be on the survey team with us?

ANSWER: You two, an African colleague who is trained in linguistics and has already done survey work, and myself.

Will we need to learn the trade language used in the Central African Republic?

ANSWER: No. It wouldn't be worth it if you will only be in the country for six months. You can do the survey interviews through interpreters who speak both French and Sango, the trade language.

Do you have a survey report with you now that we could read and study the French vocabulary that we will need to use in writing up our reports?

ANSWER: Yes. I have one with me that you can photocopy. It has two parts; the first part deals with the linguistic situation and the second part deals with Bible translation needs.

## Toujours Joyeux

by Mike

In November I told my first Bible story at the childrens club **Toujours Joyeux** (translated means **always joyous**). It went pretty well for the first attempt. I am looking forward to doing it again soon and on a more regular basis!

The phrase "toujours joyeux" has a special place in my heart. It reminds me of Philippians 4:4-7 which tells me to rejoice in the Lord always, take my requests to God in prayer and the peace of God will guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus. I have certainly had plenty of opportunities to worry and be anxious about the exams in French, trying to speak French correctly, and all the preparations for Congo etc. I am so grateful to have a Heavenly Father who I can take all those concerns to and **leave with Him**. Because of His love and care for me, I truly can be **Toujours Joyeux!**

## 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:

☆ Instead of hugging your close friends when you say hello, people touch cheeks 3 times, alternating cheeks.

☆ When you are eating at the table it is considered rude not to have both hands above the table at all times. That is not difficult to remember if you eat the Swiss way with the fork always in one hand and the knife the other.

☆ Lunch is an important meal of the day. Usually the children and parents come home to have the meal together. After lunch on Saturdays and Sundays, a hike in the woods is common.

## Health

What a wonderful thing to have good health!! Thanks for your prayers!! Apart from very minor colds (the mildest I have ever had), our health has been excellent. Wendy's back problems have improved greatly. Through your prayers she is understanding more of what her body needs, namely relaxation and stretching exercises daily! And with the new forms for her shoes we are praying that her feet will be healed up in time for Africa in June!!!

## Homesickness

by Wendy

Within a period of one week several people asked me if I ever get home sick; a fellow student from Germany (who goes home once a month), a friend in the U.S. and my Dad. Perhaps there are others of you wondering too, so I thought that I'd answer that question here.

Yes, I get homesick from time to time. I know I'm homesick when I think I see friends or family on the bus or down the street. Most of the time I try to talk myself out of missing your faces and the familiar culture I've left behind. I sing a little song that has these words, "This world is not my home I'm just passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue . . . if heaven is not my home then Lord what would I do?" Other times I just let myself have a good cry. I know it's normal to feel this way from time to time. Most of the time I'm glad to be where I am because I know it is God's plan for my life and He gives me joy in life's journey! But I must say that phone calls from home and long newsy letters are the best medicine!