

THE

W.A.M. REPORT

Vol. 6 No. 1 Winter 1998

Good News and Bad News!

Good news: The civil war in Congo is over for now and we pray it will last.

Bad news: All our stuff was stolen, from clothes and dishes to the refrigerator and stove, even the bathroom sink and toilet! We had suspected this might happen, but now we have eye witness confirmation of it.

We had left Congo for our furlough on June 3rd, just two days before the war broke out. We had planned to return in October after only four months in the US so we packed lightly. We left all household and personal items behind. Most of it can be replaced, except the sentimental things like David's baby book, quilts his grandma, greatgrandma and aunt made for him, and other keepsakes.

This is one hard example of the Lord's teaching us to not store up for ourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust can destroy them, but rather store up treasures in heaven. (Matthew 6:19-21.)

Yes, we are hoping to return. Even though there's been a war with thousands killed and it may take the country years to rebuild to what it was before, there is still a need for Bible translation and so we make plans to return as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

It can be a bit disheartening to think about accumulating, organizing and packing all we need once again. After doing it four years ago I had breathed a sigh of relief that I only had to do it once, or so I thought.

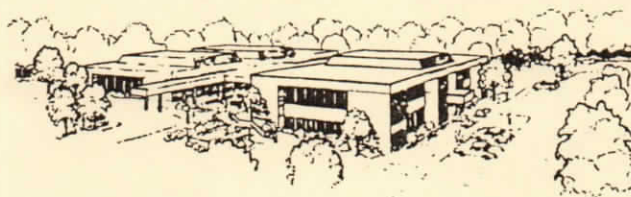
Wycliffe has set up a special project on our behalf to cover the cost of restarting in Congo. If you would like to give to this project, the Wycliffe address is on the back page. Please enclose a separate note with your gift indicating it is for the **Mike & Wendy Buchanan Restartup project #71302119**. You will be issued a tax deductible receipt. These funds will accumulate until we arrive back in Congo. At that time the funds will be released to us. Any gifts given to Wycliffe for this project after we arrive in Congo will then automatically be put into our regular support account.

Just WHAT are you doing at JAARS in Waxhaw, NC??

JAARS is where pilots are trained to fly in the remote areas where translators work. It has also become one of Wycliffe's training centers for computer personnel. As part of our group service while home on furlough I, Michael, am working in the computer department. I've written some tutorials so translators will be able to teach themselves to use the linguistic computer programs that have been created to aid them in their translation work.



Wendy is working in the printshop that printed this newsletter and many others like it for other missionaries here. She is there just two mornings a week while David ENJOYS the day care for missionary kids here.



Administration Building at the JAARS center

A bit of sad news

Shortly after sending out our last newsletter announcing Wendy's pregnancy she miscarried the baby. It has been a shock to us and we grieve the loss of never knowing this little one. Thank you for your prayers. We claim this promise. "The Lord is near to those whose hearts are humble. He saves those whose spirits are crushed. The righteous person has many troubles, but the Lord rescues him from all of them." Psalms 34:18,19 and as God said to the Israelites in Is. 30:15 "In quietness and trust is your strength." May that be true of us.

Often Asked Questions

Praise God with us

- ☺ that the war is over.
- ☺ that the Wycliffe center in Brazzaville although looted was not badly damaged by the rockets and gunfire. Almost none of the office files were stolen!

Please Pray with us

- ⇒ for wisdom in deciding when to go back to Congo or possibly a neighboring country
- ⇒ that God might grant us another child
- ⇒ for personal growth spiritually and a renewed vision for the work

Our address

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Q How long do you plan to be in the States? Are you planning on going back to Congo?

A Our original plans (as you may remember) were to go back Oct '97. We are now planning on being here until June '98. After that, our plans are still very much undetermined. We are currently discussing the options with our leaders in Wycliffe.

Q Are you receiving a salary from Wycliffe while you are here in the States?

A No, we continue to live as we have for the past four years, relying on God to provide for our needs through faithful supporting churches and individuals. All Wycliffe missionaries whether overseas or in the States live this way.

Q If the war is over, why are your plans so sketchy as to going back to Congo?

A Although the war is over, there are still many militia roaming the streets. Our director recently made a trip back into Brazzaville and talked with many Congolese pastors and leaders as well as the US Ambassador to Congo who was there visiting also. All the counsel he received indicated that the time to move back into Brazzaville had not yet come, but possibly we could go to another city in Congo instead.

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