

The WAM Report

Vol. 7 No. 3 Fall 1999

Changes

Greetings from Waxhaw, North Carolina. Some big changes have been going on in our lives the past few months. In June, Michael and I made the tough decision to return to the United States. We arrived back in Waxhaw at the end of July. You may find that surprising, especially if you think back to our last newsletter which made it sound like everything was going well. The truth of the situation struck us as we were finally settled in and began the day-to-day living. The main reason for our return was because of my, Wendy's, physical and emotional exhaustion. The best way I can explain it is to say that years of stress finally took their toll. It's been hard to admit the need to slow down, recognize my limitations, and take time to re-fuel. When exactly the re-fueling might begin is uncertain, with a new baby due November 7th. But just being back in the United States has eliminated much of the stress I was facing in Africa. **We covet your prayers for the health of this baby, the birth, and my recuperation afterwards.**

Although we don't understand all the whys and at times have felt like we have failed in our mission, we know and are thankful that this change doesn't take God by surprise. He has encouraged us greatly through His Word and through the words of friends and family. He provided us with a nice house to live in within walking distance of the JAARS Center, a reliable car, and a new opportunity to help advance Bible translation.

We have been re-assigned to the JAARS Center in North Carolina. When we made the decision to leave Gabon, Michael wrote to his former boss asking if they still needed help in the computer department where he had worked during our furlough. His boss answered with a loud yes, that they definitely needed help in creating self-paced computer training programs for teaching translators to use various translation and linguistic software programs. If you are interested in seeing an example of the programs Michael is working on, you can see them at **WWW.JAARS.ORG/CCS/TRAINING/CBT**.

In addition to working in the computer training department, Michael is also continuing to do the accounting for the Congo/Gabon branch. He has really enjoyed this and is glad that he can continue helping the team working in Gabon.

We are so thankful for being able to continue helping with Bible translation from here in America. And we are so thankful for you our team members that make it possible for us to continue in this way. Isn't God's economy of sharing the work load neat? For we are all part of the body of Christ, each with his own function, so that the body of Christ can work as God designed it to. The Bible says it best in 1 Corinthians 12:20-22, "...there are many parts yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable."

What is JAARS?

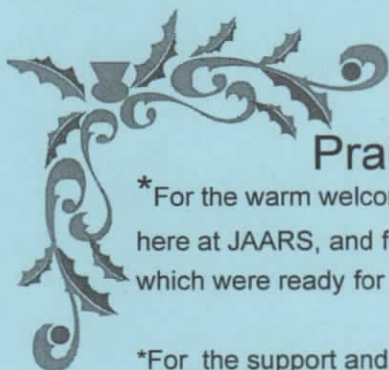
JAARS provides technical support services for Wycliffe in the areas of aviation, telecommunications, computers, and other services such as purchasing and shipping, trucking, construction and maintenance, and vernacular media. It is an exciting place to work, supporting those on the front lines of translation. Our door is always open if you would like to come down for a visit and see for yourself the role JAARS has in Bible translation. You can also visit JAARS at their website: **WWW.JAARS.ORG**.



News from Gabon



In our last newsletter, we described many of the personal things God was doing in our lives. He is also doing some exciting things in Gabon. The church in Gabon is very excited about doing translations in several Gabonese languages. In fact they have even set apart a young man, who was trained to be a pastor, to be a full time translator instead. One of our teams is planning on moving to the south of Gabon to work with this man in a translation project. It is exciting that the Gabonese church leaders see the value of having the Bible in the languages that truly speak to the people, and are committed enough to set aside one of their own and pay him to help in the task. We pray that more projects of this type will be started! A piece of our hearts will always be with the work in Congo and Gabon. We will continue to keep you updated on the work there.



Praises

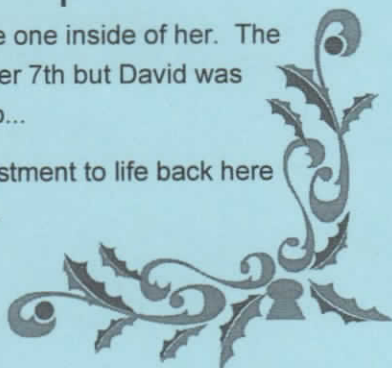
*For the warm welcome we have received here at JAARS, and for the house and car which were ready for us on our arrival.

*For the support and encouragement we have received from family and friends.

Prayer Requests

*Wendy and the wee one inside of her. The due date is November 7th but David was three weeks early so...

*Our continued adjustment to life back here in the United States.



One week before we had to leave Gabon, the computers were released from the customs office at the airport. Michael had time to set up the computer lab at the university. This was very timely since he was the only one who knew how to do this. One big need remains - a phone line for the offices at the university. Please pray that the Lord would work in the hearts of those in authority who can get the phone line put in. This is especially needed, since none of the missionaries are able to get phones in their homes. As you can imagine, this inconvenience makes day-to-day business contacts very time consuming. Face-to-face meetings must be arranged instead of just picking up the phone, not to mention daily business decisions that rely upon access to email.

*Your Partners in Bible
Translation,
Mike, Wendy & David*

Our NEW address

Mike & Wendy Buchanan

6110 Webster Way
Waxhaw NC 28173
(704)843-3331

wendy_buchanan@sil.org


PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200

For financial gifts, please send checks to the Wycliffe address above, indicating for Mike and Wendy Buchanan. Thank you!