



The WAM Report

From **Wendy And Mike Buchanan**
Serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in computing and accounting
at the JAARS Center, Waxhaw, North Carolina

April 2025

Finance training in Nairobi

In March, I, Michael travelled to Nairobi, Kenya for a week of finance training. SIL, Wycliffe's partner organization recently began using a new computer financial system. Though we have been using it now for five months, there is still much we can learn to use it more effectively. Thirty-six participants from ten different countries in Africa, representing over 100 Bible Translation projects, were present. Our time face to face was a blessing to all as we shared the struggles and successes we have encountered with the new computer system. The meal times and tea breaks were a wonderful time to get to know one another



personally and make vital connections which will carry on as we continue to work with one another from a distance this coming year. It is always easier to work with someone via email and Zoom once you have spent time with them in person! We had both English and French speakers and a highlight for me was getting to use my French and do some translating. During the morning devotion times, we worshiped together not only in French and English but also in a rich variety of African languages represented by the participants. Hearing the Lord praised in so many languages was a beautiful glimpse of what heaven will be like when people from every tribe, tongue and nation will worship before the throne of God! The French-speaking accountants are going to do another training in Senegal in

early June, and they have invited me to come help!

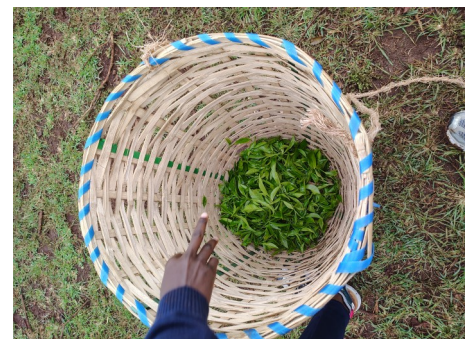
On the day I arrived, before the training started, a friend and I visited a giraffe sanctuary. I was instructed to place the food on their tongue and be aware that if I got too close without food, they may head-butt me! The entire group also took one morning off to visit a tea plantation and learn all about how to harvest tea. We learned which part of the tea plant gets picked (the tender leaves) and we were split up into teams to see which team could harvest the most tea in 15 minutes. My team won in both quality and quantity of leaves picked, but our triumph was tempered by the fact that an experienced harvester could fill a basket on their own in about the time it took us to barely cover the bottom!



Feeding a giraffe



Tea picking competition



4 people picking and this is all we got!

Updates from Central African Republic

Twenty-nine years ago Wendy and I lived in Bangui, Central African Republic, where I first learned to do language surveys. Language survey is the first step in Bible Translation. It is so exciting to see Bible translations there now completed!

A container carrying New Testaments in the languages of Banda-Linda and Bhogoto is en route from South Korea to Bangui, Central African Republic. It originally arrived at the port of Douala, Cameroon, in January and has remained there until now, while all the necessary paperwork was gathered to facilitate its release. We are praying that everything is now in order and that the container will be transported by truck to Bangui very soon. Once it arrives, our local Wycliffe partner organization, along with local language committees and churches, will schedule the long-awaited New Testament launch celebrations!! Rejoice with us in God's faithfulness to bring His Word to the Central African Republic!

Meanwhile, the Mpyemo New Testament typesetting is basically finished and will be sent for printing along with the Nzakara New Testament when it is finished too.

Additionally, our national Wycliffe partner organization in the Central African Republic has recently started work on three oral Bible translation projects, and has also begun mobilizing and raising awareness for work in six other languages—along with doing some initial linguistic research. In summary, SIL is supporting work on New Testament in 25 languages to varying extents.

Wendy and Mike Buchanan



We praise God:

- For the progress in Bible translation around the world.
- For all of you, our partners in ministry, who give and pray for us in this work.
- That our personal monthly financial needs are being met.

Please pray:

- That God will bring more IT-skilled people into missions. There is a big need right now, especially for project managers and developers—back-end developers in particular.
- For God to accomplish his plans and purposes in Buck's life. He is the young man who began living with us in May 2024 and works on the JAARS ground crew. Wisdom for us to know how to help him in this stage of his life.
- For boldness and wisdom as we continue to share the good news of salvation through Jesus with college students. Yesterday, we talked with 13 students. Half of them did not know Jesus as their Savior but were open to the gospel truths we shared. Responses ranged from someone praying to trust Jesus, to an atheist agreeing to read a book we gave him about why the Bible is true.

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