

Support
Roles
help
bring the
puzzle
together



The McCormack Messenger

February 2016



David's Update:

One of David's privileges as he serves new members of Wycliffe Bible Translators is repeatedly hearing stories of God's drawing laborers into His harvest field. The stories usually begin years before becoming Wycliffe members. Even after membership, there is a period of waiting on God for His provision of prayer and financial partners to join them in the mission of Bible translation. David began his current work as a Human Resources Financial Liaison in October 2015. Thus far, he has seen 12 members depart for their assignments. He is now completing work with 12 members who will take up their assignment within the next two months. One such story is below. In addition David is working with 88 members (68 family units) currently seeking prayer and financial partners.

One Member's Journey

One of those new members in November 2015 was Phoebe Thomas from southwest Louisiana. When she was a senior in college she took a missions class called Perspectives. After she attended the first class, she found she was reading the Bible as though she had never read it before. She saw that: (1) God's heart is for all peoples, tribes and languages, (2) God's mission plan has been in place from the beginning of time, and (3) God's plan involves her. She committed herself to God's mission plan, but with a list of conditions. In the next years, she worked as a free-lance artist, but she also repeated the Perspectives class several times, more recently as a class coordinator. Each time her list of conditions grew shorter until she reached the point of complete willingness to follow God's call, wherever that might lead.



At this point she came into contact with Wycliffe and found Wycliffe to be the way to move forward in God's call. She tells her story in a four minute video you can view at youtube.com. On that site, search for "Better Than a Five-Year Plan." In contact with Wycliffe, Phoebe learned she wasn't as passionate and gifted in linguistics as she earlier thought. Instead, Phoebe has gone to Mali in February to serve as an administrative assistant. She is another example of the many supporting roles involved in Bible translation.

Helen's Update: Since our last newsletter, Helen has continued serving with an educational evaluation follow-up dialog with a Wycliffe family, some writing including her devotional Reflections articles for the Minot Daily News and with increasing involvement in our local church. Christmas with family has also been a blessing.

PRAYER



Please praise God for:

- New Wycliffe members entering their support and translation work
- Opportunities to share God's work at local churches before Christmas.

Please pray for:

- Sufficient health and strength to continue this work



Do you remember our small but lush garden last summer? Check the back of this letter to see how it looked in January!

To read our recent previous newsletters, see <http://trinitychurchminot.org/ministries/missionaries>

Personal Contact Information: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel." **Philippians 1:3-5a** We would love to hear from you.

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Checks should be payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators. Please leave the memo line blank, but include a note indicating, "Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of David and Helen McCormack, Member Account # 200515." To donate online, go to www.wycliffe.org and click "DONATE" and then click "MISSIONARIES." Then type our last name and select us from the list. Thank you.



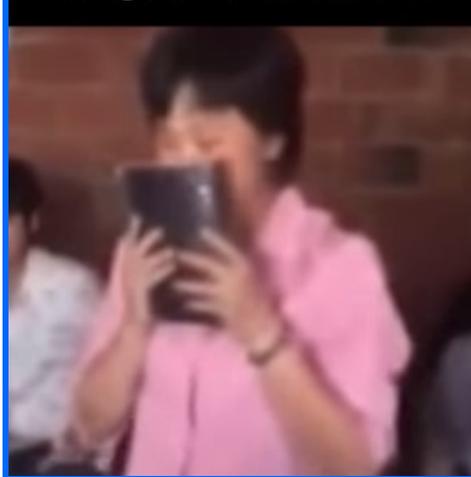
A look at Minot life

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That small dark area in the snow on the left is the front corner of our raised garden box. We've had a lot of snow in Minot, ND!

Receiving Bibles For The First Time



The above picture is blurry but the emotion is clear. As the caption says, this woman is receiving her own Bible in her language for the very first time. If you want to see a real celebration of a people group receiving the Bible for the first time, go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and type "Indonesian Tribe receives Bible for the First Time" in the search bar.

The following was written by the husband of a Wycliffe member who we met in our 2007 training.

Imagine **not having any books or Bibles** in your first language. How would your life be different?

Now imagine how you'd feel if you were a follower of Christ and found out that **the Bible** has been translated into your language, but there were **only a few copies** and the people who have them had **not yet shared any with you**.

NOW, imagine what it would feel like if you were a **pastor**, always having to try to **read and preach from the Bible in your 2nd language**, to **finally see the Word of God in your own language, the language of the people you pastor**.

I had the incredible privilege of seeing this reaction firsthand during my trip to a neighboring country this month. Before the workshop, I received an email telling me that the participants from one of the language groups attending had no access to scripture, even though the New Testament had recently been printed in their language. **Much to my surprise, I looked over on my desk and saw the gospels** of Mathew & Mark sitting there **in this language**. I had checked them out from the university library while researching the language. **"This is crazy! How is it that I have these, when the Capo* pastors coming don't??"** So, I had the gospels **scanned** and we **printed them for the pastors in-country**.

One pastor, when he took the photocopied gospel from my hands and realized what it was, **immediately let out a beautiful laugh of pure joy, then his eyes started tearing up**. I couldn't help but tear up too. I had absolutely nothing to do with the translation, but just the **simple act of being a courier** for a translation already done was a wonderful reminder to me of the reason we are here and do what we hope to do – **help people to have God's word in the language they understand best**. Nothing can replace the Word of God in people's heart language, and nothing can **keep the church healthy and strong like people knowing, understanding, and loving God's Word** in the language they know best.

* Pseudonym