

Nicholas News

Spring 2004

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Praise the Lord!

- Our two newest African American members are on their way. Greta is raising support to go do literacy work in Mali and Katherine is now in Cameroon serving in management.
- Gertrude had a great experience while coordinating a youth missions trip to Burkina Faso, West Africa.
- Video production of youth experiences in Burkina Faso with Urban Ministries, Incorporated is nearing completion.
- Presentations at five Conferences in Orlando, Virginia, and Alabama went well in June, July and August.
- Gertrude's sister Flora had successful liver stint replacement while she waits for a liver transplant.

Opportunities with the C.M.E. Church

Have you ever entered a situation and got the distinct unction that it was where God wanted you to be at that time? I got this feeling when I worshipped for the first time at Carter Tabernacle Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church. I admit that I was a little uneasy at first because I knew so few of the people. Slowly, I began to bond with the church family, enjoy the excellent choirs, and appreciate Rev. Zak's messages. In spite of all the good fellowship, I really wanted to see a vision ignited for world missions and especially for Bible translation but how? A series of events began to unravel God's plan. Rev. Zak visited the Wycliffe office and asked if I would help him publish his first book—something I had never done before. I began to seek and pray for a way to help him. About that time God brought Kevin into my life and we were married. Together we chose to stay and serve at Carter Tabernacle. We continued to pray for a way to get Rev. Zak's book published. A year later, the president of Urban Ministries, a publishing company, came to Orlando, caught the vision for Bible translation and after meeting Rev. Zak, he agreed to publish the book. Three years later, I shared my testimony with the Carter

Tabernacle Women's Missionary Society. By this time Rev. Zak had moved on to another ministry, we wondered if it was time for us to move on, too. It was about then that Bishop Reddick of the Fifth Episcopal (Florida/Alabama) Episcopal District of the CME Church called. He was thrilled with our testimony and invited us to share our ministry at the district conferences. He wanted the rest of the CME denomination to hear our story and know that there are more ministries than preaching. The Fifth Episcopal District sponsored our travel and accommodations to the three Alabama conferences. What joy to tell hundreds of ministers what God has done through us and in us and then to see the marvel in their faces as we told about our service in the Philippines and in Papua New Guinea and now with Wycliffe USA. Bishop Reddick assured us that we planted some seeds. We perceive that the vision is indeed ignited for world mission in the 5th Episcopal District. We look forward to speaking to the 10 Bishops of the CME Church in September. **Praise the Lord for the CME church and pray with us that more African Americans get involved in Bible Translation.**

Burkina Faso in April

It was eight o'clock in the evening on Saturday when our Air France flight landed in Ouagadougou (pronounced 'wa-ga-du-gu') Burkina Faso in West Africa. The temperature soared in the 90's and perspiration began to

trickle down my back as we waited and waited for luggage. All of it arrived for the six students who came to 'experience Bible translation' for two weeks. The bags for the Urban Ministries youth leaders, curriculum writer and the video crew finally arrived on Monday. I did not know that my carefully packed bag would not arrive until three days before our return trip to the USA. I was thankful for it to happen to me so that the youth could focus on experiencing language and culture and just being in one of the ten poorest countries in the world. It was dry season and the hottest time of the year but we needed to capture the experiences of the youth on video. These six young people would star in a vacation Bible school video on



Youth visiting a garden.

Continued on the next page.

Burkina Faso (continued)

missions. I am still amazed at how well six teenaged girls and boys kept their focus while learning what God is doing to bring the translated Word of God to Nuni people of Leo, Burkina Faso. Their emotions seemed to range from fascination with the people and culture and language to compassion at the sight of starving babies to downright repugnance of the different standard of living and customs in the villages and towns. My role was that of coordinator of the trip and liaison with the Bible Translation and Literacy Association (ANTBA). The ANTBA staff were great hosts who escorted us from one place to the other translating from French to English. Pastor Boureima, Jacque and Marie were helped us from the time we arrived until the day we left the country.



Gertrude with Jacque, Marie and Jakob (ANTBA staff)

When we were in Ouaga we resided in guest flats of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, a sister organization of Wycliffe. These two organizations



Youth making futu with local women in Leo

welcomed us all but I was particularly blessed when my sister missionaries shared their clothing with me until my own luggage arrived. I thank God for the team work and camaraderie between ANTBA and SIL Burkina Faso.

My heart warmed to hear the testimonies of the six youth on our last night in Ouagadougou. After two weeks of immersion in West African culture, they commented that their worldview had changed forever. They would never take a

simple thing like clean drinking water for granted again—not to mention air conditioning on a very hot day. As we left Burkina Faso they were still contemplating the deeper spiritual impact of their experiences. Personally, I came away with deeper appreciation of what God is doing in today's Christian youth. As one or the other suffered or struggled all seemed to enter into the experience to comfort each other and to care for each other. At least this group seemed very serious about their faith in God and the power of prayer and unity. What a testimony their videoed experiences will be for other youth.

Please pray that the Lord will prepare and greatly impact the 5500 churches who will receive their story in the Urban Ministries 2005 vacation Bible school package.



A Nuni Bible translator



Please respond to us by email, if possible, so that we may send our letters to you by email.

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*Designate financial gifts to:
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Prayer Points

Prosperity and blessing on our partners in Bible Translation. That's you!

Don and Sharon Hutchisson as they complete translation of the Sursurunga New Testament in Papua New Guinea. Pray for their co-translator, Sian who has TB.

Fruitfulness in ministry resulting in an increase in African Americans going to the mission field. We are praying for 24 career members this year.

Continued support and prayers of our financial partners as we seek to involve others in Bible translation.

Salvation of unsaved family members; health and strength of our parents and siblings.

Our spiritual and physical stamina as we face challenges in ministry as a married couple.

Health of Gertrude's brother—eyesight; and his wife—recovery from stroke; both have diabetes.

Two full-time assistants in African American Mobilization at the Wycliffe headquarters in Orlando. Praise the Lord for one part-time volunteer.

Safety in travel—in the USA.

Success of the Urban Ministries 2005 Vacation Bible School package—that it will be used effectively by 5500 churches.

***Thank you for partnering with us ...
...in His service,***

Gertrude and for Kevin

To see more pictures visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~k.g.nicholas>