

# Nicholas News

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## *Summer Missions and Tropical Upholstery*

**J**une 23-26, 2006, were the dates for the Bibleway Bible Church missions emphasis. I was appointed to head up the missions committee. It was interesting trying to align everybody's schedules so that we could plan our conference but by God's grace we did it. Our theme was "We've a Story to Tell the Nations." Friday was an evening of international cuisine. Church members volunteered to bring foods from Africa, Asia, Pacific, Europe, USA, and South America. If you think preparing the food was fun, you should have seen the wonderful

decorations in the room. You could say the décor idea started with upholstery samples. Earlier this year I was perusing at the Wycliffe missionary boutique fabric center. I entered a small room that had stacks of approximately 30"x30" squares of fabric. There were so many beautiful designs that I succumbed and left the building

with bags of the stuff. What was I going to do with it all? I didn't know but God did. I came home from the office one evening and started to play around with the squares. Some of it looked tropical with palm trees, monkeys and all sorts of tropical fruit. Other pieces looked European or Asian. So it happened that an entire room was decorated with these pieces of upholstery. Each table represented a part of the world. There was a quilted appliqué to mark each table naming a location (Asia, Pacific, etc.). This international motif set the atmosphere for the entire three day conference. Even upholstery samples can become something special in the Master's hands. People loved the food, the international décor, and a guest speaker from Sudan on Friday night. On Saturday, Dr. Eddie Lane gave a simple challenge to about 12 pastors and church leaders from other churches. The challenge was this: Commit to disciple and commission a missionary to go into Bible translation. Then on Sunday morning, Rev. Charles Leslie built upon that challenge giving a relevant message that all could identify with. His message was especially relevant for our youth to plan on setting themselves apart for God's service. It was fun, it was challenging and it was timely. Praise God.

—Gertrude

### Praise the Lord!

- Kevin did very well in Greek studies this summer.
- We rejoice with all the new contacts that we have been able to make.
- We were able to participate in the commissioning service of Muriel Boyd, in Kansas City MO.
- Go Global Reality Mission DVD is being aired on nine TV stations in USA.
- Three recruits became full-time members with Wycliffe this summer.
- The Lord continues to provide for us—keeping our car running, financial obligations and more than enough ministry opportunities.
- We have spiritual vitality in the midst of very busy schedules.
- We have faithful supporters.

## *Gertrude's Ministry with Wycliffe*

"What is it, exactly, that do you do?" That's the question I've been asked lately. It's clear what Kevin is doing in Dallas—attending Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS) full-time. But since we moved from Orlando a year ago, church leaders and curious friends ask about my role. You may be wondering about the same thing. It's not what I'm doing but what God is doing through me to bring others into this ministry.

Here's the scoop on God and me in Wycliffe. Since Kevin and I moved to Dallas in 2005, my role with Wycliffe has not changed. I am still Director of African American Ministries in Wycliffe. My ministry remains a strategic, administrative, and recruiting position established

to increase involvement of African American Christians in the Bible Translation Movement. My responsibility is to help Wycliffe USA recruit



more African Americans. To make this happen, my duties range from that of a facilitator-coordinator to one-on-one recruiter. In addition to office work, I travel around the USA, speaking and recruiting at conferences and churches.

As a facilitator-coordinator, I proposed the development of new Wycliffe media pieces that model African Americans. Through research I discovered that the 70,000 plus African American churches around the USA knew very little about the ministry of Bible Translation. To remedy this problem, I am editor of *The African American Ministries*

*Continued on the next page.*

## *Gertrude's Ministry, Continued*

*Update*, a letter published twice a year. I facilitated production of "The Time is Now" video and the "Go Global With Jesus Reality Missions" DVD, a five-part production filmed in Burkina Faso, West Africa. In both cases, it meant coordinating the plans and travel overseas to help gather video footage. Today, distribution of the videos to thousands of churches and households is expedited through a vital partnership with Urban Ministries. U.M.I. is airing the Go Global video on nine family TV stations. We are spreading the vision to get the Word into the heart languages of millions of people and calling for new missionaries to join us.

Maintaining the partnership between Wycliffe and Urban Ministries is my responsibility. Other partnering mission mobilizers around the country are using the videos. The result is that other agencies are helping to promote interest in Bible

translation and to point potential missionaries toward Wycliffe. There is much more that needs to be done to engage recruits in the Bible Translation Movement from thousands of churches and educational institutions around the USA. Pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will send laborers from the African American Christian communities.

Did you know that it takes one to two years of regular communication for a recruit to progress from the inquiry stage to actually becoming a missionary with Wycliffe? It is my joy to be there for recruits in their journey—as a source of information, as a mentor, a sounding board, prayer partner, and as a primary contact throughout the application process. Much work remains to smooth this process for African Americans.

I love recruiting missionaries because it is much like mentoring a disciple. My life

example provide recruits with a live model of one who has obeyed God and with whom they may relate along the way. So, there you have it, a brief synopsis of my role with Wycliffe. I praise God for the privilege of serving Him in such a unique way.

It is difficult to write about my role without saying more about my partner in ministry, Kevin. His enrollment with DTS affords us many opportunities to engage with students. This fall, we will share a special opportunity as he leads a spiritual formation class on campus. Pray that our lifestyle and testimony will be an encouragement to other students with whom we relate.

Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry. Your role is just as important now as ever. You are helping us to bring others into this great ministry. We need your continued, prayerful support. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

—Gertrude



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

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### *Prayer Points*

#### ***Prosperity and blessing***

*on our partners in Bible Translation. That's our prayer for you!*

#### ***Don and Sharon***

#### ***Hutchisson and their team***

*as they do a series of final checks on the completed draft of the Sursurunga New Testament in Papua New Guinea. Pray for Ben and Sian.*

#### ***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 in both of our families.***

***Health of my mother: pain from back injury.***

***Kevin as he begins year two of studies at Dallas Theological Seminary.***

***Kevin is leading a spiritual formation class with DTS students in our apartment building.***

***Safety in travel—in the USA.***

***Full recovery for Flora.— Keeping potassium levels stable with less and less anti-rejection medicines.***

***Feedback from mission-minded churches—that they will begin to send missionaries, pray for and give to Bible translation projects.***

***Opportunities to recruit and mentor DTS students from Kevin's classes as well as people living in married students' housing.***

***Wisdom in defining a clear scope of ministry in Wycliffe Recruitment.***

***For me as I focus \ 100% of my time in recruitment throughout the USA, especially in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas.***

***...in His service,***

***Gertrude (and for Kevin)***