

Nicholas News

Fall 2007

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Praise the Lord!

- Kevin continues to excel in seminary studies.
- We rejoice with the increase in inquirers seeking opportunities with Wycliffe.
- Kevin celebrates 53 years of life on December 14.
- Mission Global Fellowship continues to meet monthly to encourage mission-minded Christians in the DFW area.
- Two African American recruits became full-time members with Wycliffe this year.
- The Lord continues to provide for us—keeping our car running, meeting financial obligations and more than enough ministry opportunities.
- We have spiritual vitality in the midst of very busy schedules.
- We have faithful partners in ministry.
- New Birth Baptist Church youth attended and had a great time at Wycliffe's first Explore Wycliffe event in Dallas November 10.

Gratefulness

Psalm 92:1-4 states, *"It is good to give thanks to the LORD and to sing praises to your name, O Most High. To declare Your loving-kindness in the morning and your faithfulness by night, with the ten-stringed lute and with the harp, with resounding music upon the lyre. For You, O LORD, have made me glad by what You have done, I will sing for joy at the works of your hands."* Gratefulness issues from our hearts to God, especially at this season as we embark upon the Holiday Season.

So, what has God done that makes Kevin and I so grateful? This year we've seen an unprecedented number of African Americans respond to the call of God to international mission work. While the number of career members is small, it is growing annually. We're amazed that some of our recruits seemed to come from places we did not cultivate while others joined Wycliffe after much mentoring and encouragement. Although some of the people we ministered to did not join Wycliffe, it gave us great joy to encourage them on their way. Our recruits, including men and women, are rising up to serve God and the Bible translation movement all over the world including Africa, Asia and here in the USA. We are grateful for Wycliffe leadership that is passionate and unrelenting in their desire to reflect the diverse Body of Christ at all levels. In November, the senior leadership



Kevin and Gertrude Nicholas

of Wycliffe were the first of Wycliffe USA staff to go through diversity training, a strategy which will include all Wycliffe USA staff.

New teaching opportunities have come my way including leading a bi-weekly seminary wives Bible study and teaching three Perspectives classes this Fall in Kentucky and Ohio. In February I look forward to assisting with the training of new literacy workers at the Graduate Institute of Linguistics (GIAL). Of course I plan to maintain some contact with recruits though my main focus will be on this new GIAL role. These changes are a great prelude to returning to ministry in Papua New Guinea. Praise God for directing our paths. It is marvelous in our eyes!

—Gertrude

It is Good to Give Thanks to the LORD

God has been faithful in providing for us since we arrived in Dallas. It's been a very rewarding time of studying the Word and leading a Couples Spiritual Formation group for the past two years. It has been great to be able to use our small apartment as a meeting place for couples as they are preparing for ministry. In addition to these joys, I've had some really unexpected blessings this year. I use a laptop computer extensively for note taking and studies. Several times I've had to ship it back to the company for repairs. Finally, they provided a new computer free of charge. Recently, my palm pilot suddenly died and I was able to get it replaced within weeks. I use my palm pilot daily for Bible reading, keeping track of appointments and

contacts so it was a real blessing to have it replaced at no charge to me. In addition to playing the organ and participating in the music ministry at church, it has been an unexpected blessing to receive free tickets to hear the Dallas Symphony Orchestra on a regular basis. We live just a few minutes away from the Meyerson in the Dallas Arts District.

I am so thankful for the daily interaction with professors and students and to be completing my studies at Dallas Theological Seminary (May 10, 2007). I am especially appreciative for Gertrude, my wife, who has stood beside me and put up with my unusual schedule. We thank God for everything He does for us.

—Kevin

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Grateful for Making African American History in the Philippines

Another huge reason to sing praises to the LORD, is the completion of the Kaygayanen New Testament. Jacqueline Huggins, an African American, is one of the leading Bible translators for the Kaygayanen project. Jacqueline's success is a first in the history of Wycliffe and a first for African Americans. This New Testament is now complete and now being published. Kevin and I look forward to hosting a group of pastors and wives at the Kaygayanen New Testament Dedication services in the Philippines April 14-23. We sing Hallelujah for

the privilege of sharing this joy with Jacqueline and the Kaygayanen translation and literacy team. Truly, God has made us glad by the things He has done! We invite you to consider joining us on this short trip to the Philippines. Please see the enclosed flyer regarding the Kaygayanen Dedication.



Grateful for You!

We are thankful for all of the churches and individuals that stand by us in our ministry. We are especially grateful for faithful partners in ministry who continue to pray for us and support us financially. You truly reflect the loving-kindness and faithfulness of the Lord as we serve Him in recruiting and preparation for the next venture to Papua New Guinea. Because of you we are able to serve with Wycliffe. We thank God for you. And we thank you!



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

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*For financial gifts, please specify in writing your interest in the ministry of:
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*Write checks and send funds to:
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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 consultant 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 per year.

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

Salvation of unsaved family members;—nieces, nephews, cousins

Health and strength of our parents and siblings; of my mother: pain from an old back injury as well as diverticulosis. Kevin's dad was recently diagnosed with diabetes.

Continued spiritual and physical stamina for us and for others like the Hutchissons and Jacqueline Huggins.

Kevin as he completes studies at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Full recovery for Gertrude's sister Flora—health of kidneys and other vital organs as a result of taking anti-rejection meds after a liver transplant.

For Gertrude as she transitions back into Literacy 80% of the time

Increased interest of Churches in the DFW area in Bible translation

Safety in travel—to meetings in the USA.

Partners in ministry for new Wycliffe missionaries—for prayer and finances.

Wisdom in our preparations to return to Papua New Guinea.

12 more African American recruiters.

*...in His service,
Kevin and Gertrude Nicholas*