

Nicholas News

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A Remarkable Journey

Praise the Lord!

- Kevin continues to excel in seminary studies.
- We rejoice in the increase of inquirers seeking opportunities with Wycliffe.
- Mission Global Fellowship continues to meet monthly to encourage mission-minded Christians in the DFW area.
- Two African American recruits are in the application process with Wycliffe so far 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.
- A mixed blessing—the Lord called Gertrude's beloved sister-in-law, 'Linda Mac' home to be with Him after a long battle with diabetes and high blood pressure. She and Clarence were married almost 40 years.

Mobilizing churches and recruiting individuals has been a remarkable journey with the Lord and with Wycliffe USA leadership; and it continues to be a fruitful endeavor with African American recruiting. In 2001, I envisioned the need for a twofold awareness strategy. From the start, an ongoing strategy was needed to help African Americans become more aware of the wonderful opportunities to get involved with the Bible translation movement. Gradually Wycliffe USA developed internal strategies to help the organization become more acquainted with the African American Christian community. As a result, ethnic diversity has become a stated core value for the Wycliffe USA Board of Directors and a celebrated fact within Wycliffe. Also, Wycliffe USA leadership has adopted a general strategy for ethnic diversity beginning with the training of senior leadership. Prayerfully, this diversity strategy will lead to a long-term positive relations with all ethnic communities and involvement in Bible translation. It is encouraging to know African American missions heritage began as far back as 1775 and we continue to celebrate milestones in African American missions history today.

One such milestone is the Kagayanen Scripture Dedication in the Philippines in April 2008. Wycliffe USA is hosting a celebration of diversity in the Philippines! We are celebrating Jacqueline Huggins as the first African American to be a part of a diverse Bible translation team completing the translation of the New Testament and Genesis. It will be great to celebrate with the Kagayanen people who now have Scriptures in their mother tongue.



Praise God! We are excited and delighted to help Wycliffe USA host diverse group including African American pastors and church leaders attending this great event. The journey continues. Here's a synopsis of our schedule once we arrive in the Philippines.

- Day 1 Travel by plane from Manila to Puerto Princesa, settle into rooms, attend a very special welcome dinner hosted by the Mayor
- Day 2 Ministry opportunity or Pastor's Summit
- Day 3 Kaygayanen Scripture Celebration
- Day 4 Worship at Kaygayanen Church, Dinner & Culture Show
- Day 5 Sightseeing Excursion
- Day 6 Travel back to Manila

—Gertrude

Update on Kevin and Seminary

In January 2008, I entered my final semester of studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. I have so enjoyed my studies here but I experienced extra motivation to during this last semester. Gertrude and I are headed to the Philippines for two weeks (April 14-23)! These weeks are right before I need to complete all my assignments. So I am working diligently to get

most assignments turned in prior to the trip. I praise God. He's done a great job of helping me maintain a balance between studies, family, job, and church activities. What a great God we serve! May the Lord grant me increased momentum, mental and physical health and ultimately a great finish in preparation for graduation on May 10.

—Kevin

More changes for Gertrude

2008 is turning out to be another year of transition and change for both Kevin and I. While Kevin has been working steadily towards completion of a degree program at Dallas Theological Seminary, I have anticipated shifting my focus back to literacy. Although we have taken a couple of short trips back to Papua New Guinea since 2000—to help with Scripture Use—it has been seven years since I have been involved in literacy work.

In January, I drastically reduced my time in recruiting in order to retool for ministry in literacy. Since I have many years of experience as a literacy specialist, I was invited to re-tool by teaching others in the Mega-Literacy course at the Graduate Institute of Linguistics in Dallas. The Mega Literacy courses is a graduate level

requirement for missionaries-in-training wishing to obtain a Master's degree in Language Development. It covers everything from literacy theory and principles to literacy practice. All of the students are planning to serve overseas with a mission agency.

At first I thought I would simply be a teachers assistant (TA) but Dr. Steve Walter corrected that thought saying, "Oh, you're not just a TA, you are an associate instructor." It feels like the first year of teaching school. I have been challenged to prepare and deliver graduate level instruction on literacy topics like alphabet design, teaching methods, binding big books, literacy workshops and so forth.

I'm thankful for lecture notes of others who've taught prior courses.

When I'm not teaching, I enjoy sitting in on other lectures. I will be teaching at GIAL just for this semester from February 15th to June 3rd. What an excellent way to re-tool for ministry overseas!

—Gertrude



Gertrude at her new work site



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 and 12 more African American recruiters.

Continued support and prayers of our financial partners as we seek to involve

others in Bible translation.

Salvation of unsaved relatives and re-dedication of those who have walked away from the Lord.

Wisdom, health and strength of our parents and siblings with chronic illness; and also my nephew, Denard who suffers from diabetes.

Comfort of my brother and his family after the death of Linda, his wife of 39 years.

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 co-teaches the Literacy Mega Course with Dr. Steve Walter.

Increased interest of African Americans in Bible translation.

Safety in travel of all going to the Kaygayanen Bible Dedication in Philippines

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

Wisdom in our preparations to return to Papua New Guinea in January 2009.

...in His service,

Kevin and Gertrude Nicholas

Be sure to visit our website: www.KEVINNICHOLAS.NET