

Nicholas News

Summer 2008

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Moving Experiences

Praise the Lord!

- Kevin graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary on May 10th!
- We rejoice to have two more African American career missionaries with Wycliffe bringing the total to 19—plus one full-time Wycliffe Associate.
- Mission Global Fellowship continues to meet monthly to encourage mission-minded Christians in the DFW area.
- So far this year one African American recruit is in the application process with Wycliffe.
- We are gaining clarity in determining other academic requirements for Kevin's role as Biblical exegete in Papua New Guinea.
- We have spiritual and physical vitality in the midst of very busy schedules.
- Our financial support is at about 90%. Thanks for your faithfulness.
- Gertrude's mother celebrated 81 years of life on May 28th and is recovering well from a mild stroke.
- Gertrude finished well with a rigorous schedule as associate instructor for the Literacy Mega-Course at GIAL in early June.

That wonderful trip to the Philippines in April got us moving! Our spirits soared as we witnessed the New Testament Dedication with the Kagayanen people and interacted folks who came to celebrate with us. One whole week was set apart with daily group activities and ministry and nightly conferences highlighting the multi-ethnic Kagayanen Bible translation team. Our spirits soared for another reason: participation of an African American woman in the completion of Scripture translation—a precious moment in African American history. We commemorated the work of an African American Bible translator. Jacqueline Huggins, was commemorated by her supporting churches and Wycliffe USA. Dozens of individuals from the USA including pastors and prayer partners came to rejoice and give glory to God. The excitement continued as we returned to Dallas.

On May 10th, Kevin finished up studies at Dallas Theological Seminary with two Masters Degrees—Cross-Cultural Ministries and Biblical Studies! Kevin's graduation from seminary meant our vacating seminary housing. On June 7th we moved to a new residence in



Kevin at seminary library

southwest Dallas. This move brought us nearer to my siblings and closer to the International Linguistic Center (ILC). Wycliffe USA offices and the Graduate Institute of Linguistics (GIAL) are located on this same campus.

In mid June we reported to our church regarding our trip to the Philippines and June 22-27th both Kevin and I helped with a TOTAL It Up (Taste of Translation and Linguistics) Course in June. My involvement with this TOTAL It Up event was a lively way to finish almost eight years in Wycliffe USA Recruitment Ministries.

—Gertrude

South Pacific!

No not the musical! But the idea of returning to the South Pacific is music to our ears. In late May we began to discuss details of returning to Papua New Guinea with Wycliffe personnel administrators. We confirmed linguistics courses I needed prior to assuming my new role as Biblical exegete and in June we began to outline job descriptions for both of us. Of course, Gertrude's role will continue to be in literacy. She is grateful to be mentored by Dr. Patricia Kelley, the S.I.L. International Literacy Coordinator. Pat encouraged Gertrude to re-tool by co-teaching graduate level courses at GIAL. She also recommends that Gertrude plan to continue re-tooling by taking a distance course in alphabet development, sitting in on the Multi-lingual Education course and helping to co-teach a Literacy Principles course this Fall at GIAL.

Patricia and Norm Maguire, the SIL Pacific Area Director smiled as Gertrude walked into Patricia's office one afternoon. They were

discussing who might fill the role of Pacific Area Literacy Coordinator—including countries like PNG, Australia, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Timor). They invited Gertrude to assume this role and Gertrude's first response was "Sure, I'll do it." But then she remembered that she has a husband seeking to settle into a language program in PNG. How would an international role affect my work. We were delighted to hear from the Pacific Area leadership stating that they only needed Gertrude for about 20% of the time. The rest of the time could be spent engaging in literacy work in Papua New Guinea. When necessary, I could travel with her and possibly help with computer related tasks. Much of the literacy coordinator's job could be done from Papua New Guinea by email. We look forward to finalizing the particulars of our new jobs and written invitations from both PNG Branch and Pacific Area SIL soon. We'll keep you posted!

—Kevin

Plans for the Next Six Months

Although we will be fairly busy with academic preparations through November, we hope to visit as many of our partners in ministry as possible. We'd love to plan a good weekend to visit with you or your church.

Tentative Plans

June —settle in at new apartment, purchase and organize a storage shed; present missions report at Gertrude's home church.

July—travel to Florida to move stored possessions to Dallas; visit churches in Orlando and Tampa; Kevin starts linguistic

training; Gertrude works at the International Literacy Office and re-tools.

August—we visit supporting churches in Texas.

September— we visit supporting churches in Louisiana and Missouri areas.

October—Represent Wycliffe at the Church Development Conference in Dallas; visit supporting churches in New York; continue training; purchase tickets for PNG.

November—Finish linguist training and re-tooling; visit supporting churches; visit Gertrude's family.

December—Celebrate our Lord's birth. Pack up and move our possessions into storage and visit Kevin's parents in Virginia.

January—Visit supporters in California; travel to Papua New Guinea via Australia, and begin the Pacific Orientation Course.



Kevin and Gertrude Nicholas



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:

Kevin and Gertrude Nicholas

Write checks and send funds to:

Wycliffe Bible Translators
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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.

Funds needed to publish the Sursurunga New Testament once the final draft has been approved.

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.

Kevin as he completes studies at GLAL.

Full recovery of Gertrude's Mom who suffered a slight stroke in May.

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 continues to retool for ministry..

Increased interest and engagement of African Americans in Bible translation.

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

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

100% financial support pledged and coming in so that we may return to Papua New Guinea as planned.

Spiritual vitality in the midst of a very busy season of preparation. And ministry.

...in His service,

Kevin and Gertrude Nicholas

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