

PILLINGERS' UPDATE, January–March 2009

Serving People in Word and Deed

Dear friends,

Greetings to you all, we hope you are well and we want to *thank* you for your partnership with our work!



In October I (Steve) started typesetting the Konkomba Bible (Ghana) with Mary Steele. I am finishing off this week! Once printed, two million people will have access to the new revised edition of the Konkomba Bible. But it has been a long haul. First, the start was delayed by three weeks because of the kidney problems I had last year. It was a close call to get through the first phase before Mary had to return to Ghana (after Christmas). Then, before Christmas, my computer started having problems. I have three computers at work, a laptop and two desktops, and *both* desktops 'died' within a week of each other (motherboards unrepairable); while the laptop was infected with a pernicious virus. At the same time my home computer also died!

Thanks to the IT department at Wycliffe and many installs and re-installs later, towards the end of January all was well again. But all this put me back by another two weeks! Many of you may have had an e-mail asking for prayer. Today (Friday 13/03) was the deadline for the Konkomba Bible and PTL, I was able to meet it. During this period I have been corresponding daily with Mary in Ghana. I learnt that the typesetting of the first edition of the Konkomba Bible was likewise full of unexpected problems. One doesn't think of typesetting as a risky job, but I've learnt the hard way that it can be!

On Monday 16th March I start on the Chumburung Bible (also from Ghana). The main translators are Keir and Gillian Hansford. They are both of retirement age, and are struggling with health problems. Chumburung is spoken in Ghana by about 40,000 people.

This project will again take 4–5 months, after which there is some general typesetting work and admin to catch up with, followed by another NT starting October this year (**Mbuko**, Cameroon).

****** Stop Press ****** *A few days I heard that Evans, the Chumburung translator planning to assist with the typesetting, has been refused a UK visa. The Hansfords have decided to go ahead nevertheless as planned, communicating with Evans in Ghana when necessary by email or phone. Prayer will be appreciated, as this will make the early stages of the typesetting that little bit more time-consuming.*

Please pray with us for good communication with Evans, and health and strength for Keir and Gillian Hansford.

Johanna writes: I am picking up healthwise again after a dip earlier this year. Thank you for praying with us. Many of you may know that I am the practical person in our family, taking care of **maintenance** and gardening. We bought our house in 1997 on a low budget, and the house needed many repairs. With poor health on my part, and Steve's excellent gifts being in other areas, much had to be left undone until recently. I hope to get all the important work finished, and then I hope to be free to do something at the Wycliffe Centre.

Next month I will start with a first small new assignment: coming alongside a fellow Wycliffe member who has to raise more support before he can go overseas.

Meanwhile, I seek to serve people in a variety of ways with the love of God. My friend **Irene Tongoi** is doing a wonderful work in a slum in Nairobi (her husband is director of CMS Africa). Recently new classrooms have been added to the High School she started there — made out of four large metal shipping containers (see picture)! God is doing a wonderful work in that slum, Huruma. We Skype or she texts when there is something she would like me to pray for. For another friend I 'network' to find additional financial resources; and with others I share my experiences in overcoming chronic fatigue etc. Really, as the Lord leads!



Locally I have been the secretary of the Resident's Association (covering 1300 houses), but this month I will resign as I hope to focus my energy on some form of further involvement with Wycliffe.

Our two children are doing well:

Stephen (22): His heart remains in Christian ministry, but he is first having a period of secular work with Siemens in Sheffield, while remaining active with student work in the church he attends.

Jen, (21) is in her second year of Anthropology at Goldsmith College, London University. Her desire is to work in conflict resolution in Africa or Asia . This summer she hopes to go to either Rwanda or Jerusalem for three months to orientate herself in this area. She is also active in the CU.

Please give praise that:

- Steve has managed to finish the Konkomba Bible on time in spite of the delays.
- Johanna's health is improving again
- Chumburung Scripture will be expanded with the OT for the first time.
- We are very blessed with our two children!

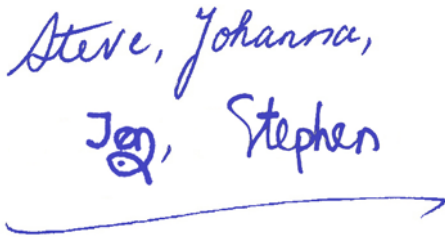
Please pray for:

- The Chumburung typesetting. Steve has had no break in-between, and Keir and especially Gillian are not 100% well. Please pray for strength and health.
- Speedy and trouble free printing of the Konkomba Bible (done in Korea).
- Pray for the Hansfords' Chumburung colleague Evans, as he has been refused a visa; and for good communication with him at such a distance.
- The right open door for our daughter Jen as she seeks His guidance and funding for the summer.

Thank you for being partners with us in this amazing task of giving people Scripture in the language of their hearts. I often think how awesome it is that God restrains Himself to work through our limited abilities; that he waits for us before He speaks to people personally through His Word, in their own language, intimately...

With warm greetings in His service,

*Steve, Johanna,
Jen, Stephen*



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