

PILLINGERS' UPDATE, June–August 2009

Serving People in Word and Deed

Dear Friends,

“And there before me was a great multitude that no-one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the Throne and in front of the Lamb.” (Rev. 7:9)

One day people from every language will stand and sing before Jesus. It is one of the grand visions in Revelation. Jesus said, while living on earth:

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Mat. 24:14)

It is Wycliffe's vision to provide every people group with at least the New Testament in their own language. At present about 2,500 languages have all or some part of Scripture translated. There are about 2,000 languages where translation has started. *And about 2,200 languages where translation has not yet begun.*

Vision 2025: The vision of Wycliffe Bible Translators, is that by the year 2025, together with partners worldwide, we aim to see a Bible translation programme begun in every language that still needs one. (See www.vision2025.org)

Around the world, thousands of people of many different nationalities are involved in the work to make this vision come through. Now, every 5 days somewhere a new project is started. And when a New Testament is finished, the translators take it to a trained Scripture typesetter to prepare it for printing.

Steve

And this is where I come in!

What a privilege to be involved, with you, in such a magnificent global project! To play a part in God's loving plan for all mankind by preparing His Word to be printed and read in every language under the sun.

Three or four times per year I have the joy of working with translators on that final, exciting stage: to convert their computer files into a layout that will become the pages of their often first, official New Testament or even an entire Bible.



In March I started working with long-time Wycliffe members **Keir and Gillian Hansford** on the **Chumburung Bible**. Keir and Gillian are both past retirement age, and have spent most of their working lives bringing God's message of love to the approx. 70,000 Chumburung people of northern Ghana.

In 1989 the Chumburung New Testament was dedicated. At that time there were 72 congregations, belonging to 13 denominations. Since then the number of congregations has doubled. In 1999 Keir and Gillian and a team of 6 Chumburung translators began work on the translation of the Old Testament. This was finished in 2008, and now we are typesetting the whole Bible.

Over 60 people in listening groups were converted when the New Testament on tape was played. The *Jesus film* will soon be shown, preparing the way for the eagerly awaited complete printed Bible. The dedication is planned for September 2010.

As we've started on the typesetting, a particular challenge for me has been the many and varied maps, charts, and diagrams the Hansfords have prepared. If anything in the Old Testament is hard to visualise, the Hansfords have a labelled picture or diagram of it! Like the description of Ezekiel's temple in Ezk. 40–46. Finalising the pictures and adding labels (in Chumburung) has been time-consuming but fascinating.

In our original schedule we'd anticipated completing the final layout by the end of June, but that has now had to be extended to the end of August due to my recent back problems.

But praise God, my back is much better now. I have been able to do quite a lot work from home, and ***last Monday (20th July) I started working with the Hansfords in my office*** at the Wycliffe headquarters near High Wycombe.

We look forward to the day when the Chumburung people will be able to read the whole of God's Word in the only language that speaks to their hearts.

Johanna

After decades of suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, I am now able to take on a small assignment with Wycliffe. None of us can do the work without being supported by a team of people. And finding supporters is a spiritual ministry, as they share with us in the work He has called us to do. When I come alongside colleagues whose financial support is insufficient, we work on this basis. I help them see that we are not fundraisers or beggars asking for money (though it can sometimes feel that way!); on the contrary, we are inviting others to share our joy in serving God.

I am called a Partnership Development Consultant in this context, and I love to encourage others to find their supporters, thereby enabling them to continue their work.



Plans for the rest of the year

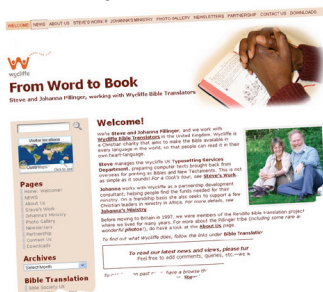
July–August 2009: Finish the **Chumburung typesetting**.

September 2009: Have a holiday, catch up on admin, and prepare for the next project!

October–December 2009: Typeset the **Mbuko New Testament** (Cameroon).

Finally...

In case you hadn't heard — **we have a website!**



Have a look — it's called From Word to Book: <http://pillingersj.co.uk/>.

Here you'll find all sorts of fascinating stuff:

- a longer article by **Johanna** on her work, called **Fundraising or Team-building?**
 - a **potted history of the Pillingers;**
 - a fuller schedule of **Steve's future work**, and a list of **projects already completed;**
 - A **slide show** of typesetting photos in recent years;
- our recent **Newsletters**, available for download;
- News and pictures of our family on the **About Us** page; *and much more!*

Thank you so much for your prayers and support—God bless you!

Steve and Johanna.

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