

PILLINGERS' UPDATE, March–April 2010

Serving People in Word and Deed

Dear friends,

CHANGE IN THE AIR!

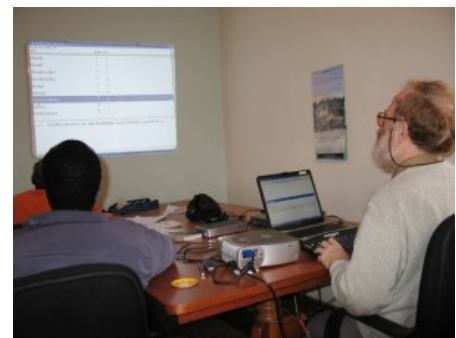
There's something we'd like to share with you...

We're standing on the brink of a new phase in our lives and ministry. When you read what follows, you may understand why communications from us have been a little sparse in recent months. It's only now that we've felt the time is ripe to share this.



Since 2000 I have been typesetting Scripture at our UK headquarters, mainly for West African and some East African languages. But the work of Wycliffe in Africa is changing. In the light of [Vision 2025](#), Wycliffe has been focusing on assisting national Bible Translation organisations to develop themselves. More work is being done by Africans. There are 11 African national Bible Translation organisations now, who are loosely connected under the umbrella of Wycliffe.

This means that the structure of Wycliffe in Africa is changing and expanding, and new roles and structures are being created to deal with fresh challenges. There is an increasing need for experienced people to take on co-ordinating and supporting roles. One such role currently being planned is to co-ordinate typesetting and publishing across sub-Saharan Africa (including reading materials, Scripture, academic articles, funding, training, etc.).



Steve typesetting in Nairobi (2006)



The Cameroon typesetting team, whom Steve helped train in 2008

I was approached in December by Alan Conner, head of Wycliffe publishing services worldwide, with a view to taking up such a position later this year or early next. My response was that I would be delighted to have the opportunity; it would be an extension of the occasional work I have already been doing along these lines (*see pictures*).

All of this is still in the planning stage, and it may be several more months before an actual job description has rolled off the press. When everything has been worked out we expect an official invitation to return to Africa and take up this new role.

Yes, you read that correctly: Africa, here we come! We'll need to live in or near a major city with an international airport and reasonable internet access. We've been thinking of **Johannesburg, South Africa**, for various reasons: such as the fact that Steve is still a South African citizen; and that Jen and Warren are likely to be based there.

We are very excited about this prospect. We'd be grateful for your prayers that God will work out the details. This move raises all sorts of questions, such as Johanna's future role, selling or letting our house in Thame, and many others. There'll be more to come on these matters—watch this space! Sometimes our minds boggle when we try and grasp it all, but we do have a sense that this is His new direction for us.



The Johannesburg skyline

Remote typesetting

Burunge New Testament Books (Tanzania)

The [Burunge](#) are a small group of approximately 13,000 people who are part of a cluster of ethnic groups in Tanzania known as the Southern Cushites.* The people are proud of their language and are excited about the prospect of being able to read it and having the Scriptures. Some are already learning to read Burunge; the **Gospel of Mark** and some literacy materials have been published. Although the work is time-consuming and challenging, the team is thrilled about the progress they are making.



The Burunge team checking the book of Acts, January 2010

At present I'm working 'remotely' with the Burunge team, by email and via the Internet, to publish three more New Testament books: **Acts**, **James** and **Revelation**. These will be printed in separate booklets as *trial versions*, to see how people respond to the printed word. If the selection of books seems odd, bear in mind that they all involve different types of material: narrative (Acts), a letter (James), and prophecy (Revelation).

Please pray for continued good progress with this project, which we're hoping to complete by mid-April.

*For those who might feel that sounds familiar, Rendille is an Eastern Cushitic language. I can see some interesting similarities!

Thank you so much for your support and prayers!

God bless,

Steve and Johanna.

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