



Dycks' Digest

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Wycliffe



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As Wycliffe missionaries we rely on God to provide for our financial needs through the gifts of interested individuals and churches.

Contributions by check should be payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators with a note attached specifying that it is for the ministry of Bill and Sally Dyck. Mail the check to Wycliffe.



"Imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she'll call her friends and neighbors: 'Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!' Count on it—that's the kind of party God's angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God."

Luke 5:8-10 (Msg)

A vision for the Cung Bible...



On August 21, 1986 news broke of a mysterious disaster in Cameroon. Lake Nyos, a crater lake 200 miles northwest of Yaoundé, had suddenly exploded, emitting a strange white mist which snuffed out the lives of hundreds of people and livestock.

The cause of the disaster was a mystery for many months. The scientific community decided that, possibly triggered by a landslide, the lake suddenly emitted a large cloud of carbon dioxide (CO_2). Being heavier than air, the CO_2 rushed down two valleys, displacing the air and suffocating everything in its wake, including 1,700 people and 3,500 livestock.

Pastor George, a native Cung pastor, was living in a village some distance from the lake, but that week he was assigned to go to the village of Nyos (3 miles from Lake Nyos) for a short-term Bible school. He trekked to the village and held services from Monday through Wednesday. He remembers that the villagers were exceptionally attentive, and, as he shared Christ, many of them received Christ as their Savior. It was the most significant response to the Gospel that he has ever seen in all his years of ministry.

That evening, after devotions with his hosts, he went to bed. Sometime later he awoke, unable to breathe. He thought he was dying. He got up, stumbled out into the living room, and found the woman of the house sitting in a chair. He told her he was having great difficulty breathing and needed help. She just looked at him. "Why don't you help me?" he asked. Only later did he realize that she was also affected. He stepped outside to get air, but it was harder to breathe outside, so he went back to bed, feeling that he was going to die and praying that God would take care of him.

He fell asleep and dreamed that some people came, placed him in a chair, and carried him outside into the light. Off to his right, he saw a multitude of people who were in bright light. They were rejoicing, singing, dancing. Off to his left, he saw other people who were in darkness, crying and lamenting. "I wanted to go join the people who were rejoicing," he said, "but the people carrying me wouldn't let me."

He awoke in the morning still gasping for air. He got up and went into the living room, where he found three children - all dead. He saw no injuries, but they were clearly dead. Confused and ill, he stumbled outside the compound where he saw another 20 or so people lying dead on the ground.



...Pastor George's vision

Although he was very weak, he set out for the church to ring the bell, as they always did in times of trouble. On the way he saw dead dogs...cattle...people. He rang the bell, but no one responded. An African village is never ever silent, but that morning there was silence. No songbirds. No dogs barking. No people talking or walking on the trails. Just silence.

Years later as Pastor George related his story he thanked God for sparing his life, but more than that, he is grateful that so many received Christ the last night of their lives. Since then he has wanted nothing more than to keep leading others to Christ.

It is remarkable that this man, who personally witnessed the tragic death of so many, was also privileged to see in his dream heaven opened to those who died in Christ, as well as to see the pain and lamenting of those who died without Christ.

All these years since the tragedy, Pastor George has continued to serve God and seeks to turn others to Him, but he has done so without the Word in his Cung language. Now God is using him to fill that void by encouraging his own people to help with the Scripture translation. In his lifetime he may see the Cung people receive the Scriptures for the first time!

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Thanks for your support of Bible translation
so that many others like the Cung
can have God's Word in their language.

Bill & Sally Dyck

Praise -&- Prayer

Aug. 2010

Praise God for the accelerated progress of Bible translation world wide.

Praise God for rapid progress on the web initiative where we now have 202 New Testaments and other resources available for free access.

Pray for *Paratext* training where Bill helps linguists learn to use the Translators' software for editing and checking the Scripture translation. This tool saves years of tedious work entering the text, checking hundreds of key terms, and checking spelling consistencies and hyphenation.

Praise God for editorial help. Delores volunteered to check a couple dozen of the first printing of the Scriptures on the web. She is catching all kinds of details that need to be fixed before these editions go public.

Praise God There were 109 new translation projects started last year!

Pray for us in the day to day wisdom needed for making critical administrative decisions that can affect many translation programs.

Pray for the remaining language groups in the Americas that still need their own copy of God's Word.

Paratext

Bible translation software

The first step of providing access to Scripture takes years of work, sometimes a life time.

- Learn the language and culture,
- Develop a team of trained native translators,
- Transform the message of the original Scripture text into the target language.

To aid in the process the United Bible Society teamed up with Wycliffe to develop the Bible translation software tool called *Paratext*.

The program enables the translator to

- Input a first or revised **draft** of the text.
- Check and review that draft against the **biblical source** texts.
- Check the text for **consistent translation** of key Biblical terms.
- Check the text for **spelling accuracy**.

I have been involved in helping many Wycliffe Bible translators with their translation by providing expertise in the use of *Paratext*. If they already have some kind of text the first thing I help them with is to code the text so that the program can identify what are the verses, chapters, footnotes, cross-references, etc. Then once the text is clean it is imported into *Paratext* so the translator can then begin the analysis to improve its accuracy.

In some cases the translator is just beginning his work so he is able to enter the text for the first time right into *Paratext*.

This coming week I will be spending a week with Lam and Doris Anderson, helping them learn to use *Paratext* as they work to complete the Old Testament translation in Ticuna.



Ticuna OT portions

Thanks for your prayers for me in my role of training, and for translators like the Andersons who use these tools to provide Scripture in the heart language. ♦ We ask for **sustained energy and health** for our bodies and spirits. ♦ We ask for **wisdom** in our leadership roles to guide and encourage. ♦ In all things we ask for **God to be pleased** with us in how we magnify His name and make His Kingdom come. May His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

