Steve’s calling to full-time ministry came out of the blue. After all, he was enjoying his life and work as a band and choir teacher near Spokane, Washington. He and his family had a great community of friends, and they anticipated staying in Spokane long-term. But it seemed God had other plans for them.

When recalling the day he heard God’s voice, Steve admits he was hoping for more details from God. After all, he didn’t feel qualified spiritually, and his particular gifts didn’t seem to fit the mold of full-time ministry. Steve thought about possibly going to Bible college to further his education, but that wasn’t something he really wanted to do — he’d already received an education and loved what he did! He was confused by God’s call and didn’t know what it meant for him and his family.

A year later, Steve happened to meet a Wycliffe recruiter who told him about the remaining need for Bible translation in almost 2,000 languages. But Steve still didn’t see where he fit. “There’s no way I could be a Bible translator!” Steve shared. And isn’t that what he would have to do if he worked for Wycliffe Bible Translators?

Then Steve learned something exciting — something that seemed to answer that haunting question of where his gifts fit in ministry. The recruiter told him that Wycliffe needs teachers, particularly for missionary kids. Even music teachers! This news struck a chord with Steve. He had a set of gifts and qualifications that could be used right away and in full-time ministry.

So in 2006, Steve and his family moved to Papua New Guinea where he now teaches at Ukarumpa International School. And through teaching, Steve’s making a difference in the lives of his students, their families and even those who are still waiting for the Bible in their own language.

“I’m helping God’s Word reach new places, new hearts,” Steve shared. “It’s cool to hear parents say, ‘We wouldn’t be missionaries here if it wasn’t for the school.’ These parents are able to focus on translation, literacy and other work because they know their children are being given a solid education.”

And it’s true. When people like Steve use the gifts God has given them for his glory, they’re contributing to the work of Bible translation. Every role is important in this work — even teaching music to missionary kids. It’s just a matter of faithfully answering God’s call when he speaks.
Dear Friends,

There is nothing more wonderful than seeing God at work in the world. What always amazes me is how he’s able to work globally while at the same time bringing our hearts and minds into alignment with his global purposes. He truly is a God who works to build his global Kingdom and at the same time meets us in our personal need. This is a reminder that he can be trusted, is faithful, and delights in caring about the details of our lives.

The hope of the gospel, the good news message, meets people at their point of need, quenching their thirst. Whenever I read and hear stories from around the world about answered prayers and people experiencing the joy and hope of God’s Word, I am reminded of his faithfulness.

Thank you for continuing to partner with us in Bible translation. Your prayers and investment make an eternal impact in the lives of people all around the world who are thirsty. When they hear a God who speaks their language, they often have a need met — a need for God — that they didn’t even know they had.

As we continue to see the Scriptures translated, I expect we will be hearing more stories like those in the following pages — stories that focus on the joy and hope of the gospel as God continues to transform lives around the world.

Warmly in Christ,

Bob Creson
President, CEO
Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

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