

INfocus

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WITH OPEN HANDS

By Melissa Paredes

“If [God] has called you to serve him overseas, he will show you and go before you,” said Sarah. “But above all, wait on him and hold onto your plans with open hands.”

That’s just what Sarah and her husband, Trevor, have done over the years as they’ve followed God on a journey of service with Wycliffe. Numerous experiences have helped Trevor, Sarah and their kids learn to rely on God better, but sometimes the enemy’s attacks are frighteningly tangible.

“Because [these people] live in a very animistic culture, encountering the spiritual realm on a daily basis is very much a reality for them,” Sarah shares. “The wife of a mother-tongue translator was being tormented by spirits to the point that one afternoon she fainted and collapsed. I was able to help get her to the hospital after the event occurred and heard more of her story of what all had transpired during this particular attack. Before she fainted there had been dark spirits who had been trying to pull her away from her husband (who is a strong believer), grabbing at her neck and trying to choke her. She said that that had happened on more than one occasion, where they were trying to pull her away from her husband, likely because he knows the truth.”

Trevor and Sarah see situations like this one as a visible sign of spiritual battle. “We have wanted to quit many times,” Trevor says, “because it feels like everything around us is either falling apart or becoming spiritually and physically dangerous. But then we step away from the situation,” he adds, “and see that the enemy is working so hard to capture and enslave these people because God seems to be on the brink of doing something absolutely amazing. We want to be there to see what he has in store, whether we’re directly involved or not!”

That’s why Trevor and Sarah both keep working to reach people with God’s Word in the language that speaks directly to their hearts.

“God continues to confirm in our hearts and minds that he has us right where he wants us for the time being,” Sarah says. “It is his work, and we are thankful to be a part of it for as long as he [will] allow us to remain [here].”



DEAR FRIENDS,

Isn't it amazing to be able to step back and see God's hand at work in our world? My Wycliffe USA colleagues and I recently celebrated the arrival of God's Word in the heart language of 16 different people groups. We heard stories about how God has worked in and through the Bible translation process.

We prayed that he would continue to speak directly and powerfully to their hearts now that they have his Word in their language. When people engage with this life-changing message, they find hope and God is exalted!

Trevor and Sarah have experienced this eternal hope for themselves, and now they are helping to share the Good News with others through Bible translation. Their faith in Christ and trust in God's sovereignty have allowed them to persevere, even in the midst of uncertain circumstances. They know God is at work, and they are willing to wait on him and — as Sarah says — hold their plans in open hands.

As you'll read in World Focus, God's Word has reached the Cakchiquel people of Guatemala and the Bum people of Cameroon in their heart languages, and they are praising God! We look forward to the day when the people with whom Trevor and Sarah work will also receive the Word, and God will be exalted there as well.

Thank you for your partnership with us and for helping to deliver God's message of hope to people in their own languages. Your prayers and investment in this work change lives. They bring hope into the hearts of people in every part of the world.

Warmly in Christ,

Bob Creson
President, CEO
Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

WORLD *focus*

GOD HAS REMEMBERED US — GUATEMALA

An amazing and unique distribution of 1,500 New Testaments took place on September 20, 2015. Cakchiquel distributors went from house to house, personally handing the people of Xenacoj God's Word in their own language. All of the New Testaments were given away, and the response was overwhelming! One of the Cakchiquel said, "No one ever thinks of us, but today, God has remembered us and sent these people to give us this gift — the Bible in our language." Praise God!

A COLORFUL DEDICATION — CAMEROON

Adorned in vibrant and colorful clothing, the Bum people celebrated the dedication of their New Testament! Two chiefs carried out the completed New Testament on top of the throne normally reserved for them, symbolizing the fact that God's Word has now become their authority. Let us rejoice over the fact that the Bum now have access to the hope and freedom of the gospel in their own language!

The 2016 Wycliffe calendar

Features inspiring Scripture verses with stunning photos of people from around the world.

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