

# THE PUBOLS POST

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”  
—Jeremiah 29:11, NIV



## THE MASTER WEAVER

God is an amazing weaver—a weaver of time, of situations, of relationships. It’s amazing to look back at how he has woven these together in our lives to create something we wouldn’t have expected—perhaps even something better than we imagined. And nothing is wasted. The Bible tells us in Romans 8:28 that God works everything together to create something good for those that love him. So, every last thread is used to form us into whom he wants us to be.

Over the last year, we’ve had time to consider and marvel at how God brought

each of us into this journey towards missions. Take a look at our looms, and see how the Weaver has been and is still working on us.

### How did I get here? (Jeff)

I can remember feeling a tug every time a missionary spoke at our church. At one point I had seriously considered traveling the world on one of YWAM’s Mercy Ships. But I had other things going on in my life, and at that point being a missionary was not on my agenda. Life went on, but even though I didn’t realize it at the time, God had begun to grow something in my heart.

For a while I served as an intern under the youth pastor at my home church. Because it was not part of the church budget, I had to raise my own financial support. It was challenging, but it gave me an opportunity to see God provide for my needs in ways I didn’t expect and hadn’t yet experienced. I was still working part time on my regular job, and then I moved into a position preparing and maintaining computers at our company’s main office. It was a new experience that I really enjoyed.

I took another position that came with an opportunity to travel. It gave me the chance to spend many of my weekends in Orlando visiting my friends Madison and Regina Trammel. At that time, Madison worked for Wycliffe.

In Orlando I met Heather who also worked for Wycliffe. After we got married, Heather began to talk about the possibility of us becoming missionaries with Wycliffe. At first it didn’t really interest me, but we began to pray about it together.

About three years later, I took a paid position at Wycliffe in their IT department. We continued to talk about becoming missionaries, and decided to begin the application process. At times I felt unsure and uncomfortable, but I continued on in submission to God and what he may have planned for us. I thought that God would bring clarity to me if I would take this step of faith.

And that clarity came. During a chapel I heard someone share John 6:27: “Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.” It struck me because in the past, I often found myself frustrated by the monotony of work that I thought meant nothing. I could see then that God had taken me down this path to show me that he could use my skills to do something that would endure for his kingdom.

### How did I get here? (Heather)

My calling to missions began in summer camp in eighth grade. During an evening prayer time, I sensed that God was calling me to become a missionary. But I didn’t have any context for missions. I’d never been to another country, and hadn’t imagined ever becoming

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## SOME FACTS ABOUT WYCLIFFE

Founded in 1942 by  
W. Cameron Townsend

Named after John  
Wycliffe who did the first  
English translation of the  
Bible in 1382

Mission: to see a Bible  
translation program in  
progress for every  
language still needing one  
by the year 2025.

Vision: that God’s Word  
is accessible to all people  
in a language that speaks  
to their heart.

## SOME FACTS ABOUT LANGUAGE & TRANSLATION

There are 6,912 known  
languages in the world

- 426 have a whole Bible
- 1115 have just the New Testament
- 862 have at least one book

**More than 270 million people do not have a single verse of scripture in a language they can understand well—their heart language**

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a missionary. I didn't really think about this experience again for many years, but God already had a plan worked out.

When I went to college, my roommate was a missionary kid (MK) from India. She taught me some about India and introduced me to Indian food—which I now love. She also engaged me in the MK community. Through that community I learned more about what it was like to live in another country and what God was doing in other places in the world.

After college, I went back to Rhode Island and worked at the CVS corporate headquarters, but I was restless. I wanted something more. My job was temporary, so I would need something else soon. I hoped to use my degree in communications in another job, and began to explore how I might use it for a ministry.

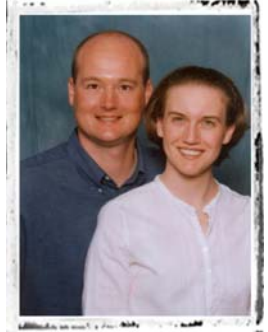
Each year we had a couple from Wycliffe come and speak at our church. They would usually show a video, and pass out some literature. So, I thought... "I wonder if Wycliffe could use someone with my skills."

I called their office and asked if they did anything with media. To my surprise, the person who answered the phone said they had opened a position in video production just the day before I called. I started working as a paid employee in April of 2000.

While working at Wycliffe my knowledge of missions increased dramatically. I even had opportunities to travel to see Bible translation taking place in other countries. God used those experiences to kindle my desire to fulfill his calling to me to become a missionary.

I now had a context for how I could fit into missions and thought God might be leading us in that direction. I asked Jeff if we could begin to pray about leaving paid staff and becoming supported missionaries with Wycliffe. We prayed for several years, and sometimes it was difficult for me to wait. But when God's time was right, we were accepted to be missionaries with Wycliffe.

PRAY FOR US



- Pray that we will soon receive confirmation on an assignment.
- Pray that God will impart a special measure of wisdom for us as we make plans for our transition.
- Pray that God will continue to strengthen our faith.

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

### Africa?

We've been looking into assignments in Nairobi, Kenya. A couple of possibilities are available for us--for Jeff it is working with the regional IT (computer) team, and for Heather it is serving as Wycliffe Africa Area Communications Director. We've expressed our interest. Now we are waiting to find out about specific training requirements and receive an invitation to accept these positions. It's not a definite plan, yet. But we're both excited about what could be.

### Preparation

Our heads are spinning with our list of things to do if we are invited to take these positions.

- What will we do with our house? Our stuff? Our cat?
- When will we begin to raise financial support full-time?

To fill an assignment in another country, we will need to complete a five-week course to prepare us for living and thriving in a culture that is not our own. That course is offered each year in August and January.

- When will we do it?
- What other training will we need?
- How else do we need to be preparing?

### How can you be involved?

It gives us confidence knowing that we aren't on this journey alone. God has purposefully woven you into our lives!

Attached to your email is a response form. It's our invitation for you to officially join with us as prayer and/or financial partners. To do this, print the form, complete it and mail it to Wycliffe, Attn: Donor Relations. We ask that you prayerfully consider this opportunity.

Perhaps you know some other people or churches that may be interested in partnering with us. Let us know if we can share about our ministry with your church, small group/ Bible study, or other venue.

## ▶ FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS  
P.O. BOX 628200  
ORLANDO, FL 32862-8200

Please include a note on a separate piece of paper indicating your gift is for the ministry of Jeff & Heather Pubols,  
Member Account #285548

**Contributions are tax deductible.**

## ▶ ON-LINE

**GIVE** (account 285548):  
<http://www.wycliffe.org/Donate/MissionaryMinistries.aspx>

By EFT:  
<http://www.wycliffe.org/Donate/WaystoGive/ElectronicFundsTransfer.aspx>

**PRAY:**  
<http://www.wycliffe.org/Pray/PrayOn/HowtoPrayfor/Missionaries.aspx>

## ▶ CORRESPONDENCE

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