

THE PUBOLS POST

"...I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." –Luke 2:10-11, NIV

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

More than 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ was born. Mary and Joseph were sleeping in a barn and away from home. The only visitors they had, that we know of, were some shepherds from the country-side. Shepherds, even at that time, were some of the more marginalized people of society—poor and probably smelly and dirty. And in the midst of this, lay a baby who was Emanuel—God with us.

You've probably heard this story every year for as long as you can remember. It's a long standing part of our culture and society. We can look forward to this holiday (Holy Day) because we know that Christ has come.

But for hundreds of millions of people around the world, this great story of God coming to earth is unknown. They've not yet heard of God's greatest gift to humanity—his son Jesus. Christmas has not yet come for them.

We hope that you enjoy this first edition of our newsletter. We've included a story about Christmas coming for the first time in a village in Southeast Asia. We've also included an update on what's going on with us.

May the blessing of Christmas fill you with joy!

-Jeff & Heather

CHRISTMAS IN KALUMPANG

BY BORGHY HOLM

After working for a whole year to translate the Christmas story into Kalumpang, a team of translators in Southeast Asia was thrilled when the story was finally complete. There were 90 congregations in the area, and the story was distributed to the churches for the first time, even though some congregations only received one or two copies.

The translators were happy to see people's excitement as they received their first Scriptures translated into their mother tongue. The community told the team, "We can understand this well. We're really happy to have this. If you produce more, please give us more again." One Sunday school teacher said enthusiastically, "Oh, this is really great! We can make a drama of it next year." The Scriptures in the mother tongue helped her make the truths of the Christmas story clear to her class. She explained, "We don't have to struggle anymore." In one family a child was reading the story, and even though it was mealtime, the reader didn't want to stop to eat until the story was finished.

A local translator who worked on the publication said that the Christmas story was, "just like a small piece of bread." He added, "We are proud that we are able to



give a piece of bread to the Kalumpang people." But he is determined to continue the translation project so his people can have more Scripture. "For me, there's no other choice. I can't step down from this task...I want to give them the whole loaf, the whole big loaf so they can enjoy it everyday."

What makes this translator so dedicated? It's simple: he has tasted the Word of God for himself. He explains, "The Bible is like food that gives me life, that gives me growth. It's like my breakfast, my lunch and my dinner."

PUBOLS YEAR IN REVIEW

This has been a quieter year for us with no international traveling as we've had in previous years. We continue to work at Wycliffe—Jeff in the Information Technology department, and Heather in Communications.

In July, Heather made a trip to Rhode Island for her mother's birthday and the birthday of her brother and sister-in-law's twins—Grace and Aaron Guiney. Grace and Aaron are now three years old and full of energy! While she was home, she spoke at her home church about the importance of following God's calling.

In mid-August, we headed out to northern California for a vacation and Jeff's family reunion. We made stops in Pointe Reyes, San Francisco and the Santa Cruz area before heading to Camp Sierra for the reunion. Almost all of Jeff's mother's siblings were at the reunion with many members of their families. It was a fun time to visit with everyone and enjoy the beauty of the Sierra Mountains. We saw some trees that were over 1500 years old in one part of the forest. At the end of the visit, Heather got to participate in a fun family initiation. OH-WAH-TAH-GOO-SIAM—can you figure it out??

Our major focus this year has been on completing the application process with Wycliffe Bible Translators. You may remember that we started the process last year,

but took a break, hoping to pick things up again this year. In August, we were finally accepted as full-time missionaries (members).

In November we attended a two-week orientation training for new members. Twenty-eight other adults participated with us, each planning to serve Wycliffe somewhere in the world.

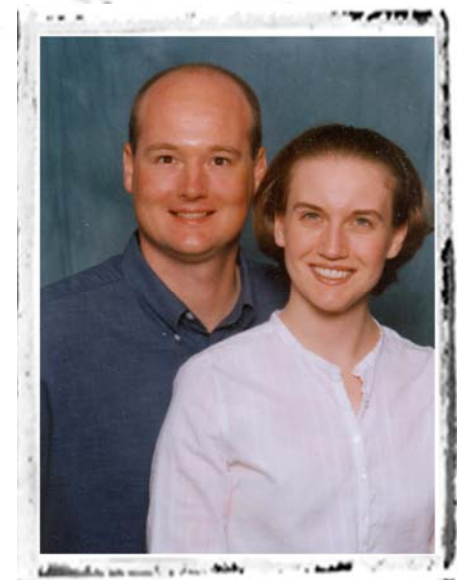
WHAT'S NEXT?

We are looking into possible assignments and working with our personnel administrator to find the best location and jobs for us. While Wycliffe's primary focus is linguistics and Bible translation, many people serve in roles that support that work such as finance, computers (IT), management, media production, etc. We will probably fill support roles using the professional skills that we already have—IT and media.

We are also working to put together a team of ministry partners. Ministry partners are ordinary people who participate in our ministry.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can be a ministry partner. One key way ministry partners are involved



is through prayer. It is the most important contribution you can make to our ministry.

Here are some scriptural principles that we'd encourage you to pray for us:

From Philippians 1:9-11—*pray that our love will abound in depth and knowledge so that we may be able to discern what is best and will be pure and blameless and filled with the fruit of righteousness from Christ.*

From Colossians 4:12—*pray that we will stand firm in ALL the will of God.*

From Philippians 4:6—*pray that we will not be anxious and will present our requests to God.*

From John 17:20—*pray for those who have not yet heard and will come to faith.*

We'll be telling you about some other ways you can be a ministry partner in our future newsletters.

▶ CORRESPONDENCE

JEFF_PUBOLS@WYCLIFFE.ORG

HEATHER_PUBOLS@WYCLIFFE.ORG

206 TWISTING TRAIL

ORLANDO, FL 32825

▶ 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, Account #285548

Contributions are tax deductible.

▶ MAILING LIST

Do you know someone that is not currently receiving our letter that would like to get it? Please let us know, and we'll update our mailing list. THANKS!

Wycliffe