

# THE PUBOLS POST

*“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” – Isaiah 7:14, NIV*

## Hearing the Christmas story again –for the first time

Christmas was coming. On the Cape Verde Islands off the coast of West Africa, the Cape Verdean translation team was hard at work translating the Gospel of Luke into their mother tongue— Kabuverdianu. When they completed the first two chapters, they gave a copy to their pastor and asked him to review it.

The first Sunday in December came, and the pastor began his sermon as he always did, asking the congregation to stand for the reading of God’s Word. This time, however, instead of opening the Bible in the official language, Portuguese, he opened his copy of the verses recently drafted into Kabuverdianu.

As the congregation listened intently, he read the passage. Pausing, he exclaimed, “It tastes so good, it tastes so good!” Then he started reading again and didn’t stop until he’d finished the entire chapter, reading with the confidence and expression of someone

who understood and cherished every word.

The translation team began to sob. A row of teenage girls stared at each other in wide-eyed wonder and then dissolved into a group hug. Eyes glistened with tears. As the last word was read, a spontaneous cheer erupted: “Amen! Hallelujah!” The service closed with many hugs for those who had worked on the translation.

After the service, a woman who was educated in the official language approached a team member and said that at first she tried to follow along in her Portuguese Bible, but then she decided to close her eyes and just listen as the pastor read in her own language.

“I let the words fall over me,” she said. “For the first time in my life I felt washed by the Word. I thought I knew the Christmas story by heart, but I must confess that today I feel like I’ve heard it for the very first time.”

*This story, written by Bob Creson, was adapted from the original which appears on [thewordislife.net](http://thewordislife.net)*

## Our Year In Review

We’ve nearly completed two full years in Africa. This has been another full year of new experiences and opportunities for us to use our gifts and talents to further God’s work in Bible translation ministry.

Jeff began the year helping the IT team in Nairobi set up computer equipment in a newly constructed office building. A new server was purchased, and a friend of ours, Jon Limmer, from the US came to help the IT team set it up. Jeff took Jon on a weekend trip to the local game park, so Jon could see African animals like lions and zebra in the wild.

At the same time, I was traveling with two volunteers in Cameroon and Chad. We were gathering stories and photographs for Wycliffe publicity. Our journeys took us from the capital of Cameroon to the far west of Chad, less than 50 miles from the boarder of DarFur, Sudan.

After I returned to Nairobi, we were both invited to attend a workshop in Johannesburg with the Wycliffe South Africa team. We were encouraged to consider moving to South Africa. Before, during and after the workshop we spent time exploring the country and asking colleagues who lived there



**Story gathering in Cameroon.** Heather led a media gathering trip with two volunteers in January of 2009.

**Remote Support.** Jeff is the first remote IT technician that is part of the new Euro-Africa IT initiative.



## Year in Review (Continued)

many questions. It was a positive experience, and we began to explore a possible move more seriously. While I could continue in my same role, Jeff would need to find a new position.

April and May we were in Nairobi continuing with our regular work activities. I sent a volunteer media team to Mozambique. We met up with them briefly on their stop-over in Nairobi before they continued to Mozambique.

At the end of May Jeff attended a workshop in Nairobi on using remote IT tools. A friend, Norm Quisumbing, who we knew in Florida was also there. We got to spend some time catching up.

In June, I went to Ghana to do some communications training. While I was gone, Jeff was offered a new position as an remote IT specialist. This was part of a new initiative of the IT team in Europe to provide remote services to staff working in Europe and Africa.

The position came with an invitation for both of us to go to the Europe area meetings so that Jeff could meet his new team. At the end of June, we went to Austria for the meetings.

We planned our travel in Europe, so that we could meet up with my sister,

Ashley, in the UK before flying to Kenya. For a week she shared in a little of our life in Kenya.

About two weeks after she left, we were on a plane to Johannesburg. We spent one month with our colleagues in that area before moving further south to Cape Town.

Three weeks after we arrived in Cape Town, we completed our office set up and were nearly set up in our new apartment.

At the end of September I made a trip to Singapore for a week to meet with global Wycliffe leaders. Then in October we both participated on the volunteer staff of Cape Town 2010 – the third Lausanne Congress on world evangelization.

In November we visited a YWAM base where Heather helped with a communications workshop and Jeff did repairs to a couple of computers. Jeff's remote IT service to offices outside of South Africa also officially launched in mid-November.

This December we've been enjoying experiencing some Cape Town Christmas traditions with some new friends. We continue to be thankful for your faithful support of our ministry. You make our service possible. We wouldn't be here without you!



**JEFF & HEATHER PUBOLS**

Serving Wycliffe in Africa with their skills in Computers and Communications

## ■ FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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## Prayer & Praises

- Praise God for helping us to get our new home and office set up quickly, and for a return to a regular routine.
- Praise God for new opportunities for Heather to partner with other ministries in communications.
- Praise God for our team of prayer and financial supporters.
- Pray for God to provide wisdom to Jeff and his team working on the Euro-Africa remote IT initiative.
- Pray for God to give Heather wisdom in plans for gathering Wycliffe publicity stories in the coming year.
- Pray for good health and safety.