

Trekkin' Times



Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran up to it and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. He asked him,

"Do you understand what you're reading?" The man replied, "How in the world can I, unless someone guides me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Acts 8:29-31 (NET)

Dear Friends, as exotic as it is to live in Asia, it's become normal to us. For E, America is the "exotic" place. In August, I (S) got to travel to Africa (Cameroon) for the first time. I was helping facilitate another Bible website workshop. That felt exotic to me! I've decided that this newsletter's theme would be based on the story of Philip and the African eunuch, from Acts 8: 26-40. It's a story about a man who wanted to understand God's Word, and the Holy Spirit guiding Philip to use the Bible to teach him about Jesus.

God wants us to know Him. For those who want to know God, He will make a way – using His Word and His *people*. That is still true today.



Making the Bible accessible – The African eunuch had a scroll of Isaiah. We don't think of scrolls and books as "technology", but they really are. One book can be read by thousands of people, it doesn't require any power in daytime, and can preserve information for hundreds of years. Unlike the African man's scroll – which had to be painstakingly copied by hand – our books can be mass-produced by printing presses.

Now, people can have entire libraries on their phones and other electronic devices – transmitted by invisible waves in the air. We, like many of you, have a Bible app on our phones with many English translations and a few other languages. Yet people have the same problem today as the African eunuch – *what does it mean? Who can explain it to me?*

In our website workshop in Cameroon, Africa, we had 25 participants from 13 languages, most of whom are Bible translators, working to get God's Word translated in their own languages. They came to learn how to build and maintain a Bible website,

so that their people could have easy and free access to the Bible in their own languages. Most of them have experience with Bible translation, but no experience building a website.

Like the African eunuch, the workshop participants needed someone to explain something they didn't understand. Like Philip, my colleague and I, by God's grace, had the information they needed. Now they can go on their way rejoicing, because they can share Jesus with their people, through the 13 websites that they built!

**Please don't share
our newsletter
without asking us
first – thanks!**



The Fon on a Phone – All of the participants live in a part of Cameroon where each tribe has a king-like ruler, called the Fon (pronounced “phone”). Many of the participants put their Fon’s picture on their website’s homepage. It was a sign of respect. This was new to me! Usually, people choose a few beautiful pictures of their area, depicting the landscape or their culture, etc. This “hooks” visitors to look further at the website, and find the Bible in text, audio or video. As we discovered, the Fon was often the main person who was promoting Christianity in the tribe, and highly respected by all. When people see the Fon on their phone, they are excited to learn more.



A participant getting his certificate of completion



Going on our way, rejoicing – Most of the time, we are just going about our daily lives in Asia. J and L2 are more than 25% through their 11th and 5th grades. For us, there’s no 3-month summer break, for kids or parents! L1 and his uncle just finished a 3-month electrician course. Now L1 is looking for some jobs to do until October, when he will be doing an 8-week discipleship course here. He will be living away from home during this time, and bonding with the other participants. We ask for your prayers that he would build great friendships, draw closer to Jesus, and discover the next steps in his journey into adulthood. He turns 18 in October!



E has been guiding the construction workers on our house. There are always issues, so she must be closely involved. We had very much hoped to report that the roof was on by now, but sadly, it’s not. It is close though. There will still be LOADS of work to do after the roof is on, but it will look very different, and will signal a big move forward. And maybe, just maybe, we’ll be able to say that we’ve moved into the house by our *February* newsletter. Please pray.

Thank you for upholding us in your prayers, for your messages to us, for your financial partnership – all the ways you bless us! May God use each of us to reach someone who wants to know Jesus!

In Christ,

The T Family



The T Family

To contact the T Family, please ask the church office for our contact information.

Wycliffe 

Wycliffe Bible Translators

PO Box 628200

Orlando, FL 32862-8200

www.wycliffe.org

1-800-WYCLIFFE (1-800-992-5433)

If you’re interested in financial partnership with the T Family, again, please contact the church office. Thank you!