

# Trekkin' Times



Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people [Greek: **oikos**] and tell them how much God has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” – Mark 5:19 (NET)

**The Friends and Family Plan** – When I was a kid, there was a landline phone company that allowed cheap calls to and from people in your circle who were also on the plan. It was a way to get people to network, and bring in more business for the company.

In our project, we teach a concept called “**Oikos**”. In biblical Greek, it means “house” or “household”. We teach all of our participants to make a list of 20 people – family, friends and neighbors – who are not Christians. We tell them to pray for those people every day, and then make a plan to share the Bible stories with 5 or more of them between each workshop. This gives them a plan and a goal, and it keeps God in the center. It also protects them – in this country, Christians are being sent to jail for sharing their faith in Jesus. If our participants tell their Bible stories to family, friends and close neighbors, they are less likely to be turned over to police. Of course, we encourage our teams to tell the Bible stories to anyone they want to! But for those who are more timid, the Oikos list is very helpful.



**Mountain languages unite!** – In our last newsletter, we shared our struggles with getting the mountain languages together to learn Bible storying. Thanks to your prayers and God’s grace, we were able to get all three mountain languages through their first workshop separately. In early April, they all finally came together for their second workshop. But please don’t stop praying! We’re still struggling – a little worm is keeping one of the groups from coming to our next planned workshop...

**The Family Business** – For one of our mountain teams (the **M** group), this is a very special time of year. For about 1 month, they go further up into the mountains and harvest a special type of worm. The worm dies in the ground, and a particular fungus grows from the body. It comes out of the ground, and the **M** people harvest it. They sell it to international buyers for hundreds of dollars per pound – it supposedly has great medicinal properties. For the **M** people, it has become one of their main sources of income, and it can only be harvested at this time of year. We tried to work around this harvest schedule, but there was a mix-up (sigh). So we’ll train the other 2 languages – **G** and **T**, and catch the **M** people up sometime this summer.

**The “Easy” Ones** – While we seem to have constant challenges with the mountain language teams, the other six language teams are right on schedule! We had 2 workshops at the end of May, and each language translated 3-4 more stories.



**Not just for breakfast anymore** – You may find Oikos in the yogurt section of the grocery store, but you also have your own “oikos” – your circle of family, friends, neighbors...and church family! May we ask you a favor? Would you consider making an Oikos list of church friends, and pray for opportunities to share our Wycliffe ministry with them? That would be a great blessing.

As we’ve shared in the past, each year our Wycliffe ministry budget goes up a little bit, and gifts to our Wycliffe ministry drop a bit. It’s not easy to meet new financial partners from overseas. If some of you, our partners, tell your friends about our Wycliffe ministry (as God leads you), then by God’s grace our financial partner base can grow to keep up with increased costs of living. Thank you so much for considering it.

**Our Family Circle** – L [redacted] and J [redacted] have finished 6<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades, and their books for the new school year are already here! Little L [redacted] is coming along in learning her alphabet and numbers – we can’t wait until she discovers the joys of reading, as her older siblings have. E [redacted] will take a break as the music student in our family, and I will take her place over the next few months, for the sake of our visas here. And pretty soon, E [redacted]’s father and sister will come for a visit. We thank God for abundant lives.

Thank you for your prayers, your gifts and your encouraging notes, as always! This time, we especially thank you for considering to make your own “oikos list” of friends and family with whom you can share our Wycliffe ministry. Have a great Summer!



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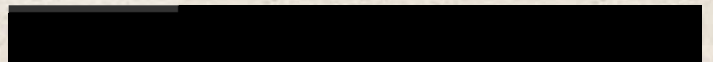
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In Christ,



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