

Pfantz Family News

November 2011

What were you doing 25 years ago? A certificate recognizing our work with Wycliffe arrived in the mail reminding us what we were up to! Besides undergoing a mild form of culture shock while living in Texas (is “yall” really a word?), linguistic studies had us pronouncing exotic sounds, head scratching over grammar, and decoding sound systems from around the world.

All this while were just being welcomed as new members into Wycliffe Bible Translators. Here is what we looked like then.



As we look back on the past 25 years, we are so thankful for all God has done in our lives and for you, our friends, family, and partners, who have walked beside us on this fascinating journey. It hasn't always been easy, but we have never been alone. God goes before us, and you have been at our side.

And yes, at times we would like to go back to the place in our lives captured by this photo... But, the exciting aspect about this journey of being part of the great work of Bible translation is that it keeps getting better! We look back in thankfulness and look forward with excitement.

Here is a visual of the big picture of Bible translation. It can be divided up into four “waves”.

| Wave & Time | Key Players | Characterized by |
|---|--|---|
| First Early church to the 1900s | Jerome, Wycliffe, Luther, Tyndale, Carey, and others | Independently produced their own translations in large languages. |
| Second 20 th century | William Cameron Townsend | Every language needs a translation. Founded Wycliffe Bible Translators. One translation team was assigned to one language group, no matter how small, difficult, or remote. Other organizations formed as well. |
| Third 1999 | Vision 2025 | Realizing that the current rate of translation was unacceptable, Wycliffe committed to start a translation program in every language needing it by 2025. The cluster approach was a new method where teams of translators worked on several language translations all at once & shared resources. |
| Fourth Now | The Seed Company | The fastest acceleration of Bible translation in history is occurring and involves empowering nationals to translate their own languages, developing partnerships, and leveraging technology |

Ok, here is another question: Would you like to take a guess at how many deaf sign languages there are in the world? The answer is: we really don't know the exact number! There are 130 known sign languages. For a listing of them go to: http://www.ethnologue.com/show_family.asp?subid=23-16.



Recently Dunc attended two conferences run by deaf people who want to have the Bible made available to all the deaf peoples of the world. The number 400 was presented as an estimate of how many sign languages are used world-wide.

He represented The Seed Company and their commitment to help make God's Word available to all the language communities who need it, including those of the world's deaf peoples. There are about 40 sign languages in the Eurasia area. In this photo, while Dunc is speaking, his words are being signed into 5 different sign languages – see if you can spot each of the 5 signers.

Since these conferences Dunc has started interacting with teams from four sign languages to see how we can help them.

During this time of giving thanks, we are so very thankful for God's great love for humanity, the privilege of being part of the great work of Bible translation for a quarter of a century, with the hope of being able to keep on giving, and for you, our wonderful family, friends, and partners.

Mary Pfantz

What are the kids up to???

Leah & Brent: Living/working in the Windy City (Chicago). Current interest: Newlywed-ness.

Neal: Taking time off of school to address some health needs, living at home, working at a sub sandwich shop. Current interest: Rebuilding computers.

Ryan: Freshman at Wheaton College. Current interest: Conquering the Rubik's Cube.

Levi: Besides acting in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever", recently he's been growing about half an inch per month. Current interest: Food.



God's Word
For Every Language
—In This Generation

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