



A word from the Watsons

Dick and Sandra Watson

Serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators since 1958

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Dick writes . . .

This Friday, August 27, I will be flying to SE Asia via Bangkok for six weeks. Last year I was able to make two trips, spending almost five months there. Sandra joined me for four weeks in April 2009, making it possible for me to be in the area longer.

I had three opportunities to work with Buot last year, but each visit was only two weeks. So we were not able to accomplish as much as we would have liked. Since I have been home longer this year, I've been able to do more verse by verse checking as well as having a consultant go through the Gospel of Mark. I've made a list of questions to go over with Buot. As we work together I can give him more background to understand a passage and discuss better ways of saying it in Coh. I have received some of Buot's translation drafts by e-mail. A friend photographs his handwritten pages and sends them to me. I've keyboarded those drafts and made copies to take with me. Due to recent problems, I don't know if our previous meeting place will be available so I'm not sure where we'll meet on this coming trip.

In addition to working with Buot, I've worked on two other projects during my trips. One of these projects is making Scripture and other material available to Coh speakers in a neighboring country --- people who I had brief contact with in 2007. They were interested but couldn't read the Romanized alphabet. They can only read the L script. Last October during a quick trip to their village, I gave them copies of two stories in three varieties of their alphabet. The men I talked with were able to read them. We agreed to meet during my next trip to discuss which they think is best. When and how this will work out is a matter for prayer. Rainy season makes travel difficult plus local authorities "discourage" outside visitors to that area. We need to meet in a city if it can be arranged.

The other project is with the Cado language, considered to be a dialect of Coh. In March 2009 I was introduced to Vung from "the neighboring country" who was thought to be Coh but is actually Cado. Since his village is near the Bru, he speaks that language as well. He was led to Christ by a Bru evangelist who also taught him to read from the Bru New Testament. His copy is well worn and I thought we could use the computer program Adapt It to "adapt" from Bru to Cado. Using the Bru translation of Paul's letter to Philemon as our source, the computer helped us adapt most of it into Cado in the short period of time we had to work together.

In September 2009, Vung attended a workshop for national translators where we finished Philemon and went on to I Peter. That went so well that I asked him if he would stay for another week to start on the Gospel of Mark. We actually finished a draft of Mark during that time. I printed copies for him to take home and work on with others in his village. Arrangements are being made for Vung and his son to meet me at the workshop center week after next to continue work on a New Testament in Cado.

Since our last letter of September 2009 . . .

Saundra writes . . .

Larry married Karen Swindell in a lovely ceremony on November 6th at the Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton, CA. After a short honeymoon, they loaded Karen's things into a rental truck and drove cross-country to join us here in North Carolina. It is such a blessing to have three of our four children and families close by. Carrie and Ward are in Virginia and not too far away.

May 14, 2010 was our fiftieth wedding anniversary. Our children hosted a lovely Open House for us on Sunday, May 16th. They presented us with a beautiful printed album which Karen had compiled, with 50 years of photos and remembrances. Many of you knew about that and sent messages and photos which are included in the book. Thanks so much! We wish you all could see it.

Fifty-two years ago this month, we were accepted as members of Wycliffe Bible Translators. We met during our training that summer and were just getting acquainted. It has been a great privilege to be involved in Scripture translation and supporting roles through these years. Without your partnership with us on this journey, we wouldn't have made it this far. Thank you!

Prayer Points

- Dick's safety and good health during his travels
- For good connections and timing in working with Buot, Vung and others.
- For others to take up these projects who can give more time than Dick is able to on these short trips
- Pray that I (Saundra) will have a peaceful heart and not worry. Thankfully, Dick can e-mail most days, depending on his location.

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Out of Africa...

*Some of you may remember our asking prayer that the Keliko people of Southern Sudan would have the Scripture in their language. There are believers and churches, but the Bible they use is in another language. We have had a particular interest in this project over the years. **The SIL-Sudan News Bulletin, July 2010** reports progress by the Keliko translation team working in Juba, Sudan. "At considerable personal sacrifice they have left their families either in Uganda or in their home area, and have come to live and work in Juba so that their people can have their own Bible. At present this is the only place where they have access to electricity, an IT expert to help them with computer problems, and a translation consultant. They have already translated about half of the New Testament, either in Juba or during the time when they were in Uganda during the civil war, but there is still a long way to go before it is finished."*