

# *Lais of the Nile*

*Christmas 2005*



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www.Wycliffe.org.au www.SIL.org www.JAARS.org

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

We are sending you our 2005 Christmas greetings from the USA. It is a long way from Africa to America, but Jesus traveled the farthest from Heaven to Earth to save our lives! May God fill you with joy during this Christmas time to remember Jesus' birth!

## **Management Training and Development Course (MDOC)**

After serving in East Africa for the past seven years, it is an appropriate time for us to upgrade our management skills and learn more thoroughly about the operations of Wycliffe. Our whole family is here together, finally, despite all the troubles of visa application, packing, traveling and facing the challenge of living in a new culture! We have been learning a lot here!

The main purpose of this time was to take the intensive MDOC at Dallas, where our Wycliffe International headquarters and training center is located. This four-month course covered many modules (e.g. Wycliffe organization and its culture, time management, team building, personnel management, management tools, transition management, crisis and contingency, intercultural management, children's education, public affairs, language program management, funding development and some others.)

This year there were 15 participants. We were required to do additional reading, case studies and presentations. We found the ideas and experience exchanged in the class were as valuable as the new skills and knowledge transferred. Daniel received excellent comments for his

two presentations on "Culture of Chinese Management" and "Strategic Planning Management Tool".

## **Our Finance Roles in Africa and Internship in Dallas**

Due to shortage of staff, we are still remotely managing our field's finance roles through emails during MDOC. After several months' hard work, the fiscal year-end was smoothly closed by the end of November, a week earlier than the expected deadline. Also, Dominica successfully coached a Ugandan staff member to take over many of her finance jobs in Entebbe.

We were both assigned to take an internship at the Vice President of Finance's office of SIL International. We helped in three projects and found them very practical. Through researching and recommendation on a web-based timesheet system, Dominica felt excited to renew her computer system skills. It is wonderful to engage the internet technology like live chat and 'webinar'. (Web-seminar: a live demonstration using Internet)

We are looking for how we can apply our management and development skills after we return to Africa in February 2006. Also, the headquarters of the Uganda-Tanzania Branch will move to Tanzania. Please pray for suitable opportunities to serve Him.

## **From RVA to DHS**

Moving to Dallas, Nathaniel and Hannah encountered a "big" culture shock joining in the local Duncanville High School (DHS) with 4000 students and a huge campus. However, they are enrolled in many pre-advanced placement classes and the marching band.

In early September, they joined a retreat camp organized by our Wycliffe's Missionary Kids (MK) Fellowship. It was a big blessing and knowing other MKs in DHS proved to be great support. The fellowship also arranged many fun activities like a 'rodeo' (Texas cowboys contest) and 'progressive dinner' (similar to caroling to different homes and given meals). They will resume schooling at Rift Valley Academy next January.

## **Friends new and old: one is silver the other gold**

Before we came to Dallas, we only knew a few Wycliffe colleagues. Since that time Daniel has found four students who studied at the high school that he taught some 30 years ago – one couple are even grandparents now! He has

also met two very long time friends from England and Scotland – one is a very mission-minded pastor who has a heart to pioneer some mission work in Africa, the other is now an associate professor of music at Baylor University. We are also treated regularly to Sunday fellowship gourmet meal by a student, her husband and a pastor's family.

We spent our first USA Thanksgiving in Houston this year. We were able to reconnect with two of Dominica's long time alumni friends from Saskatoon, Grace Chui and her family, and our host Howard Wan and his family. We experienced the travel mercy and protection by our Lord as we drove our 18-year-old car for the five-hour journey.

## **More Ministry Opportunities in N.America**

There are more than 20 Chinese churches in Dallas and we even ran out of time to visit all of them. Nevertheless, we have joined a warm home group from Arlington Chinese Church, the church where our children prefer to worship regularly. We praise God that we had several preaching opportunities in other Dallas Chinese churches as well

At the end of October, Daniel flew to Rochester, New York for the mission conference at Rochester Chinese Christian church. Daniel shared at six different sessions. PTL! When Daniel gave an invitation at the afternoon worship service three people dedicated their lives to missions.

From 26-31 December, 2005, Daniel will share at the Chinese Mission Mobilization Conference mainly organized by Great Commission Center International. Then we shall share at several Chinese churches and pastoral fellowships in Vancouver, Calgary & Edmonton from January to February in 2006. These speaking opportunities are lined up by Wycliffe Canada. You are welcome to contact us through Daniel's high school classmate Samantha Siu on +(604)241-9897 if you are in Canada. Please pray for appropriate messages to glorify God especially at the Annual Mission Conference of Edmonton Chinese Christian Church from 1-5 February.

## **Family, Health and Roles**

We have done our medical check up at the Wycliffe Health Center here. We are generally 'healthy' but we need medication to control our cholesterol. Dominica is advised by her doctor to increase her high blood pressure

drug dosage because of heredity and age. She regularly walks for 40 minutes every morning.

**Another new Chinese Member from Wycliffe Australia**

Do you remember our friend Jessie Wei? She decided to apply with Wycliffe Australia after visiting us in Africa some years ago. She has already been accepted as a missionary. According to Wycliffe's policy, she has to have all of her support pledged before she can leave in April 2006. Please pray for her partnership development now. Lord willing, she will come to Kenya to serve as a computer specialist with Eastern Congo Group. Please pray for her and if you are interested in supporting her financially, please contact her or Wycliffe Australia.

**Praise and Prayer Summary:**

- Give thanks for the time in USA as a family. Please pray for health and for our family to be a witness for Christ to others.
- Give thanks for many things we learned in MDOC. Please pray for our children's study and our suitable roles to apply what we learned when we return to Africa in mid-February of 2006.
- Thanks be to God for the many speaking opportunities in North America. Pray for the message and follow-up work on all the seeds sown in promoting missions.
- PTL for another Chinese Wycliffe missionary from Australia. Please pray for her partnership development.

Emmanuel

*Daniel and Dominica Lai,  
Nathaniel and Hannah.*

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**Nathaniel & Hannah dressed in the Marching Band uniform (Oct 05)**



**Daniel presenting "Chinese Culture and Management" MDOC class (Nov 05)**



**A Family Day out to "Six Flags over Texas" (Oct 05)**

*Lai on the Nile, Christmas 2005*

If undelivered, please return to  
PO Box 750, Entebbe,  
Uganda

**Vision 2025: We embrace the vision that by the year 2025 a Bible translation project will be in progress for every people group that needs it.**