

The Wienecke Wire

Time For A Change?

Change a tire? A diaper? A politician? The oil?
The weather? From your dollar? Change your attitude?
Your clothes? Your mind? Your job?

Well...yes. The world is changing rapidly, and the world of Wycliffe is struggling to change fast enough to keep up with it. It certainly seems like the only thing that stays the same is the CERTAINTY OF CHANGE.

Change at JAARS

Back in late February 2006, the Information Technology (IT) leadership at JAARS made the difficult decision to restructure the duties of my department, the IT Mobilization group. A major upshot of that action was that, as of June 30, my department transferred the work of recruiting full-time IT missionaries to Wycliffe USA (JAARS' Orlando-based "sister" in the Wycliffe family of organizations).

Recruiting new IT missionaries was really our primary activity amid a handful of other important but smaller tasks that helped IT professionals get plugged into Bible translation. The recruiting function is formally the responsibility of Wycliffe USA, Wycliffe Canada, Wycliffe UK and so on, and JAARS only started handling the task years ago because it had more IT "people resources" for recruiting. Having Wycliffe USA "take back" this function has always been a possibility, once they developed their own IT recruiting staff. In parallel, JAARS leadership saw an incoming raft of new IT responsibilities and wanted to "clear the decks" to get ready for them.

My department now helps coordinate the assignment of IT volunteers to projects at JAARS (and some around the world), evaluates the technical skills of IT workers for new assignments, provides speakers for the "Check-IT-Out" seminars (<http://www.wysite.org/sites/checkitout/>), and handles a number of other locally-oriented JAARS operations.

Consequently, my group and I are now explicitly out of the recruiting-tool development business. A large part of my work here has been developing software and web-based tools to automate the "grunt work" parts of what we do and facilitate cooperation among all the Wycliffe-family groups involved.

Change for Ken

After a good bit of prayer, evaluation and reflection, I have concluded that a large part of what I have to offer (my tool-building ability) no longer fits my current job as it has been redefined. I had a very good meeting about this with my supervisor to discuss my options. Among other things, he suggested an idea that was new to my ruminations: be loaned to the Wycliffe USA IT recruiting group (which wants a tool-builder) for 5-1/2 months. This would allow me to retain my organizational affiliation with JAARS, keep building much-needed tools and "try out" a reassignment option. I would "telecommute" to Orlando and not have to move.

So, the big question for us is...does *God* have another role for us in Wycliffe that would better fit *His* purposes? Does He want us to stay in the "sending forth laborers" domain, or is He leading us in some other direction altogether? At this unexpected crossroad, Katy and I are asking Him to show us what He would have us do. We have plenty of options, but we want God's decision.

We would ask you to pray for us to "hear well." Our pastor preached Sunday about God's sovereign plan which had Moses spending 40 years in the desert before he left to confront Pharaoh. Forty years earlier Moses had tried to take the salvation of the children of Israel into his own hands. It didn't work! In the desert God was effectively saying: "Don't just do something...stand there!" That's where we are right now, waiting to hear from Him.

Change for Katy

As many of you know, we have been home-educating our children for 4+ years now. We've been involved with several home school support groups over the years, but this year Katy stepped up to become a paid English-grammar instructor for our "Classical Conversations" home school group.

This new role has been a *very* stretching and time-consuming pursuit for her, but God is walking her through it and giving joy in the journey.



Katy has also made some changes to our school program at home with Charissa and Christopher that are bearing good fruit. God's most recent reward to Katy for her faithful exertions came this week through Christopher (who had been developing a worrisome distaste for all things academic): "This is a **fun** school year!"

Change for Christopher

Christopher, age 9.75, is doing 4th grade material this year. He is also entering his second year studying piano under Mrs. Audrey Slack, an exceptional teacher who is freely contributing her expertise to Christopher's benefit!



Change for Charissa

Being the type who has to learn things experientially, Charissa, our 7-year-old 2nd grader, has nearly completed a significant research project in Physics. By accumulating potential energy during a monkey-bar ascent, then converting it to kinetic energy under gravitational influence, she has studied both moderate acceleration and extreme deceleration. Always the multi-tasker, she simultaneously used her forearm to demonstrate the conversion of kinetic energy to a financial transaction! (The cast just came off this week!)



Change is still needed

We are happy to report that our average income over the last 12 months has increased to 91% of Wycliffe's specified quota! **Huge thanks** to those of you who have helped make this happen. *Please continue to pray with us for God's provision of the full need.*

NO Change in God!

God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill? — Numbers 23:19

We appreciate you!

Ken, Katy, Christopher and Charissa

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