

The Wienecke Wire

Change is a-Happenin'!

The last Wienecke Wire you saw (Sept. '06) talked about the possibility of a change in our ministry focus. We have been waiting for God to clarify all of the factors concerning what we had been and should be doing as part of the Great Commission. We praise God because **just last week He finalized the details of a new ministry focus.**

What was, and is, and is to come

As you recall, I (Ken) have been working at JAARS, totally focused for the last four years on recruiting and helping integrate Information Technology (IT) professionals into the computing-support side of Bible translation. For the last year we have been watching organizational changes and praying about our role. Earlier this month I became certain that God would have us move in a new direction, so I resigned from my current role, effective March 16. Until then I will help produce what may be my last Check-IT-Out conference (www.jaars.org/checkitout) and help tie up loose ends for my colleagues.

We will continue as members of Wycliffe, and we will still be focused on supporting Bible translation. It's just that now we will be doing it from within the...

Non-Roman Script Initiative (NRSI)

This is the name of the group which creates the digital underpinnings required to "computerize" a "non-Roman" writing system (like Hebrew, Mongolian or Arabic). We refer to these writing systems as "complex scripts" because of the challenge inherent in using them on a computer. Of the almost **2300** language groups still needing at least New Testament translations, **more than 600 will need to be written using a complex script.** Most of those scripts have never been implemented digitally. This means that existing software used to edit and analyze texts cannot display or manipulate the scripts for these languages. *Bible translation for those language*

groups simply cannot happen until someone does the engineering work to "computerize" their very complex writing systems. The NRSI is the group of people who do this kind of work in Wycliffe, and I will soon become a Systems Engineer in NRSI. The group is based in Dallas, TX, but I will work "remotely" via the Internet from my home here in NC next door to JAARS.

The back side of this page shows a few non-Roman writing systems which have already been digitally built. Hundreds remain "undigital," and you'll notice that the greatest density of need lies in the 10/40 Window. We will write more about all this in a future letter.

But first...

Wycliffe requires that members changing assignments be fully financially supported before they can start working. Praise God! - We now have 95% of what we need! Before we begin our new role with NRSI we are praying to add a few regular supporters to our existing team of partners. We will also have some one-time expenses related to improving my office at home. **Please pray with us about the fiscal side of this new work, and ask God to lead us clearly through the upcoming changes.**

Other good news

God is doing great things in our family! Christopher just started in Cub Scouts, and is doing very well in his second year of piano; Charissa becomes more affectionate everyday; homeschooling is going well; we've been enjoying our Friday night small group studying The Truth Project; Katy and I will soon start a video study to enrich our marriage and address some long-standing issues; AND we are planning a long-needed major Northeastern trip in April or May to visit many of you. You are a central part of this ministry, and we appreciate you greatly!

God bless you, friends! *Ken, Katy, Christopher and Charissa*

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