

Our Relationship with Wycliffe Bible Translators and AFLC World Missions

As of January 2008, we have entered the Missionary on Loan Program between Association Free Lutheran Congregations World Missions and Wycliffe Bible Translators. We therefore represent these organizations to one another as missionaries to the Bible-less in the support role of Information Technology to 6,000+ Wycliffe missionaries around the world. This working agreement mutually between AFLC World Missions and Wycliffe Bible Translators states:

“The AFLC recognizes that Wycliffe US is a ministry that is carrying out the Great Commission to win people to a saving relationship with God the Father through faith in His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, the AFLC commends the ministry of Wycliffe US to its people.”

“We recognize the bond of Christian fellowship and the need to pray together and work together for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we pledge to pray for one another regularly and uphold each other in Christian encouragement.”

It is a privilege to be representatives as missionaries since we cannot serve on the field alone. It must be a partnering effort of support to the glory of God. *We desire to make an impact* through the ministry of *reaching believers* by spreading awareness of how the Lord would like to use them in missions; *reaching pastors and church leaders* with encouragement as they seek to challenge their flock in missions awareness; and *reaching the lost* with spreading God’s Word in the team effort that makes Bible Translation work possible. This is even more effective today with information technology.

We continue to maintain and develop our ministry relationships with various denominations in this endeavor to serve with Wycliffe as Wycliffe Bible Translators is a non-denominational ministry. The following is included and gives further explanation about the AFLC for our other partnering denominations to review as desired.

The Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) is different from many Lutheran organizations as it is not a synod. Rather, the AFLC is a fellowship of independent Lutheran congregations bound together by the bonds of loyalty to a common cause and common tasks. The Association was created in specific rejection of the superior authority of any ecclesiastical organization above the congregation.

Because the AFLC seeks to be, above all, a spiritual movement, we were formed because of five principles:

- Recognition that the Bible is inerrant and the authority in all areas of life.
- Recognition that the teaching and preaching of God's Word is the main task of the Church, to be conducted in such a way that the saints are built up in the faith and that unbelievers see their need for salvation.
- Belief that the congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth, with no authority above it but the Word and Spirit of God.
- Belief that Christian unity is a spiritual concept, not a man-made organization or body such as the World Council of Churches or the National Council of Churches.
- Belief that Christians are called to be salt and light in the world, separated from the ways of the world and that this difference is to be reflected in the life of the congregation as well as in the institutions of the church body.

To learn more about the AFLC, visit www.afc.org.

The AFLC believes:

Jesus is the only way of salvation. (John 14:6)

The Bible is God's inspired and inerrant Word for faith and life. (John 17:17; II Timothy 3:16)

The main task of the church is proclaiming the Gospel of Christ for the salvation of souls and maturing of believers. (I Corinthians 15:1-4)

Believers are to lovingly be salt and light in the world. (Matthew 5:13,14)

Each congregation should be free and living, subject only to the Word of God. (II Corinthians 3:17)

True Christian unity between church fellowships must be based on faith in Jesus Christ alone and obedience to His Word. (John 17:11)

Jesus is coming again! (John 14:1-3)