

# THE BOGLE BUGLE

for our Partners in Bible Translation



Viji's son, Dave, helps a Konda man mix cement to build a village home for Viji and his family.

## Contact us!

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You can also find Tom on [Facebook](#)

## TE Tidings

After begging and pleading and praying, Tom was thrilled to learn that funds had been made available to hire back a former volunteer to boost our team. We're excited to have our friend and very skilled programmer Tim back with us.

Tom travelled to Dallas earlier in May to attend an important meeting to discuss plans for a major refactoring phase to make the [FieldWorks](#) software perform better and reduce the learning curve for new programmers who want to join our team. One major goal is to switch to a back-end data storage approach that will allow the software to run on Linux and Mac operating systems.

There's been plenty of bad news lately. We've had our share of stresses and challenges over the past year. But even as we acknowledge the loss of our peach harvest — they apparently succumbed to a severe storm while we were up in the Midwest — we have to admit that God's faithfulness is great, and He is good... all the time! So if you want some bad news, pick up a newspaper, but if you want to head into summer with some encouragement, read on!

## Visit with Viji

One of the highlights of our spring has been hosting our friend and colleague, Viji Mathew (aka Tom's twin brother). He came over from India in April to spend 6 weeks visiting friends, relatives, and churches to develop a bit of a support base here for the work he and his family are doing among the Konda Dora people.

Here are a few exciting excerpts from Viji and Minie's recent newsletter:

*'Sanyasi' is an elderly man from a remote Konda village. All through his life, he has been living in a thatched hut, with minimal resources. As our Konda audio Bible and [God's Story](#) CD were distributed in this village, he was invited to hear the story of Jesus. After he listened to the entire story, he was moved in his spirit and told his co-listeners "Is this real? If so, why did it take so long to reach us?"*

*In January 2009, we had a three day program for checking of presenting the translated portions of Psalms. During these days, we had a special focus on writing*

*new songs. This has resulted in 18 new Konda songs based on the psalms they had checked. It was a time of spiritual refreshing and encouragement for all of us and praise God for these 16 Konda leaders.*

*As a part of our plan, we have been visiting new Konda villages and encouraging our Gospel team to focus on these new villages. As a result, we have a new Konda village 'Kappalgondhi' where many believers are now following the Lord.*

During Viji's visit, it was especially encouraging to hear him describe how the mother tongue translators are now using Translation Editor successfully on their own. That's a real answer to prayer! We count it a privilege to be part of the team helping Viji and Minie advance God's Kingdom among the mountain people of India. If you want to be involved, please contact us for more information.



Konda translators using Translation Editor

## More than Just a Book

The May issue of Christianity Today magazine contains an encouraging article by John W. Kennedy called “[The Not-for-Profit Surge](#).” Subtitled “Even in tough times, your favorite charities are doing better than anyone expected,” the article reports that many parachurch ministries like Wycliffe, especially those that depend on “the missionary deputation model of raising funds,” are surviving the recession better than other organiza-



Konda woman gets water from a stream

tions. Personal relationships and the opportunity to invest in ministries with tangible results make a huge difference. It’s a very positive and encouraging article, but if you read it, you might have noticed that Wycliffe is described as having “little to do with fighting poverty.” The fact is that Wycliffe workers have been fighting poverty and providing new hope for individuals and communities ever since our work began. Apparently, as an organization we haven’t told the whole story. We’ve talked about giving people the Book and about the spiritual results, but we haven’t said much about other kinds of results. Certainly Bible translation is and always will be our primary focus. It’s the particu-

lar focus for reaching the nations entrusted to us, and others, by God. But the facts are that Bible translation has never been done in a vacuum, and the results have never been measured purely in spiritual terms; it’s always been part of a larger package. It’s always included ministry to the community’s physical, social and economic needs. While Viji was here, he shared in several churches concerning the need for clean drinking water in Konda villages. In one account, he told how an entire village came out to hear the gospel the day after their well project had been completed.

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Drinking water or source of sickness? Over 100 Konda villages have an inadequate supply of clean water.

### Kudos

The [Evangelical Press Association](#) 2009 awards are out and (drum roll)—Tom’s Rev. 7 article *Unicode: A Response to Babel* won second place in the category of *General Articles: Short*. Sorry, no cash prize...

## A Valuable Resource for your Church

Wycliffe offers FREE downloadable children’s curriculum on our website: [www.wycliffe.org/Kids/FreeCurriculum.aspx](http://www.wycliffe.org/Kids/FreeCurriculum.aspx). The service-learning projects in particular would be a perfect companion to your church’s VBS program!

## Items for Prayer and Praise

- Praise that our support is holding at 85.3%, despite a tough economy.
- Pray for Joylily’s trip to [Honduras](#) with the JAARS youth group to serve among the Garifuna people June 18-July 8.
- Praise God for new TE team members Ric and Tim.
- Pray for open doors among the Konda people and for funds to complete more drinking water projects.
- Pray for encouragement and adequate support for Viji and Minie Mathew.
- Pray for believers left homeless by the persecution in the state of Orissa, India last fall.



**Wycliffe**

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*By His Grace and for His Glory,*

*Tom + Lily*