
NEWS *from* BONNIE

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New Home...

As hopefully all of you know by now, I moved to Seattle, WA, in mid-May. (Make sure you check out the new contact info on the other side of this sheet!) I am now all settled into a one bedroom apartment in Seattle's Greenwood neighborhood. I am very grateful for all the help I had moving, on both the BC side and the WA side.

While overall the process took longer than I had anticipated (it started in early April with apartment hunting and didn't end until mid-June), it really went very smoothly. The border crossing was a breeze, mostly due to me having looked up the desired format for packing lists and the border guard's corresponding surprise at someone following directions! It had to rank up there as one of my fastest border crossings. =) The actual move was pretty quick too—loading up took from breakfast to lunch and after a few hours of driving, unloading was done by supertime. Thanks for praying!

What I'm Doing Now ...

In early July, I made a trip to Dallas to explore a new assignment possibility with the SIL International¹ Language Program Training department. I met a lot of people — and saw some old acquaintances — and at the end of the trip, I agreed to join the Int'l Training team, working in Instructional Design (curriculum development). My focus will be on helping to develop more online training options.

Wycliffe's work force is spread out across the globe, and the hope is that by offering more training online, we will make it more accessible. Currently much of our training is offered in formal education programs (like CanIL) or through informal workshops. These require people to travel to major cities or other countries. The cost is huge, not just financially, but also in terms of work (time lost to travel and being gone from projects) and relationships (leaving families behind for weeks...or requiring families to uproot and travel too). We hope to offer more training to people where they are—making it available to more people and hopefully more relevant to their daily context. I'm excited to have found something where I can contribute at a global level while living in Seattle!

This fall, I will be in transition mode. I have agreed to teach Morphology for CanIL one last time, so that will be at least a third of my work load. We have moved the class to a once a week evening slot so that I can drive up in the morning, hold office hours, be available for other meetings, teach 3 hours, and then drive back the next day. Currently, there are 18 students enrolled, most of whom have been my advisees over the last 2 years, so it should be a fun group.

I will also be getting up to speed on what the new assignment entails. I know that there is going to be a learning curve, particularly with respect to online education (distance learning) technologies, but the exact details of my job description...particularly in these early stages... is yet to be worked out. Stay tuned!

¹ Wycliffe's sister organization in charge of fieldwork

The State of the Union

I knew in the middle of the summer of 2009 that if things didn't change in my life that it would not be pretty. It felt like burnout was looming out there, somewhere just off the horizon. Once I arrived in Seattle and unpacked, I realized that the burnout horizon had been much closer than I realized. In my little planning brain, I thought that I would get all settled, take a week off or so to recover, and then dive back into work. Well, that didn't happen...or at least it didn't happen like I thought I would. Even after a week of doing very little (other than daily life), I still felt exhausted. I did start doing some course prep for the 3 courses I will be teaching this coming school year, but I just couldn't work for more than a couple of hours at a time. Fast-forward a couple of months to now, when I'm writing this letter, and things are better but still not back to "normal." Instead of only being able to work about 50% (half days), I am now closer to 75%. I have a day that feels pretty normal, but then the next day I am dragging. Thankfully, my supervisors are all being very understanding (apparently, I sounded in really bad shape to some of them originally, so this was less of a shock to them than to me). Please pray that I will be patient with myself as I recover from the last couple of years, and that I will be able to establish some healthy life rhythms as I transition from furlough into my fall workload.

Thank you for partnering with me,

Bonnie Henson

Rejoice with me that:

- * The move went well!
- * My financial situation is improving. God has blessed me with some new financial partners so I am now at 100% of my Wycliffe support quota. Also, being entirely in one country is lowering my tax burden which means I get to keep more of what comes in!
- * My energy levels are slowly coming back up...

Please uphold these concerns in prayer:

- * Pray for me as I prepare for teaching the fall.
- * Pray for safety on the road as I drive the 2-3 hours north (& back) once a week from mid-Sept – mid-Dec.
- * Pray for a good beginning with the new assignment
- * Pray for wisdom as I try to set up healthy rhythms for this new season in my life
- * Pray for me as I seek to become more established in my new community. I'm hoping to join a small group this fall.

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