
NEWS *from* BONNIE

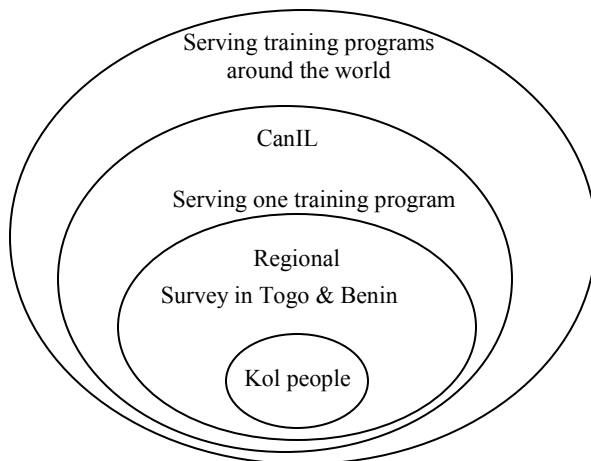
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Living locally, impacting globally

One of the best things about my new job is that I get to live in Seattle, see family and friends regularly, and yet work on projects from around the world. I'm on a Skype call at least once a week (and some weeks once a day!) talking to people from around the US and around the world.

While most of my assignments over the course of my Wycliffe career have served more than a single people group (my work in Cameroon among the Kol people being the big exception), my current assignment is definitely the one with the potential for the widest impact, as illustrated by the diagram below.



I am currently working on:

- Creating training materials which will be implemented in multiple places around the world (see box below)
- Helping two different Africa Area training programs with their new online courses. (Online courses help people get additional training without traveling away from their work in translation projects and their families.)
- Providing ongoing consulting help for a training consultant who is putting more of her adult education materials online

Creating training materials

Our world is changing rapidly, and this is also true for Wycliffe, its partner organizations, and how they work around the world. The vision hasn't changed: to see communities be able to access, and be transformed by, God's Word in a language they understand well. However, the manner in which that happens has changed remarkably over the last couple of decades.

Field managers report that incoming members are not well-prepared to work in the new paradigms of modern Bible translation work—which focus more on partnership and community ownership and less on Western control of personnel, funding and planning. Some current members also feel overwhelmed by changes in organization structure, processes and new acronyms.

As a response to that, my team has been helping to develop a new product line of training materials that will talk about what we do, why we do it, and what we've learned about the best way to do it for maximum impact. These materials will include short videos (which I'll be able to share with YOU!), short presentations, workshops, and a semester-long course. The big project on my plate recently has been writing materials for the semester course. I've developed course outlines (for 4 different textbook/credit hour parameters) and an extensive list of resources and am currently working on possible in-class activities, assignments, and reading lists. My work now reduces the prep time for future instructors, and hopefully these materials will help new workers adjust more quickly and be more effective.

Odds n' Ends

There are, of course, other pieces of the job that don't necessarily involve consulting or training others. During this latest season, I have submitted two linguistic articles to professional journals and an abstract to a conference.

At my boss's request, I also attended a workshop in Dallas on "Participatory Methods for Engaging Communities." It was interesting, and there's a slight chance that a portion of the content might work its way into one of the courses I'm drafting. It was also a good networking experience. One of the disadvantages of working from home is not having the opportunities to meet and get to know colleagues casually.



State of the Union

My energy levels have remained decent, which is a reason for thanksgiving. My workload has stayed manageable, and that has meant that I have had time and energy to do the things that make my fairly tight budget work...like good meal-planning, lots of home cooking, coupon clipping and shopping sales. I have not done so well on adding regular exercise back in. I **do** run a lot of errands by foot and that helps but I'm aiming for more. On the fun side of things, I feel like I'm getting into a good rhythm with quasi-regular get-togethers with various friends and church activities. I invested time in two different short-term small groups over the summer, am participating in a different short-term small group this fall, and have started serving as a greeter at church. On the family front, I very much enjoyed seeing my brother Joe's family when they came up to Seattle in June for my youngest brother Danny's college graduation as well as a family vacation in August. This whole area of self-care, balance and healthy boundaries is still something I really struggle with, and I would appreciate your prayers!



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Thank you for partnering with me,

Bonnie Henson

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| <p><i>Rejoice with me over:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Good energy levels * A safe trip to Dallas in June * Enjoyable family times this summer * Feeling more connected at church & in my community * A new car to replace the one that died in September (Yea for Hope the Honda!) <p><i>Please uphold these concerns in prayer:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Please continue to pray for wisdom as I try to set up healthy work-life rhythms * Please continue to pray for | <p>financial provision and against financial crises. It has been a bit more expensive to work from home than I had hoped, and these challenging economic times have impacted some of my financial partners. I still have yet to make it to the dentist...partly due to finding a dentist, partly due to fear, and partly due to money. Pray that I will get to this soon, and that the needed work will not be horribly expensive.</p> |
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