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Eernisse Prayer Letter January 2012

1 message

Dave-Deb Eernisse <dave-deb_eernisse@wbt.org>

Sat, Jan 21, 2012 at 5:58 PM

To: Deb Eernisse <dave-deb_eernisse@wbt.org>

Dear Friends and Family,

Christmas and New Year's have come and gone and we trust that you had special times with your family and friends. We were blessed by a visit from Caleb and his wife, Kaelie, from Ohio. We had lots of laughs and memories made. Ryan, Nathanya and little Canaan will visit us in February and we hope to see Andy, Leah, Judah, Bailey and Mikhah in spring. And of course, the girls are here. Abby still at home, homeschooling as a sophomore and Elizabeth, Zack, Bella (and baby boy Brantley due in April) just around the corner! We are spoiled with them so near.

The pace of life has picked up again and we are preparing for a trip to Kenya on Thursday. Each year we have our annual staff meetings in Nairobi. It is always such a joy to hear what God is doing around the continent of Africa. We will be gone 10 days. Pray for this trip and the meetings as much material is covered and many decisions are made. People will be coming from the US, Europe and Africa to discuss the ongoing work in Africa.

We will only be home 2 weeks and Dave will head with 2 other men to Isiro, Democratic Republic of Congo. This is where we lived in the early 90's. Translation work has continued at a slow pace during the long war and unrest in this region and throughout DR Congo. Families have returned to this area and national translators are hard at work in spite of difficult circumstances. We are so excited to see that Isiro is becoming the regional translation center. The team will work on repairing and remodeling buildings that will be used as part of this translation center. Pray for peace and God's speed in the translation. The people have been waiting so long! For those of you who are feeling the urge to "help", there are always trips that Dave is leading to different parts of Africa. You are welcome to be a part of a team - just hit "reply" to this email. :)

Last fall, Dave went to Sudan to work on the translation center there. The trip went very well and we praise God for all that was accomplished by the team. God is faithful and work is progressing well in that area. Here is a link so you can see a bit about the area. <http://www.thewordislife.net/Stories/tabid/67/Default.aspx?id=1038&code=kbo> If it doesn't work to just click on it - copy and paste into your internet browser window. You will be blessed by this article.

This is a little late but here is a link to a message the President of Wycliffe US had around Christmas. We hope you enjoy it. It is only 1:30 min.

<http://www.wycliffe.org/Give/ChristmasGreeting.aspx>

This year, again, there were languages that heard the Christmas story for the very first time in their own language!! What a blessing that is!

We praise God for the young couples and singles who are seeking assignments to work in Africa. We have had wonderful meetings with them sharing how God is working in Africa and the part they can have.

Praise, too, for generous year end and monthly gifts that so many of you have given us. Pray that we will be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. We are blessed and humbled by each of you who give sacrificially to be a part of giving God's Word to those who are waiting. Imagine not having a single word written in your language! You don't even know what you are missing! God speaks each language of the world. Thank you for your part in helping to give the Bible to them.

Below are some interesting statistics taken from [Wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org) (take a moment to explore the website - you will learn a lot!)

The worldwide status of Bible translation (2010):

6,800+ ...the number of languages spoken in the world today

2,000+ ...the number of languages without any of the Bible, but with a possible need of a Bible translation to begin

about 340 million ...the number of people who speak the 2,000 languages where translation projects have not yet begun

- 1,500+** ...the number of translation programs where Wycliffe is currently at work
- nearly 75%** ...amount of the world's remaining Bible translation needs that are located in the **three areas of greatest need**
- 1,211** ...the number of language communities which have access to the New Testament in their heart language
- 457** ...the number of language communities which have access to the entire Bible in the language they understand best
- 6.5 billion+** ...the population of the world

Although Bible translation is progressing at a more rapid rate today than ever before, an overwhelming amount of work has yet to be done.

If you would like to be a partner in Bible translation with us, your gift to our ministry can be sent to: (be sure to include a note: for Dave Eernisse)

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862

OR to give online here is the link <http://www.wycliffe.org/Partnership.aspx?FindaMissionary=true> then you can type Eernisse in the last name space and we should come up.

May God bless you richly as we serve Him together.

Dave, Deb and Abby Eernisse