

*Franks' 2003-2004  
Annual Report*



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serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators

## The Past Year

Our main official ministry during the past year has been to continue working on the translation of the New Testament into Gullah. The Gullah Bible translation project is now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year and is in the final stages prior to publication. While working with the Gullah translation team, I have also continued serving as a consultant for other translators and have kept involved with happenings in St. Lucia.

We are still based out of the JAARS Center in Waxhaw, North Carolina. This is a good location for us to work with the Gullah people along the Carolina coast, and for me to serve as a linguistics consultant for the Americas Area, and for our children to be in school. We still miss St. Lucia but are comfortably settled here in rural North Carolina, satisfied that we are where God wants us to be for now, and where we can make a meaningful contribution.

The past year has brought its share of milestones, travels and struggles. It seems that there is always too little time for all we want to do, and too few resources. But God is gracious and merciful, as we trust in His provision and count on Him to do what we cannot do in our own strength. We want to take you through the highlights of how God has led us through the past year.



The launching of the Gullah Gospel of John last November

## The Gullah Translation

Our emphasis in the Gullah translation project up until recently has been on going over the whole New Testament, verse by verse, making adjustments. The manuscript is in draft, but it needed a lot of revision. It is a blessing, for all of us involved, to be able to focus our attention on the meaning of the scriptures and how that meaning in all its complexity can best be expressed to a new audience.



Working with Ardell Greene

As a step along the way, and to test for acceptability, we published the Gospel of John in Gullah in the past year. The Frank family went to the Heritage Days Festival on St. Helena Island, SC, last Nov. 8 for the launching of the Gullah

Gospel of John. This second scripture portion in Gullah has proven to be popular and is now in its second printing.

The end is in sight for this translation that was begun in 1979. While we continue to work on checking and refining the Gullah New Testament, we are starting to turn our attention to the printing and publication process, and a program to promote the use of the translation. The goal is to turn the manuscript over to the American Bible Society for printing by the end of this year, and to have it in print before the end of 2005.



Gullah planning meeting in July

## Report from St. Lucia

The work continues in St. Lucia, of teaching Creole literacy and showing people how to take advantage of the translated scriptures. Pastor Peter Samuel has been making great progress getting around to every church in St. Lucia to introduce them to the translated scriptures. He recently wrote, “Please remember me in prayer as I try to go to places I haven’t reached with my literacy program.” He has now extended his reach to the nearby island of Dominica, where the same French Creole is spoken. The response there has been overwhelming.

A new emphasis in St. Lucia has involved a dramatic recording of the translated scriptures on audio tape, to benefit those who do not read Creole. Peter Samuel spent long, long hours coordinating a *Faith Comes by Hearing* project that involved dozens of St. Lucian Creole speakers from churches all over the island. The recording was done by a team from Suriname, and the editing is being done in Guatemala. They are still waiting to receive the finished product back in St. Lucia.



Peter Samuel with family and friends at church.  
Can you spot Mark in this picture?

## Consulting

This year I completed my first official consulting assignment. After putting the finishing touches on a book that I helped with, Ken Decker wrote, “With tears in my eyes and rejoicing in my heart, I hold in my hands the completed *Song of Kriol: The Grammar of Belize Kriol!* It has been a labor of love; love for the people of Belize. This is

really one of the happiest moments in my life.” Presently I am helping another translator with his dictionary of a creole language in Suriname.

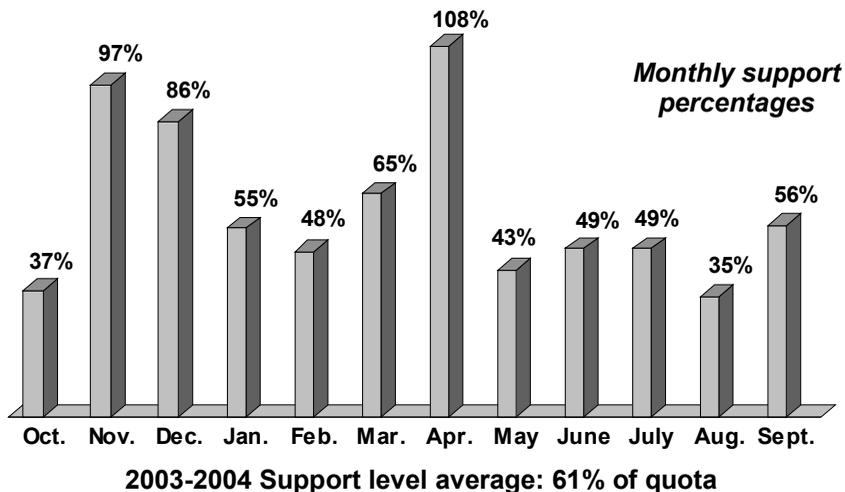


Addressing the Conference on Bible Translation in Barbados

In late May, the University of the West Indies in Barbados sponsored a Conference on Bible Translation, and I gave a paper there on “Dimensions of Translation into Creole Languages.” After Barbados, I spent a week in St. Lucia. Then in August I traveled to Curaçao to present a paper at a creole linguistics conference on “Three Irregular Verbs in Gullah.”

## Financial Update

We appreciate all of you who have contributed to our personal support to make our service with Wycliffe possible. The amount of financial support we receive has its ups and downs and averages less than two-thirds of what it should be, so this is an item for prayer.



## Family News

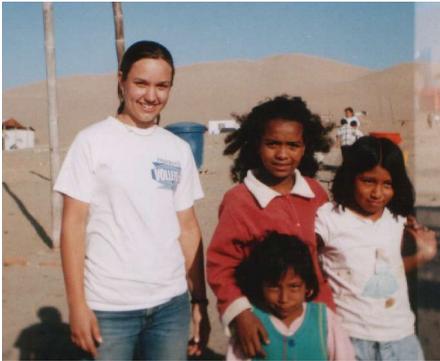
Mark (19) loves being a junior at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, majoring in linguistics. Recently he fulfilled a dream, to spend the summer back ‘home’ in St. Lucia.

Supported by a study grant through the university, he lived in a cottage on an old plantation, doing historical research. He has a grant to spend the spring 2005 term studying in China!



Mark visiting with old friends at church back in St. Lucia

Kimberly (16) is a high school senior, president of the National Honor Society, on the volleyball team, taking several Advanced Placement courses, and trying to work out where she will go to college next year. This past summer she had a



Kimberly on her summer mission in Peru

wonderful opportunity to spend several weeks in Peru on a summer mission trip. She went down with her aunt and uncle, the Guills, to work on a building project to benefit street kids. Then she stayed a couple of weeks longer to spend some time with the Franks down there, her grandparents.

Michael (14) is now a high school freshman. On the side he is involved with Boy Scouts and has a part-time cleaning job. This past summer he enjoyed a week at Boy Scout camp, and he helped out (along with Lynn and Kimberly) at VBS.

Lynn's attention is divided many different ways. She keeps the rest of us going, and is active at church, with music and Sunday School. She stays involved with the Gullah translation project and with the Language and Translation Dept. at the JAARS Center, and lately has been doing a lot of house painting.



**Michael at Camp Barnhart**

We had quite an adventure in July. It was the last day of the last consultant check for the Gullah New Testament translation. Lynn was to pick up Kimberly from the airport after her trip to Peru, and then head straight to St. Helena Island to join us for a group meeting about the Gullah translation, with the translation team and with representatives from the Penn Center, SIL, and the American Bible Society. On the highway, the car caught on fire. That was the last of that car, but thankfully, the family and all their belongings were okay.

After living in my parents' house for several years, we are about to move into our own place, now that my parents have returned to live in the States after their last term in Peru.



**Lynn and Kimberly playing at church**

The family is still quite involved with music. Lynn sings with the choir at church and accompanies on the piano. Mark is a music minor at college and taking private piano lessons through the school. Kimberly is still taking cello lessons and participating in a cello ensemble. Michael is in a school choir.

## **A Personal Note**

We appreciate having the opportunity to be your representatives to serve creole speakers and other minority language groups through Bible translation. Thank you for your part in this, through your encouragement, your prayers, and your financial support.

David and Lynn Frank  
Mark, Kimberly and Michael

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*For financial involvement:*

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is for the ministry of David and Lynn Frank*