

DAVID AND LYNN FRANK

WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS

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That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

I John 1:1-2 (NIV)



Did you know that languages we translate into sometimes require you to be more specific than the original text? For example, languages like Zapotec in Mexico have two first person plural pronouns (“we”) where in Greek, as in English, there is only one. The translator has to decide whether “we” includes the hearer as well as the speaker, or excludes the hearer. How would you translate the first chapter of I John, which begins, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our own eyes... this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.... If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.” It can get very tricky, figuring out which form of the pronoun to use. Other languages like Thai don’t have a simple word for “brother,” but rather have specific words for “younger brother” and “older brother.” Which one would you choose to translate Matthew 4:18, “The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’”? These are questions that you have probably never thought about that need to be sorted out before translating the scriptures into other languages.

We enjoy the challenge of translating and teaching others about translation. Carlos Benitez and his wife Caryn have been working with the Tagdal language in Niger, West Africa. Now Carlos needs translation training before they return to Niger. I have learned a lot about the intricacies of Tagdal and am helping Carlos as his translation teacher and linguistics consultant.

These days our main ministry is in giving specialized support to fellow translators like Carlos. We support Bible translation in different ways, including teaching, consulting, editing and library support. Lynn is finishing up a big job of reorganizing the linguistics and translation library here at the **JAARS** Center, and ordering commentaries and linguistics books. I have been appointed as a [senior linguistics consultant](#), and am continuing my job as editor of the *Journal of Translation*.



David working with Carlos Benitez

Now that the St. Lucian Creole and Gullah translations are complete, we are working towards adapting those translations into several French and English Creoles spoken in Central America, South America and Africa. We are cooperating on projects to adapt the Gullah translation into one language in Central America and one in Africa, and on adapting the St. Lucian Creole translation into one language in French Guiana and one in Brazil.

I just finished a year of more travel than usual. In the past year I presented papers at conferences in Washington, DC, Amsterdam, Peru, and England. For these conferences, I wrote several academic papers. I also edited the December, 2007 issue of the *Journal of Translation*, which can be seen online at www.sil.org/siljot. I enjoy the opportunity to be involved in deeper dialogue on linguistic and translation issues that influence our work.



Working on the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission. Our friend Emory Campbell (seated) was about to be made Chairman.

I have also been traveling in the Gullah area. Last fall I was [appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to a commission](#) whose purpose is to oversee the development of a [Gullah National Heritage Corridor](#) spanning the coastal area of the Carolinas, Georgia and northern Florida for the National Park Service. This is a nonpaid, three-year appointment.

Mark is home from his year in China and plans to attend [Columbia University](#) in the fall, to study the Chinese language, literature and history. Kimberly has just returned from a [semester abroad in southern France](#). Michael is a member of a [Christian music group](#) and plans to attend the [University of North Carolina at Wilmington](#) next year, after his high school graduation.

We are engaged in this ministry in response to God's call to all of us to share the gospel and serve our fellow man, and we appreciate your partnership in prayer and contributions that help make our ministry possible.

Praise God with us because:

- He has called us and commissioned us to share His love and Good News.
- We are blessed in so many ways.
- Speakers of minority languages are responding positively.

Please pray for:

- Safety and provision for our travels and family spread out.
- Continued positive response to the translated Word.
- God's guidance, and His blessing on what we do in response.
- Wisdom concerning future work in Gullah, and adaptations from the Gullah and St. Lucian Creole translations into other related languages.

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