

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, and love, and self-control. 1 Timothy 1:7

“You’re home now? For how long? When is your next trip?” Friends have gotten accustomed to us being away from our home base in Waxhaw, North Carolina. Already since the beginning of this year, we have each been consulting on different translation projects in Nigeria, and in March I made another consulting trip to Guinea-Bissau. We have more of these trips planned for this summer and this fall. We started a blog a few years ago, and the following are excerpts from this year, beginning in Nigeria.



Feb. 1 – The [name withheld] translation project was started several years ago, but I got started as their consultant two years ago. They have reached an exciting stage: Their **entire New Testament translation has now been consultant-checked**. On this trip to Nigeria, we have checked the last handful of short epistles, and have been working together on checking over the whole New Testament for consistency in spelling and phrasing and in formatting. It is important at this stage to go over it all and check for consistency in key Biblical terms such as ‘disciple,’ ‘apostle,’ ‘scribe,’ ‘temple,’ ‘glory,’ ‘righteousness.’ (to read more, go to <http://wp.me/p2vi0s-7z>)

Mar. 15 – Portuguese Creole is the national language of Guinea-Bissau, spoken there way more than Portuguese. If you combine the estimated 230,000 mother-tongue speakers with another 600,000 who use it extensively as a second language, then Creole is the biggest language group in Guinea-Bissau. In Guinea-Bissau there is a large, dynamic evangelical Christian church, and at least in the capital of Bissau, **Creole is the language of the church**. I have been going to Guinea-Bissau since 2009 to help with the Creole translation of the Bible. In March we finished checking the translation of the Gospel of John. (to read more, go to <http://wp.me/p2vi0s-7S>)



Mar. 17 – Pastor Djeme told me about what he has going on back in his home area in northeastern Guinea-Bissau. The Jola-Felupe people had to give up on bringing bags of rice up the river for food. Large crocodiles would knock over the canoe and kill the people. The townspeople weren't getting their food, and people were getting killed. Pastor Djeme would have none of that, so he undertook a campaign to rid this area of crocodiles. The townspeople urged him not to disturb them, because they were **mysterious things**, that is, something supernatural. But he (to read more, go to <http://wp.me/p2vi0s-7X>)

You can see the whole blog at www.dlfrank.net, and, if you are interested, sign up to automatically receive new blog entries as they are posted.

In Nigeria, Lynn and I worked with two different Bible translation projects, both of which have been targeted by a notorious terrorist group. Where we meet to work with the translators is safer than the area where they come from. Our next consulting trip to Nigeria will be this summer. Lynn will be checking Romans and Hebrews with her translation team.

We are thrilled to have a **Gullah New Testament app** for android devices now.

If you would like to download it to your cell phone or other android device, go to the Google Play Store and search for *Gullah Bible*. For the Gospel of John, the audio is available to accompany the written text, and as you play the audio, it will highlight the phrase being read in Gullah. Now we would like to get the rest of the Gullah New Testament translation recorded in audio form to go with the text in the cell phone app.



Family: We mourn the loss of Lynn's father, Milton Ernstmeyer, who at 99 years old passed away in February, the day we went to see him in Williamsburg, VA, which was the same day we arrived back in the States from our trip to Nigeria. He was commissioned as a Navy chaplain in World War II and served in the chaplaincy for 29 years, and then served the chaplaincy on behalf of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod for another 11 years. He celebrated 72 years in the ministry before he passed away, preceded by Lynn's mother Muriel fifteen months earlier. Lynn is especially grateful to God for her parents' love and Christian example throughout her life.

We are happy to have my parents, Vernon and Newton Frank, living near us. Though retired from Wycliffe, they are still active in volunteer ministry, some through Wycliffe, and some in and through their church.

Our older son Mark, along with his wife Maria and their daughter Katya, is living in central China for a year and a half to two years. Mark has a Fulbright grant to work on his doctoral dissertation in East Asian Studies. Kimberly is celebrating one year of marriage to Drew Hauge. They recently bought a house in the District of Columbia, where Kimberly works as an analyst for the National Governors Association. Michael and his bride Ava have just moved from Kansas to Florida. Michael's specialty and chosen field is audio technology and sound recording.

We thank you for your interest in, and support for, our work. "I thank God for you every time I think of you, and every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped in the work of the gospel from the first until now" (Philippians 1:3-5).

In Christ,




David and (for) Lynn

Praise:

- God's blessing through our parents
- good health for us and our family, and all of God's provision
- safety in our travels
- good progress in the translation of the Bible into minority languages, especially in Africa

Prayer:

- continued health, safety, strength, direction, and provision
- the persecution of Christians in Nigeria and around the world
- good progress working with translation teams in Nigeria this summer
- completion of editing projects related to Bible translation and grammatical analysis
- increased financial support for our ministry; our support level is 35% below what it should be

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