



Dear Friends,

January 2018

At Christmas, we celebrate that Christ came as a child in a humble setting to live as one of us, teach, and provide the way for our salvation. There is beautiful music, family and friends to help make this season special too, but also stress that tends to be present, such as the things we want to get done before the year ends. May God give you His peace and joy through the gift of His Son, as well as the gifts of music and family and friends.

In 2017, I (David) went to Guinea-Bissau twice, as usual, to contribute to the Portuguese Creole translation project. They are finishing up the New Testament and are about to get started on the Old Testament. This was a year when, unfortunately, we did *not* go to Nigeria to help with the translation work there. The translation teams that we each worked with have had some setbacks and are transitioning to a new working arrangement, and they are still not ready for us to return there to work with them, though they want us to. We hope that in 2018 they will be back on track and we will be able to return to work in Nigeria.

This past year we were involved in consulting, teaching, research and editing. Lynn's main work this year has been editing. She edited several works to be published on the [www.sil.org](http://www.sil.org) website, including one about narrative discourse analysis in relation to Bible translation, a sociolinguistic survey of a cluster of related languages in Angola, another sociolinguistic survey in Benin written in French, an e-book on bilingual education in Thailand, and the book that she is presently editing is about the use of the article in Post-Classical Greek. I am editor of the Journal of Translation—see [www.journaloftranslation.org](http://www.journaloftranslation.org) for our latest issue.

One of my major involvements for several years has been as a member of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, authorized by Act of Congress, under the Department of the Interior. Our website is [www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org](http://www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org). We hold meetings quarterly in various parts of the coastal southeast. I am in fact a charter member of the Commission, and its secretary. One special project I was involved in last year was the creation of an interactive map of sites in the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor—a friend of ours who is a history professor at Queens University offered to design this map with his class if we could provide them with the sites to include. This map can now be seen at [www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org/storymap](http://www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org/storymap).

In March I gave the keynote presentation, “An Inside Look at Gullah,” at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics. A couple of days later, I was in Guinea-Bissau, consulting. Twice last year I taught phonology in a week-long course for people interested in pursuing a ministry in Bible translation; once here at the JAARS Center and once in Pennsylvania at Lancaster Bible College. We went to Orlando for a week this summer for meetings at the Wycliffe headquarters, and from there spent a short visit with our son Michael and his wife Ava in Clearwater, Florida, visiting with our friends the Riechs *en route*. Michael spends about 70-80 hours a week installing solar electric systems in houses all over Florida and accumulating hours for an electrician's license. Ava is a part-time massage therapist. Shortly after Florida we made a trip to San Diego, visiting friends and a church that partners in our work.

Lynn and I attended a biennial conference on Bible translation in Dallas in October, days after my second trip to Guinea-Bissau for the year. The conference was great, with presentations given by people coming from all around the world.

At the beginning of 2017, our son Mark and family returned home from spending two years in China doing research, mostly in archives, for Mark's PhD dissertation in history at the University of Illinois. Maria taught English in Chengdu and Katya attended a Chinese preschool. At five years old, Katya speaks English, Russian and some Chinese. Mark is taking this year to complete his doctoral dissertation on East Asian history.

Our daughter Kimberly and Drew (Hauge) enjoy their work and home in Washington DC. Kimberly is a senior policy analyst for the Economic Opportunity Division of the National Governors Association on Capitol Hill. Drew is a Managing Consultant at Berkeley Research Group. When we visited with them for Thanksgiving, we were able to visit the Museum of the Bible on its opening weekend, and among all the wonderful exhibits we saw the Saint Lucian Creole and the Gullah Bible translations that we worked on.

My parents Vernon and Newton Frank have sold their house in South Carolina and moved into the JAARS retirement apartments, so we see them even more often now.

Most recently, Ava, our daughter-in-law, lost her father suddenly the Monday before Thanksgiving. We mourn his loss with Ava and her family, and thank God for Dan Zachary's service and faith in Christ.

We have plenty to do already in 2018, including consulting, mentoring, teaching, conferences, workshops, and editing. We are also planning a family reunion in the mountains of North Carolina next summer on the occasion of my father's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*David and Lynn*

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