

News from the Jefferys

Dear friends,

One of the great tasks the Lord is engaged in through His Church is the translation of God's Word into every language. It is a privilege to be assigned to CanIL and to be part of the training phase for a fantastic group of young people who are planning to join the Bible translation movement. This task is not an easy one as many of the needy communities they will work in are found in parts of the world where the Gospel is not welcome. Even in our own land of Canada just last week we saw the Supreme Court of Canada put limits on religious freedom when it ruled against TWU's plan to open a law school. What this will mean to Canadian Christians in the future is hard to predict, yet we know we must remain faithful, just as so many of our brothers and sisters around the world have remained faithful through times of adversity.

This year marks milestones for two faithful organizations that have been an integral part of our lives for many years. Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada is celebrating 50 years of "ending Bible poverty by facilitating the translation of God's Word among minority language communities worldwide". Dave and I became Wycliffe members in 1985 and have appreciated the many ways this organization has cared for us over the years. As well, Dave's home church, Morningstar Christian Fellowship in Scarborough, is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Dave became a member there in 1975 and the Church adopted us as missionaries in 1987 when we left for West Asia. We are incredibly grateful for the prayers and support of the faithful members of Morningstar throughout our 31 years of ministry.

Around CanIL...

Occasionally we hear feedback from a student that assures us that God is at work in and through us. In April Dave received the following note from a recent grad:

"Dear Dave, this semester you shared in chapel about your struggle with ALS. As you were sharing about how the doctor told you the disease was progressing, I started to think about the time I took Language Programs with you. I will always remember that class because of the [B people] man who converted during that project. If I had not taken that class, if there had not been a Language Programs planning project, I might have never witnessed this conversion. I would not have gotten to see how far prayers can reach. This happened at a time in my life when I was truly wondering about the efficacy of prayer. For this reason, that one class stands out among all the other classes as the one that impacted my spiritual journey at CanIL the most. That is why I really, really, really want to thank you for staying on working hard even though you could have been at home resting. Because you have not stopped serving, I was able to reap the benefits of your work. I cannot express how thankful to God I am for that."

Then, just yesterday, I (Susan) was talking to a new student who is currently taking Dave's online Language and Society class. That class has introduced her to issues she's never thought about before. In her words, the course material has affected her so deeply that it has "ripped her heart out". She is close to finishing but wants to savour everything she is learning as she recognizes that it's preparing her to be a better cross-cultural worker. It's wonderful to be affirmed in our work, but it's even better to hear how God is at work in the lives of our students!

The spring term finished in mid-April. Dave's two classes went well and we really enjoyed having the students from his Language Programs class over for a meal and games night towards the end of term. I took this selfie on the stairs in our townhouse...not bad for a beginner, eh?



Summers are busy times at CanIL and this summer we've welcomed 41 new students. Dave has regularly taught one of the biggest classes each summer, but this year he was granted a sabbatical from teaching. He isn't completely free of summer responsibilities, however, as he has helped orient his replacement and he's also the instructor for the online class I've already mentioned. But he definitely has a lighter schedule, which is good for him considering his physical limitations.

With Dave on a partial sabbatical, I will be working just two days a week so that he won't be home alone all summer. Fortunately, the summer term is the quietest one for me in terms of work as most students find that the self-serve reserve shelves meet all their needs. In the fall we both anticipate going back to our usual full-time schedule.

Family update

While Dave's ALS continues to progress slowly, the latest development has proved more challenging than all his other symptoms to date. Beginning in January he began to experience shortness of breath due to weakening of the muscles that govern breathing. Failure to breathe in enough oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide (the by-product of respiration), especially at night when breathing takes more effort because of being horizontal, was giving him morning headaches and persistent drowsiness. In May a respirologist finally confirmed that it was time for him to start using a breathing assist machine. As a result, a BC Health-sponsored organization has given him the use of a brand new BiPaP machine. Dave's headaches are gone and his drowsiness has diminished considerably. I'm doing better too—the machine is so quiet that I can sleep undisturbed by his side!

Despite Dave's physical limitations we are trying to stay as active as we can. In May we enjoyed a week of holiday split equally between Long Beach and Wenatchee in Washington and Cottage Grove, Oregon. Our 20-kilometre bike rides in each location were unique and highlights of our time away. Then we put our tourist hats on once again a few days later when Dave's brother and his younger daughter came from Ontario for a week's visit. Our one remaining getaway in late August will be family time in Okanagan Falls. We liked our week there with the kids so much last year that we're going to do a repeat--minus the cycling accident, I hope!



Multnomah Falls near Portland, Oregon



Othello Tunnels, east of Hope, BC

As for our kids, there's not a lot to report. Robby has moved into a permanent position in the organization he started working for in February. He's doing exactly what he was hired for on a temporary basis, but now has benefits. Robby's wife, Bitsy, is halfway through her teacher-training program at Simon Fraser University. These summer months have been classroom time for her, but she will be full-time in a class situation starting in September. Jonathan, Leanne's husband, continues working at the shrimp farm and Leanne is keeping busy with her counselling clients in Abbotsford and facilitation of a couple of children's counselling groups in Mission, BC.



Dave's brother, Ron, and his daughter, Dana, join us for a family meal at the VanderMeers!

Praise and prayer

- On June 15 the long-awaited **Supreme Court decision ruled AGAINST Trinity Western University's proposed law school**. Pray for wisdom for TWU leadership as they seek God's direction for the University as a whole, and that existing programs will not become the target of future legal action.
- Remember our **summer students**--including **Dave's online students**--that they will persevere in their studies and be willing to grapple with issues that prepare them to become better cross-cultural workers. Pray as well for grace for our **summer staff** in the accelerated summer schedule (nine weeks long instead of thirteen).
- This year's **CanIL Ride** on July 22 will hopefully be the best yet with a good number of riders and volunteers already signed up. Pray for safety and good success in raising funds for student scholarships. This will be the first time in six years that Dave won't be doing one of the rides.
- Thank God with us for the **blessings of technology** that are maintaining the quality of Dave's life as his ALS progresses. Please pray for continuing **ability to swallow and cough** and that some recent **weight loss** will stabilize. Pray, too, for daily grace for us both.

As always, thank you so much for partnering with us in training the next generation!

Susan

Susan and Dave Jeffery



Address: #32-32310 Mouat Drive, Abbotsford, BC V2T 4J1

Phone: 604-855-5088 E-mail: susan_jeffery@sil.org

Canada Institute of Linguistics: <http://www.canil.ca>

Wycliffe Bible Translators, 4316 10 St NE, Calgary AB T2E 6K3

Phone: 1-800-463-1143 E-mail: info@wycliffe.ca <http://www.wycliffe.ca>

Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando FL 32862-8200

Phone: 1-800-992-5433 E-mail: info_usa@wycliffe.org <http://www.wycliffe.org>

Cheques should be made payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators and designated "for the ministry of Dave and Susan Jeffery".