



North Country News

from the Hekmans

1020 Hunterhaven Road NW, Calgary, Alberta T2K 4K6

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Translation Work Nearing Completion in the North America Branch

Those of you who have followed our ministry for some time know that for nearly 20 years Don and I were involved in Bible translation work among indigenous language groups of Canada and the U.S. At that time there were thirty-five active language programs.

What a contrast now! In July Don spent a week at the North America Branch Conference. Now Wycliffe personnel are involved in only a dozen languages in Canada and the U.S., *but by 2008 that number will be down to about six language projects.* From 35 to 6! We feel real good about that and thank the Lord that we (that “we” includes you!) have been privileged to be a part of this work.

So much to thank God for! These groups—Indian, Inuit (Eskimo), Gullah, and Amish, among others—now have printed Scriptures in their languages as well as audio CDs, DVDs, radio and TV stations, dictionaries, grammars, primers, and bilingual education curricula.

Those Wycliffe folk who are still involved in language projects in 2008 will transfer to another administration—the *Americas Group*. Sound familiar? Don has been involved in this group for the past ten years providing consultant and administrative services. He attended this July Conference in order to understand the needs of the remaining North America projects and to help make their transition to the Americas Group as smooth as possible.

The Conference was a great experience—a chance to renew friendships, to celebrate completion and successes, and to prepare for the transitions ahead.

(Hmmm... a lot more white hairs than when we met this group thirty years ago! And no need to look for Don—he’s the one taking the picture.)



The big news that has happened this summer is that we have made the decision to move back to Ontario—something that has been in our plans for several years. For you non-Canadians, Ontario is way, way, way east of here—about a five day drive. We plan to live near Phyllis and Luke in the town of Kemptville, 40 minutes south of Ottawa—and the same distance north of northern New



York state. October 14th is the moving date—so keep an eye out for our new address. No, we are not retiring! But because Don does his work mainly through e-mail, phone and travel, he can do it as easily from Ottawa as from Calgary. There are strong family pulls from that side of the continent....

Our schedule for the next few months looks like this.

Mid-September: GR, Michigan for a missions conference at Fuller Ave CRC

Mid-October: Driving a U-Haul with all our stuff across a big chunk of Canada—Don, me and the dog in the front seat!

Mid-November: Don has a trip to Thailand for a Wycliffe and SIL Leadership Conference.

End-November: Both of us plan to be in Panama for five days at an America's Group Staff meeting. Great time of year to be heading south!

Life does seem extra busy for us these days and pretty “unsettled”, but there is still a big element of excitement at new beginnings, too. I wonder if many of you feel the same with lots of activities kicking in again this fall after the “leisure” of summer? Or do you just feel tired? We need to pray for each other. We all need the happy awareness of God's hourly presence in our lives—to be reminded that because of his presence every hour of life is sacred. (I was going to include a great quote about this from C.S.Lewis, but I think I've already packed the book—sigh!)

God bless you! *Don and Martha*

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