

MICHEALS' MEMOIRS

March 2005



Special Home Edition

HOUSE HUNTING IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

This is probably the strangest newsletter we have ever sent out to you, because in each newsletter we try to mainly focus on our work with Wycliffe. We also try to keep you informed about our family situation too. However, this newsletter deals with just our practical housing needs as missionaries in Orlando, Florida.

If you have followed our missionary work and life over the past 20 years we have served with Wycliffe you know two things:

1st That we receive our support directly from people and churches who support us. Wycliffe does not pay us a salary. We never know exactly month to month what that support will be.

2nd That we have moved often because of our work and these moves have had us living in a variety of houses.

Over our twenty years with Wycliffe we have lived in lots of different housing situations. We even lived in jungle bush houses for a while too! However, for most of our time with Wycliffe we have either had to rent for a variety of reasons or we lived in our locations for such short periods of time (such as on furloughs) that purchasing a house was not practical.

For many years in Papua New Guinea (PNG) we were not able to purchase a house at Ukarumpa because there was a shortage of missionary homes to buy. We rented translators houses when they were out in the village and had to move repeatedly when they returned to Ukarumpa. Eventually a missionary house did come up for sale at Ukarumpa and we used the small amount we had saved from the sale of our house in Michigan to buy a home there. We had that home in PNG for about five years and sold it when we returned to the States in 2000. However, the house we purchased at Ukarumpa did not increase in value like homes do in the USA.



Houses We Have Lived In With Wycliffe

While we were fortunate when we worked with Wycliffe in Chicago to rent a reasonably priced townhouse that Wycliffe provided, we do not have that option here in Orlando. Currently we are living in a temporary apartment here at the Wycliffe USA headquarters. However, we can only stay here for a short period of time since these units were built for members needing short term stays when they come to Orlando for training or meetings. Wycliffe does not have long term housing options available here at their headquarters.

As you can guess we have been housing hunting. What we have found has been discouraging. Prices have risen so dramatically in the past year that a home which sold for \$ 150,000 in April 2004 is now over \$ 225,000 and few houses are available below the \$ 180,000 range in decent or safe neighborhoods or near to our Wycliffe center. Some houses below \$ 200,000 are in locations which would mean long commutes for us (45 minutes to 1 hour) and with Chuck starting a new position with Wycliffe here and working long hours plus having only one car we do not believe that is a workable option for us.

WHAT TO DO???

The options for us are few since we have not been able to secure a large amount of home equity to purchase a home due to our years in PNG. While we do have a small amount of funds for a down payment, we do not have a large enough one to secure a home that will meet our needs.

Since houses are rising in price almost \$ 10,000 per month and we must move from our present location in a few months we believe purchasing a home now is very important and urgent! We also believe that if we do not purchase a house in a month or two we will not be able to afford one anywhere near our workplace or in a safe community.

What we lack is a large enough down payment which would make our house payments a reasonable monthly amount. If we can't secure more money for a down payment then finding ways to increase our monthly support is really the only other option open for us. That option will not be easy and will take quite some time to develop.

WHAT CAN YOU DO???

First, we would like each of you to pray for this need since it impacts us greatly!

Secondly, we have been urged by our senior leadership to make this need known to our supporters to see if there are people who would be willing to help us make an investment in a home here. **If people like you want to help us purchase a home, various methods of making that happen can be explored. Please let us know if you would like to help.** Our contact information is found to the right.

WHY THIS NEED???

When Wycliffe moved from California to Florida in 2000 they moved because of affordable housing. That was the situation then. Houses were selling for less than \$ 100,000. However, recently the city of Orlando, FL decided to develop the area around the Wycliffe center and today many houses located around the Wycliffe headquarters that were reasonable then are now over \$ 250,000 and climbing. Most of all these houses are brand new.

That has caused missionaries like us to look at houses a longer distance away from our work and these houses too have climbed in value. Why? Over 800 people a day are now moving to Central Florida!

CHUCK'S WORK

Chuck's work responsibilities are going well. There are lots of organizational challenges ahead in his work. However, having a home as soon as possible will help us both concentrate on what we came here to do.

Thanks for your help in prayer to have this need met!



Wycliffe Apartments – Our Temporary Home

OUR ORLANDO, FLORIDA ADDRESS

(Starting Feb 26)

Chuck & Barb Micheals

11407 Translation Way - Apt. F

Orlando, FL 32832

Tel: (407) 243-5114

Email: Chuck_Micheals@wycliffe.org

If you would like to discuss ways you can help us purchase a home, please use the contact information above.

FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Wycliffe Bible Translators

P. O. Box 628200

Orlando, FL 32862-8200

Marked for 'Chuck & Barb Micheals'

If you would like to give a special financial gift to help us purchase a home, please send it to the Wycliffe address above.

(Mark: "For Chuck & Barb's Housing Need")

Thank you to everyone who writes, prays and financially supports us!

Visit our web site:

www.cbmicheals.com