



February 2004 Update

## REPORTING IN!

A big portion of our work for Wycliffe this past winter has been compiling reports on our mobilization activities. A large portion of our work in the next two months will have us doing more reporting.

This reporting started off as an interest by Chuck to see what God was doing and how He was working in our region in terms of our recruitment. Chuck spent two weeks in early December compiling results of our recruitment work in the North Central region.



**Chuck Doing Research**

After sharing those findings with Wycliffe's national leadership, the Vice-president of Wycliffe asked Chuck to do research in February and March for the entire mobilization efforts of Wycliffe USA.

We are reporting in this month on the research we've done about how God is mobilizing people toward involvement in Bible translation. We will keep you informed in the months ahead as to what we find out nationally.



**Chuck & Barb at Grace University (NE)  
Mission Conference – February 2004**

## SUMMARY REPORT

We discovered that mobilization work is basically relationship building. On the average, it took almost seven contacts with people before those who did apply filled out an application. We also discovered that if a person applying to Wycliffe does not continue to move forward in some significant way during the first year after applying that the possibility of them actually making it to a field assignment is significantly diminished. This has helped us see that relationships must be built and sustained and that people who are ready for service need to be encouraged to move forward by faith during the first year.

## SOME PEOPLE MOVE AHEAD - SOME DON'T

We discovered that the more impersonal the contact we have with people, the less likely they are to apply or take a significant next step of involvement with us such as coming to Total It Up, going with Discovery or Get Global (Wycliffe's main short term mission trip programs for college or high school students) or attending Bible translation and linguistic training courses.

While Wycliffe attends events like Urbana (a large mission conference held every three years with 20,000 students attending) which draw large numbers of interested students, very few actually move forward with us. While the Internet accounts for almost 10% of all our applications, only a very small percentage of these people make it through the application

process. The larger the event, the fewer people move forward.

The main reason people do not move forward is a lack of readiness. The main issues that delay or result in applications being turned down are debt (both college loans and personal credit card debt) and personal issues (including addictions in life). However, 8% of our applicants who do not join Wycliffe do go on to serve with another mission.

We have discovered that being ready academically is only a small part of being ready for missions!

The people most likely to move ahead are ones living within their means financially, actively serving in the church and strongly connected to church life, living a healthy lifestyle both spiritually and physically, and those who have developed good interpersonal skills. Is that you? God could be calling you to involvement in missions!

## WRAPPING IT UP

In the last three years our regional mobilization team of 20 people, which Chuck directs, made about 3000 contacts with interested people. Out of these 3000 people, approximately 300 applied to Wycliffe. Of the 300 people who applied, about 30 made it to a field assignment! That's just 1%!

Are we disappointed? No! God often uses the small things to accomplish His large purposes. We want to encourage you to read the story of Gideon in the Bible in Judges 7.

## GOD'S WORK MOVES AHEAD

We are greatly encouraged by reports about an increase in the number of new Bible translation projects started recently. Over 60 projects have been started in each of the last four years, and so today the number of languages needing translation has gone down from 3000 to 2737!

Check out our new web site at:

[www.cbmicheals.com](http://www.cbmicheals.com)

## PRAISE AND PRAYER

- We thank the Lord for safety in travel and for good contacts we made with students and staff in January and February at mission conferences at Grace University (NE) and Wheaton College (IL).
- We thank the Lord for Jenny's safe arrival in South Africa for a semester of study at the Bible school there and for Isaac's safety in Haiti despite unrest in the country. Please pray for continued safety for them and for successful school semesters.



**Jenny with Other Students from RBC  
Headed to South Africa**

- Pray for our mobilization work coming up in March and April (National Mobilization Report, four Trans Scans and one college mission conference in April at Huntington College - IN). Pray for Barb as she takes over some of Chuck's responsibilities while he works on the national report.

**Thank you to all who continue to support us through your prayers, letters and financial gifts.**

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### **For Financial Support:**

(Mark for Chuck & Barb Micheals)

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