

# MICHEALS' MEMOIRS

October 2002

## DECISION TIME!!!

### RETURN TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA OR STAY WITH WYCLIFFE IN CHICAGO?

Several months ago we were surprised to receive an email from the SIL Papua New Guinea (PNG) branch. It included an invitation by the branch for us to return to PNG and have Chuck run the SIL Members' Store at Ukarumpa while the current manager goes on furlough for a year starting in June 2003. The invitation also included an offer for us to stay longer if we wished and work with the current manager upon his return so that there would be two SIL members in the store.

For most of the 15 years that Chuck managed the SIL Members' Store, he managed it without the assistance of another SIL member although there were times that another SIL colleague helped with the store finances. During the years Chuck managed the store he felt that the store was a two SIL member operation and so he looked for someone to assist him in the management, but was unsuccessful.

Now we were being asked to not only come back to PNG and help out during the current managers' furlough, but to make Chuck's dream of the store being a two-man operation a reality. We also knew how important it was to find replacements for furlough years.

So, we began to pray about this important decision and we informed our supporting churches, our family and many of our supporters nearby of this invitation and asked them to pray. We felt that if God was leading us back that He would confirm that through those we were accountable to, our supporting churches and supporting individuals.

After spending much time in prayer and hearing back from these individuals and churches we were surprised to learn that not one individual suggested we return to PNG. Many people and several churches wrote and said they would support us in whatever we decided to do, but those who shared with us a specific direction said they felt we should stay working for Wycliffe in Chicago.



### Our Home For 15 Years

The main reason people suggested we stay in our present positions with Wycliffe is because they saw our work as a multiplying work. Many people wrote and said that because we were doing our work here, many more missionaries were heading overseas.

As we prayed, we too felt that the Lord was telling us to stay as we began to see the results of our past two years of recruitment work. Almost 200 people have applied to Wycliffe from our region and many of these people are the direct result of our efforts.

We also spoke to our children and other family members since some of the reasons we came home were for the needs of our children and parents. Our children are now out of the house and pretty much on their own. They all told us that we did not need to stay home for them. However, the situation with our parents is different.

Over the past year, Barb's dad has been sick and has required much family care. Several times Barb spent a week in Michigan taking care of her dad at his house to give her sisters a break. This past month, Barb's dad passed away so that work is finished. However, Barb's mother is continuing to fail in health. Chuck's mom has gotten stronger since we've come home. but still needs the support of family.

Therefore, we have decided that the Lord wants us to stay in Chicago and in our present recruitment work with Wycliffe. Please pray with us that all of our supporters and churches will continue the support of our work as we remain in the USA and prepare others to serve overseas! **Pray the Lord will lead us to someone who can run the store in PNG.**

## OUR REGIONAL OFFICE WORK

The work that we do for Wycliffe covers a nine state area. Our contacts with colleges, churches and individuals come from the area shown below.



Our main regional office is in Chicago, where we work. However, we also have two City Teams. One City Team is serving in Holland, MI and the other in Minneapolis, MN. Chuck is responsible for these teams. Each team is made up of one or more Wycliffe couples serving as Area Coordinators. The plan is to have lay volunteers assisting these teams in each city area. The purpose of these teams is to bring the work of Wycliffe to a city level. These teams then can more easily work with colleges, churches and individuals who want to serve in the ministry of Bible translation.

We are praying for more City Teams to be developed in the Omaha, NE, Indianapolis, IN, Detroit, MI and the Quad Cities, IL areas. **Will you join us in praying that the Lord will provide workers in these needed areas to challenge individuals and churches to respond to the Great Commission and in particular Bible translation work?**

### Work With College Students

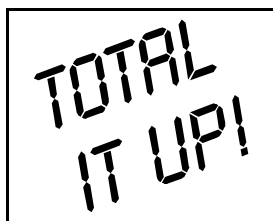
As you know, much of our work is with high school and college students. We believe this is where the Lord is already working and preparing people for ministry. To meet these students we produced Total It Up and other programs we have written about. However, each student we contact requires a lot of follow-up work. Often students contact us with an interest in a particular field. It may be translation, teaching or even a field such as Ethnomusicology (which is helping people in areas where we work to prepare songs of worship and praise in their own language using their own musical instruments and rhythms.)

Barb's main work in the office is meeting these students either in person, on the phone or by email and handling their requests. Sometimes this follow-up work requires sharing her story of how God

helped her to be obedient to the call of missions in her life. Sometimes it requires having meals with students in our home, but usually her job involves mailing lots of information to interested people.

Barb's work also involves a lot of relationship building and requires perseverance in tracking down answers within the world of Wycliffe for questions students have about needed training. It often involves a ministry of encouragement to those who have started down the pathway to membership, but are having difficulty raising the necessary prayer and financial support. **Please pray for strength and wisdom for Barb as she works with the bulk of these interested students.**





## MORE TIU COURSE MATERIAL

As we promised in our last newsletter, we are continuing to give you an insight into the training that a Bible translator needs. In this newsletter we want to feature the work of Grammar.

# GRAMMAR

**Q: Why is the study of grammar necessary to be a good Bible translator?**

**A.** “Natural languages, whether they have a developed, written literature or not, are complex, beautifully structured and internally consistent.” (J. Healey)

Have you ever thought about how many new sentences you invent every day? How is it that, when you invent a brand new sentence never used before, your hearers can understand it immediately? It's because they know the words and the patterns used.

All language is patterned activity. We react to a given language and understand it because we understand the patterns the language uses.

SOUNDS have patterns, and in Phonetics and Phonology we study sounds and the way they are used in language. To hear and speak a language, we need to understand its sounds and sound patterns.

Similarly, WORDS and SENTENCES also have patterns. Words are systematically built up into sentences in every language. They don't go together at random, (eg. “village to the boy the went...”), but rather in regular patterns. The patterns differ between languages.

To learn to speak a language, you need to master the patterns of that language. You must be able to recognize them and react to them instantaneously. You will do a lot of memorization and drilling before the new habits of speech are formed. But if you don't form new habits, you will tend to use the patterns of your own native language and fail to ever

speak the target language naturally. You need, therefore, to “break” the habits and patterns of your own language.

An understanding of the patterns reinforces the learning process, and helps you to master and internalize the new patterns.

For good Bible translation it is imperative that we know all about how the patterns of the language work together. GRAMMAR is concerned with the study of these patterns of words and sentences and their use in specific languages.



**Learning the Language and Grammar of the Hindi Language in TIU**



**Some of the TIU Teaching Staff**

- **Phill Harms** - Bible translator, Colombia
- **Rachel Brengel** - Linguistic student at Michigan State University and a TIU Alumni who was a TA (Teaching Assistant)
- **Andy Minch** - Bible translator, PNG

**NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART!!!**  
**GRAMMAR SELF TEST In The TIU COURSE**

Read the following simple short story. It consists of sentences, which are made up of clauses. After reading it, follow the instructions below the story.

*Bill was fishing by the river. He threw his line into the water and then he sat on the sandy bank. After a while, he felt a few nibbles on his line. Carefully, he pulled the line towards him. Several small silvery fish followed the bait to the shore. However they were too small to take the bait. Bill baited his line again and tried once more.*

(Cover up answers below before taking the test)

- (a) Select the Transitive Clause and write it here: \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Select an Intransitive Clause and write it here: \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Select one Noun Phrase and write it here: \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Select one Verb Phrase and write it here: \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) What sort of phrase is “by the river” and write it here: \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) What sort of word is “they” and write it here: \_\_\_\_\_
- (g) What sort of word is “tried” and write it here: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you do? Ready to tackle Bible translation? It is doable with training, encouragement, support and God’s help! This is a work that needs to be done and with God’s provision it will be done!

**Answers:**

- a) “He threw his line into the water...”
- b) “Bill was fishing by the river...”
- c) “his line...”
- d) “was fishing...”
- e) Prepositional Phrase
- f) Pronoun
- g) Verb

**FOR PRAYER SUPPORT AND OUR HOME ADDRESS**

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

**Family News**

**PRAISES and PRAYER**

- Josh and Maria had their baby, Ryan Joshua, born July 20. He was 18 ½ inches, 5 lb. 7 oz.. Mom, baby and dad are doing well. **Pray for the Mishlers as they are deciding about possible service with Wycliffe!**
- Isaac is now teaching at Quisqueya Christian School in Haiti. He left for Haiti on August 11, 2002. He is teaching high school US History, Comparative Government, Modern World History and American Literature. He has a 9<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom. **Pray for strength and wisdom as he has to prepare 4 lesson preps each day!**
- Chris and Rachel have moved to Omaha, NE where Chris is working as an accountant and Rachel as a bank teller. Chris is working on his CPA license. **Pray that they will find a good church home and friends.**
- Jenny is now at the Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids, MI. Jenny’s major is missions. She is considering a “Study Abroad” program for next year. **Pray for direction of where she should study.**



**FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**  
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