

Spoiled Rotten in Texas

Beautifully-Smoked Brisket, Ranch Rides, "Boating" with Bob, Future Fireman, Customized Cutouts, Our Retired Wycliffe Missionary Prayer Partners from 2005-2009, and a remnant of our children's church group, now all grown up...



...and so much more!



**Our Contact Info (until June): 105 N President St. Wheaton, IL, 60187
(630) 427-7622 - travis_williamson@sil.org**



THE RACE CONTINUES...

TAW's Mile Marker 44
April 2018

Exhausted



yet



Encouraged

That is how we felt after our two-week road trip to visit friends and ministry partners down in the more "inhabitable" climate of the US (yes, we are surviving the Chicago winter...but just barely!). Feeling the warm embrace of our church family in Dallas, in addition to

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus...

Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV



several other dear friends in route, melted away the disappointment of having missed visiting them during our last furlough of 2015. The kids' bedtime went out the window as night after night our dinner appointments spilled over into meaningful and edifying conversations, so crucial for the spiritual refreshment Andrea and I have been seeking these past few months. Please continue to pray for us as we begin preparations for returning to Ethiopia in July.

Please do not post the content of this newsletter on the internet without permission.

1998-1999

When I arrived at Moody Bible Institute to begin my Freshman year of college, I was passionate about missions: wanting to witness and play a role in making DISCIPLES of the nations! I remember saying in prayer, “God I’ll do anything in missions, well...except Bible translation.” And just as you probably laughed at hearing that, I’m sure that God did too. You see, I thought Bible translation was a boring office job, trapped in a cubicle, surrounded by books and basically writing a term paper the rest of my life. This unfortunate misunderstanding was corrected that Freshman year as a Wycliffe Bible translator named Marilyn Laszlo came to speak at Moody. Her story of living among and translating the New Testament with the Sepik Iwam people of Papua New Guinea opened my eyes to the disciple-making process of Bible translation. To translate clearly and naturally, Marilyn needed the Sepik Iwam mother tongue translators more than they needed her! Yet Marilyn brought her Biblical and linguistic training, such that together they could produce a translation that is both faithful to the original text and also “sweet” in the Sepik Iwam peoples’ ears. Wrestling deep in the text of Scripture, it’s no wonder that Marilyn and her colleagues grew in wisdom and spiritual stature. For them Bible translation was a beautiful process producing not only a book, but also the first generation of Biblically-literate church leaders. In 1999, God’s story through Marilyn hooked me with a triple-barbed hook that aint never coming out.

As I have said in our ministry presentations, I stand in awe of God now, nearly 20 years later, marveling at having come full circle. This past term

2017-2018

in Ethiopia, I witnessed the results of God making disciples among the Gumuz people through the process of Bible translation. I reflected on the faith of the Gumuz translators when we first began back in 2012: vibrant, yet without a foundation in the Truth; comparing that with the sound theological foundation they demonstrated to me last Spring in the rigorous checks of Romans and Hebrews. Equipped not only with Scripture in their language, these young leaders have a Bible-based theological education that would rival many seminary grads! So much for the boring office job I once despised!

In another sense, this current home assignment has been another example of coming full circle. For just as God used Marilyn Laszlo’s story in my life, I’ve been given the privilege of being Marilyn for many of today’s students at Moody. And the same God is at work! From my class of 15 last semester, 3 students have now switched their majors to Applied Linguistics. Recently, I had the opportunity to speak in one Freshman missions class, resulting in 2 other students having felt God’s call into Bible translation. Please continue to pray with us as I have the opportunity later this month to speak in three more missions classes. The harvest is plentiful...what a joy to be his mouthpiece in petitioning more laborers!

Coming Full Circle