

Intercessor

July/August 2008

A Look at One of Our Partners

Dear Prayer Partners,

In Australia, a translator must cease his work in order to cut back dry grass that surrounds the branch compound. If he doesn't, the grass will become a dangerous fire hazard, jeopardizing lives and property.

In Chad, a translator must divert her attention to the care and maintenance of the local office facilities. Critical communications systems must be operational, construction projects conducted safely, and food supplies sufficiently stocked.

In Vanuatu, a translator is called away from his usual responsibilities to serve as a mechanic for the local branch office. Without functioning and reliable transportation, personnel cannot reach doctors, markets and, in some cases, their own homes.

The personnel shortages related in the previous examples are true and tragic, as Bible translators are often diverted from their primary work—the work for which they are well trained and best suited—Bible translation. One of our ministry partners, Wycliffe Associates (WA) is passionate about seeing those needs met by capable volunteers, allowing the work of Bible translation to advance. Since 1967, WA has been supporting Bible translation by recruiting and mobilizing lay people to offer practical assistance in a variety of areas, such as construction, education, administrative work, child care and hospitality-based services.

Because great numbers of workers, including volunteers, will be needed to accomplish Vision 2025, we are turning the prayer spotlight on WA for this issue of

The Finish Line

Use this unique prayer tool to pray for translation projects that are within three years of publication. Learn about specific needs of translators who are persevering through the multiplied challenges of the final translation stages.

This year, instead of mailing *The Finish Line* to all *Intercessor* subscribers, we are happy to take your order.



Order your free copy today!

**prayer_usa@wycliffe.org
1-800-WYCLIFFE**

Intercessor. You'll find their prayer requests on page two and following. Also, on page three is a profile on Jim Schuitema, a WA member with a heart for serving and prayer. Jim's service at Wycliffe Bible Translator's USA Mobilization Center in Orlando, Florida started with an outdoor construction project, but soon God directed Jim to build a different kind of structure that has eternal impact. We know you'll be encouraged by his story.

We want to thank you for your continued support of Bible translation through prayer. We think of you—our special partners—almost daily. Our distribution list of almost 8,500 individuals is a treasure we hold with grateful, humble hands.

Serving the Lord joyfully with you.

Wycliffe USA Prayer Ministries Staff

"Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else."

(2 Cor. 9:15, NLT)

Intercessor is a bimonthly prayer letter published by Wycliffe USA Prayer Ministries

“When He looked out over the crowds, His heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. “What a huge harvest!” He said to His disciples. ‘How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!’”

(MATTHEW 9:37-38, THE MESSAGE)

Volunteer Recruitment

- A new recruitment “blitz”—essentially the largest volunteer recruitment effort ever put forth by Wycliffe Associates (WA)—is underway. **Pray** for Brent Hulett, vice president of recruiting, who is overseeing the effort. WA is asking God for a substantial increase in volunteers recruited each year for service in the U.S. and around the world.
- With this new effort at least five new managers are needed to serve in recruitment positions. **Pray** that the Lord will provide the right men and women needed to strengthen the department.
- **Pray** also for the WA marketing coordinator, who is recovering from surgery. **Ask God** to heal her, even more quickly than the several weeks estimated by doctors. May it comfort her to remember Psalm 31:15, “My times are in Your hands....”

Deploying Volunteers

- **Pray** for God’s guidance and discernment in determining how to best use volunteers and their expertise, whether in Orlando or elsewhere around the world.
- **Pray** that volunteer job needs will be communicated to WA so that they can match volunteers’ skills with the appropriate job.
- **Pray** for spiritual protection as volunteers prepare to go. Sudden illness, family challenges, financial setbacks or others sometimes arise at this time, hindering their deployment. **Pray** that faithful prayer partners will be supporting the volunteers while they are on the job.
- Visas are an ongoing concern for new volunteers preparing for overseas service. **Pray** that God will overrule officials delaying or denying visas where His work might be hindered or stopped. God is able.
- **Pray** that volunteers will be well prepared physically for their work, including required vaccinations.



TOP TEN * VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Eurasia.....	Site Volunteer Coordinator
North America.....	Project Manager
Latin America.....	Teachers
Asia.....	Construction Superintendent
Asia.....	Operations Administrator
Africa.....	Personnel Director
North America.....	Vocational Recruiting
North America.....	Administrative Assistant
Africa.....	Accountant
Pacific.....	Center Manager

Please pray for a volunteer to meet each of these needs.

For an updated Top Ten list and information about additional opportunities, visit WA’s website.

The possibilities are great!

<http://www.wycliffeassociates.org>

Caring for Volunteers

- **Pray** for at least ten Site Volunteer Coordinators (SVCs) for selected locations around the world. Sending large numbers of volunteers into a foreign location can be taxing on local workers. SVCs take care of logistical issues like housing and transportation, and also provide the field orientation necessary for volunteers to serve effectively in a new place.
- **Pray** for the SVC in Papua New Guinea who was flown to Australia for cancer surgery. **Pray** for the eradica-

tion of every cancer cell—God’s total restoration.

- The SVC in Chad recently flew back to America after his brother died unexpectedly. While in the U.S., he suffered chest pains and numbness in his arm and was hospitalized. **Pray** that the cause of his symptoms would be discovered. **Pray** that he may know the peace of God’s everlasting arms are beneath him. (Deuteronomy 33:27).

Special Volunteer Needs

- WA is involved in over 70 construction projects in 27 countries. They are building everything from offices to translators houses, schools, administrative buildings, runways in the jungle and large translation centers. **Pray** that the Lord will provide the construction workers and design specialists needed to complete these projects. *(continued)*

Profile of a Wycliffe Associates Pray-er

Two years ago, when Michigan residents, Jim Schuitema (see photo below) and his wife, Linda, retired from education careers, they decided to spend six months of each year serving as volunteers with Wycliffe Associates (WA) in Orlando, FL. Initially, Jim was assigned to work on construction projects, but when a co-worker asked him to consider involvement in an onsite prayer program, he was thrilled.

As someone who had always been passionate about prayer, Jim eagerly accepted the opportunity. For the next few months, he dedicated himself to spending long hours in intercession for language communities and translation projects worldwide.

As exciting as this was for Jim, he wanted to do more. He discovered that volunteer intercessors were assigned to only two Wycliffe USA departments—advancement and prayer ministries. Under deep conviction, Jim asked for permission to expand the ministry. The request was approved, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit as well as godly mentors,

Jim helped to establish a network of intercessors who represent 11 departments.

So far, each department that has requested a volunteer pray-er has been assigned one. Department contacts keep these intercessors apprised of ongoing prayer needs related to their work. As a result, onsite and remote volunteer pray-ers can intercede for them on a daily basis. Jim also communicates with intercessors weekly, bringing them encouragement and support.

Despite his influential role, Jim quickly attributes all glory and honor to God for making this prayer effort a reality.

Recently, Jim was asked to develop another prayer project—this time on behalf of the WA recruitment team. Jim and WA Chaplain Ron Sumpter are coordinating this new effort. **Pray** that God would help them identify a group of volunteers who are willing to intercede for WA recruiters, support staff, management and potential recruits. **Praise God** for prayer partners who have already committed to daily intercession. **Ask the Lord** to equip Jim and Ron to bring encouragement and guidance to each one.



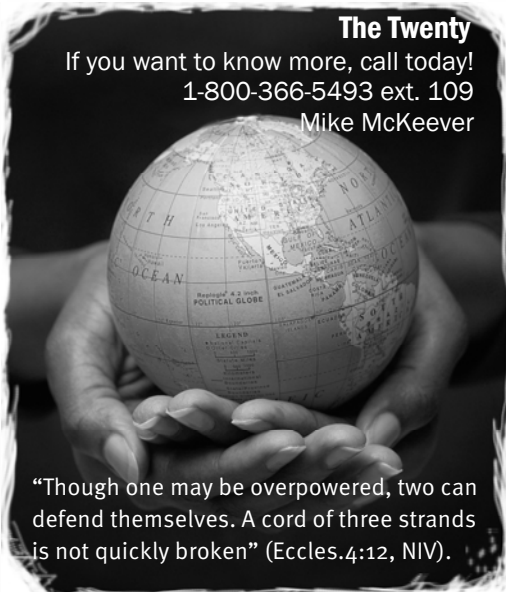
“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.”

(COLOSSIANS 4:2, NLT)

Two years ago, when Michigan residents, Jim Schuitema (left) and his wife, Linda, retired from education careers, they decided to spend six months of each year serving as volunteers with Wycliffe Associates in Orlando, FL.

(continued from previous page)

- **Pray** that WA will make a significant contribution toward the more than 300 teachers, tutors and school administrators who are needed worldwide for missionary kids (MKs), including Wycliffe's.
- **Pray** for volunteer accountants, bookkeepers and office administrators who are needed in many locations. **Ask the LORD** to lead an individual to fill one of the urgent needs for short-term accounting help to assist our translation partners in Lome, Togo. **Ask Him** to give joy, speed, accuracy and wisdom to local staff currently handling the bookkeeping in addition to their other duties.
- Wycliffe entities around the world hold staff conferences for learning, spiritual enrichment, fellowship and planning. During these events, WA KidZone International volunteers provide children of the attendees a quality ministry experience through a vacation Bible school program. This allows the parents to participate fully in their entities' conference. **Praise God** for the KidZone volunteers who bring the gift of love, music and crafts to these missionary kids who face many challenges on the field just as their parents do. **Pray** for enough volunteers to help at each entity needing this kind of support.



The Twenty
If you want to know more, call today!
1-800-366-5493 ext. 109
Mike McKeever

“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken” (Eccles.4:12, NIV).

Intercessor

Does your church pray?

We're looking for congregations, who believe in the power of prayer, to partner with us in intercession for the top twenty countries with the greatest remaining translation needs.

It starts with one church connecting to one country. The next step involves identifying two additional churches as prayer partners, creating a cord of three strands, which we know isn't easily broken. (Eccles 4:12)

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