



Janet's Journal

April 2020

The Light Shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it! John 1:5 NLT

In early March, just before the COVID 19 shutdown, members gathered at the Wycliffe headquarters to celebrate twenty new Scripture publications recently published. The language groups receiving God's Word for the first time were from Africa, Asia, South America, North America, the Pacific Islands and Russia. We celebrated that 4.8 MILLION more people have access to God's Word in the language that best speaks to their hearts! Praise the Lord! If that's not worth celebrating, I don't know what is!



At our celebration, the theme verse above was read in many different languages, ending with the one we best understand as the lights were raised in the auditorium. It was a powerful reminder of the impact of Scripture. God's Word brings LIGHT to the darkness. You can watch the streaming of the Spring Scripture Celebration at <https://sites.google.com/a/wycliffe.org/streaming/scripture-celebrations/2020/03-11-20?authuser=0>

We are living in a world that is spinning right now; many people are fearful. *God has not given us a spirit of fear but of love, power and a sound mind.* (II Timothy 1:7) God has done everything to bring us to Himself, where we can abide in peace. The enemy wants to intimidate God's people right along with unbelievers, but we, His Church, must stand in peace so that the world will wonder what we have that makes us so much different. WE have LIGHT. We have PEACE. We have HOPE.

But what about the billions of people who still have NEVER *even heard* about Jesus? **How do they confront coronavirus without Christ?**

At Joshuaproject.net it states that 81% of all Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists *don't even know* a Christian. They also report that an estimated 1 billion adults in the world today still cannot read. Only one *out of every ten missionaries* in the world (from all the sending countries) go to Unreached People Groups. If only *one out of every ten* is going to share Jesus with those who are without *any witness*, that means that *nine out of every ten* are focused on areas that already have access to the Gospel, although they may still have great need. Even more startling is that out of *every dollar* used for missions, *less than one penny* is directed towards sharing the Gospel with those Unreached People groups. A heart-felt "Thank you!" to all of you who are investing prayer and resources so that they too can hear God's GOOD NEWS.

People Engagement

Even though our events are cancelled temporarily, my boss keeps finding work projects to keep me busy, so I continue working several hours a day. I've been used to meeting with my colleagues using technology, but now I'm on a lot more "virtual" meetings with them for prayer, planning and webinars for training purposes. We still have one Explore Bible



Translation event planned for mid-July. Please pray we'll make the right decision about holding or canceling it. We're waiting to see when the country will be "open for business" again.

Sometimes one of my cats (in this case, Tabby) joins me for a virtual meeting, which someone has referred to as "Hollywood Squares" from an old television game show.

Personal News

"Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world." Psalm 46:10

Through this season of isolation I'm learning that I don't always have to be moving, doing or reacting. Sometimes being still is the best thing to do. It's also very nice that so many organizations are allowing free streaming of musicals and dramas (I recently watched several episodes of "The Chosen," a new Bible-based series). If you're local to Lancaster, you've heard of *Servant Stage*, a group of Christian professionals who perform popular musicals and dramas free of charge (donations accepted), and they especially love to perform at retirement homes. During this time of stay-at-home orders, they're offering free streaming of their past shows (<https://servantstage.org/servant-stage-at-home>). So much is now available online; I'm going to miss this when we get back to our new "normal." Like most, I'm able to watch my church's sermon and devotional recordings, as well as some from other popular speakers on the internet, but I will be glad when we can meet together again in person.

Some sad news is that my cousin's husband, Drew, passed away this week from the Corona virus after being hospitalized and on a ventilator for a few weeks. Please pray for his wife Kim and their extended family. Kim and Drew were childhood sweethearts.

I'm staying healthy and made myself some masks from some scrap material. I try not to go out more than once a week and "suit up" with mask and gloves when I do. With the gym closed I'm trying to exercise using my standing bike, as well as taking walks at a local park. With extra time on my hands I'm reading more books (real books, not the audio ones I used to get from the library) and working on some photo projects to get old slides sorted and organized in digital format.

Thank you for your partnership in my ministry, helping to reach every people group with God's Word in a language that's most understandable to them. I feel very blessed by God's faithfulness through you.

In Christ's service,

Janet

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Pray for:

*Healing of those with the virus
 All to stay healthy and follow
 precautions
 A soon return to "normal" life*

Praise for:

*My good health
 Christian programming
 now available through streaming
 Technology enabling us to work*