



Janet's Journal



Dear friends,

Translation advisor, Bob Ulfers, and his Karang-speaking colleague, Jacob, had come to the village of Zefatu in Cameroon to test the translation of 2 Thessalonians into the Karang language. But as they approached the isolated chapel at the top of the hill, Bob wondered if anyone would show up to help.

A few men did come, and the two began to read the translation to them. When they came to chapter 2, verse 13, they read, "I ba tul fe pay ke sakra nzuk-kan lawri ke-e ya." (You are the first fruits among those who believe whom God rescued).

The men responded with blank stares. Bob turned to Jacob and said, "We need to make the analogy more explicit." He nodded in agreement and together they went to work on a clearer translation. They changed the metaphor (first fruits) into a simile (like the first fruits of a crop), and then explained how people were like first fruits (you are the first believers). The result was: "You are like the first fruits of a crop, you are the first believers whom God rescued."

Bob looked up from the page and saw many smiling faces. They understood now! Telling them they were first fruits was taken literally and made no sense to them, but saying they were like the first fruits of a harvest brought out the analogy naturally, and it was now easily grasped by this agricultural community. And wow, what a crowd! Bob had been too preoccupied with the testing process to notice that one by one, twenty people and a number of children had worked their way up the hill to the small chapel.

Looking down at the translation again, Bob thought, "Will this Word be the seed for the first fruits here in the village of Zefatu?" In other Karang villages, there are already first believers, who are now being equipped with more translated Scriptures in their language. Bob and Jacob anticipate the day when the harvest begins here, too, as the residents of Zefatu hear more and more of God's Word in their mother tongue.

Workwise we will be hosting a Pathways online event in January, and you can find out more about it at <https://www.wycliffe.org/events/pathways>. Our next in-person Explore event is now scheduled for next May 2022. It seems a long way off, but there are tasks I can do now to prepare for the event, such as reserving the venue, selecting staff and making up a schedule for the program. I'm also working on other short-term projects posting high priority jobs.

If you want to see how we celebrate the publication and distribution of Scriptures in other languages, follow this link to watch and enjoy at <https://www.wycliffe.org/celebrate>. We really know how to throw a party!

An update on my eye pressure issue--I'll be having eye surgery on my right eye on Tuesday, November 23rd, as an intervention to try to get my eye pressure down, which is high due to my steroid injections. If it doesn't work, then the doctor may have to perform a bigger, more risky operation. The results are in God's hands, and I have peace about it. One step at a

time. I got another steroid shot this past Monday, but hopefully the drops will keep the pressure down until the operation. The doctor doing the surgery is a glaucoma specialist, and very much in demand.

I've had a couple follow-up visits about my jaw and using the mouth piece, and the doctor said he sees much improvement in how wide I can now open my mouth (still not ready for those double bacon burgers!) and move it from side to side. There's still pain, but hopefully time will reduce that as well.

I had a flu shot a few weeks ago and just got my Moderna booster yesterday, so I'm staying safe and healthy in other areas.

I'm very grateful for my financial partners, and especially for a large unexpected gift that will help with all my recent medical expenses. Your prayers are much appreciated as well.

As we move into the next couple months before the end of the year, please don't forget to be **thankful** or skip that special holiday, and also remember the reason why we celebrate Christmas. I've already seen Christmas lights up and, while I love the season and lights, I also want to give God **thanks** for His many blessings and provision to me. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

In Christ's service



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Praise for:

*A large financial gift
God's many blessings
Good medical care*

Pray for:

*Reimbursement from insurance
A successful eye surgery
Reduced pain in my jaw*

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