



Mark and Laura Woodward, October 2009

Dear praying friends,

Many thanks for your prayers over the last few months for what God is doing around the world in Bible translation! It is a privilege for us to be able to play a small part in what he is doing, and our prayer is that you share our excitement too!

In July we had the opportunity to lead a group of 18-20 year-olds to Burkina Faso in West Africa. The group (7 of us in total) went to visit Bible translation projects in the country to see first-hand what God is doing and to meet some of the translation teams.

We were able to visit two translation projects - in the southwest around the town of Diebouougou, and in the northwest around Tougan. The translators in Diebouougou are from the Dagara and Djan language groups, and are part-way through translating the New Testament into their languages. It was great to be able to spend a week with them and to see what their job was like on a day-to-day basis.

We were able to chat with them (helped by Laura and others in the group with a good level of French...!) and to learn something of the challenges and joys of their work. It was a privilege to be able to pray for them as they see people impacted by God's word in their language for the first time, and also to ask them to pray that people and churches in the UK and the US would be impacted in the same way.



Spending time with the translation teams in Diebouougou and Tougan



In Tougan we met with translators from two dialects of the San language, and a Canadian linguist who is working with them to try to develop an appropriate writing system. Here again we were really welcomed into people's houses and courtyards and felt completely at home as part of the Body of Christ - even though we had come from so far away!

As a team I think we learnt a great deal about Bible translation and how God brings people together to make himself known. For us personally the trip was a reminder of the importance of Bible translation, not just so that people can hear the Good News, but so that they can grow, tell others, and play their full part in the world church - adding their own unique cultural perspective to our understanding of scripture.

Our prayer is that the other team members will also have learnt a lot, and been challenged to continue to pray for what God is doing in and through Bible translation throughout Burkina Faso.

After a few days back in the UK we were very excited to have Laura's parents and sister visit us for a couple of weeks. It was great to see them again and for them to have a small insight into our lives in the UK (and some of the cultural differences that Laura has adapted to!).

Then in August and September Mark again had the opportunity to teach phonetics to new European members starting training to go overseas. The new sounds that they learnt to recognise and produce will hopefully be a useful tool for them as they seek to learn other languages and live out God's kingdom in a totally new culture.

In the Wycliffe UK office Mark is also continuing in his role of Recruitment Coordinator, helping people who are wanting to be involved in Bible translation to know what their place might be in what God is doing around the world.



Some photos from a beautiful late September holiday on the Somerset coast



### Looking ahead

After almost 3 years in the UK we're starting to make plans to head out to Tanzania to be involved in Bible translation there. Laura will apply for her UK citizenship in January 2010 which will probably take several months to be granted. After that we're hoping to make a trip to the US for a couple of months to visit family, friends and supporters, with the aim of leaving for Tanzania at the start of 2011.

We're just starting to talk to our partner organisation in Tanzania about what we would potentially be doing there. One possibility is to be involved with several language communities in the southwest of the country, helping to start a new project to raise up translators and see the Bible translated into their languages. However there is a lot that can change in the next year or so, so we're really just praying that God would lead us forward one step at a time.

Thanks so much for being a part of what God is doing through Bible translation around the world! Your prayers and financial support are a vital part of seeing God's message of love translated into languages and lives in thousands of communities around the world. We pray that you'll continue to journey with us as we follow God's leading in the future, to language projects in Tanzania or wherever else he may take us!



Cut along here to remember to pray for us!

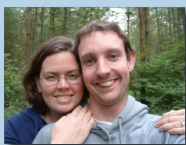
Mark and Laura Woodward

The Wycliffe Centre  
Horsleys Green  
High Wycombe  
HP14 3XL  
UK

Web: [www.everytongue.co.uk](http://www.everytongue.co.uk)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/woodwardmw](http://www.twitter.com/woodwardmw)

Email: [mark\\_woodward@wycliffe.org](mailto:mark_woodward@wycliffe.org)



### Thank God for:

A great team of people who regularly pray for us and support us financially

The many things that we learnt during our time in Burkina Faso

A good visit with Laura's family

The new recruits over the past year, some of whom are currently training to go overseas

### Pray for:

God to continue to raise up more people from the UK to go overseas and join in what he is doing in Bible translation

Wisdom for us as we plan next year with a view to going overseas after that

More supporters to join us in being a part of seeing God's message of love translated into languages and lives!

Wycliffe UK  
[www.wycliffe.org.uk](http://www.wycliffe.org.uk)  
[askus@wycliffe.org](mailto:askus@wycliffe.org)

