



Mark and Laura Woodward, July 2008

Dear praying friends,

Thanks for all your prayer and support over the last few months – it's been exciting to see what God is doing both here in the UK and overseas. We hope that you really feel a part of what is happening too!

We have had a new Executive Director, Eddie Arthur, since February which has been good, and has meant a bit of adjustment for Laura in her role as his personal assistant. But she enjoys working with him and especially the new skills and enthusiasm he brings to the job.

I think we have all appreciated the renewed sense of vision, and a focus on God's mission to the world and the part that Bible translation plays in it.

Please do continue to pray for Laura in her role, and also for Eddie as he continues to settle in as well as moving house so that he's nearer to the office.



Us next to the Wycliffe stand at Spring Harvest

In April we were representing Wycliffe at a large UK Christian festival – Spring Harvest. It was great to be there and to be part of the event and be able to go to many of the sessions. While we didn't have huge numbers of people visiting our display, we had some good conversations, and we pray that God will use these for his glory.



Wycliffe UK website and blog

Mark continues to enjoy his role of Recruitment Coordinator, which can be challenging and is always very varied. Recently he has particularly been working on the Wycliffe UK website, including developing a Wycliffe blog which we hope will stimulate interest in Bible translation in the UK.

In May he organised a "Wycliffe and Me" event for enquirers wanting to know more about how they can be involved with Wycliffe, which went well. There were only 11 people at the event, but they were all very interested in the part they could play, with many of them considering going overseas at some point.

At the end of July Mark will be helping to teach on the "Window on Wycliffe" course, which is a week-long course, again for people interested in knowing more about what goes on in the task of Bible translation.

The course gives people a chance to try out various types of work, such as phonetics, phonology, grammar, translation, language survey, literacy and scripture use, and to see where their skills and interests



A previous Window on Wycliffe course

could best fit in the translation team. We also take a look at some of the ethical and cross-cultural issues involved in living and working overseas, as well as making people aware of the huge number of support roles that are needed in Bible translation – something that is covered more fully on the Wycliffe and Me course.

Over the last few months we've been excited to be able to accept 8 new members, one of whom was Mark's friend at university! Please continue to pray for those interested in serving with Wycliffe – that they would know the Lord's leading, and for wisdom for Mark as he talks to them.

We also have three short-term teams who are either going or have already gone overseas this summer, as well as several volunteer teachers who will be teaching at international schools for the next school year. One exciting development is that we have been trying to follow the overseas teams on the internet, and have been using Twitter ([www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)) as a way of keeping people in the UK updated, so they can be praying, and also so that they can catch more of a vision for Bible translation worldwide.



Colleagues from Tanzania who were passing through the UK



Relaxing playing volleyball



A day out with grandparents at Henley-on-Thames



Enjoying the local countryside on Laura's birthday

Looking ahead...

In August and September Mark will be teaching on one of the courses for new European members going overseas, which is exciting. He'll be teaching phonetics, which is the study of sounds and is designed to help people to recognise and be able to repeat the sounds in the languages they will come into contact with overseas.

Then in the autumn we're hoping to host two 1-day enquirer events – one “Wycliffe and Me” event, and another “Check IT Out” day, specifically aimed at people interested in using their IT and computing skills with Wycliffe.

We're starting to think about going overseas again, although we know it probably won't be until the start of 2011 when Laura will hopefully be a UK citizen! But we'd certainly appreciate your prayers as we pray about where we should go and the kinds of roles we would take on, as well as any training that we should be considering now.



Cut along here to remember to pray for us!

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Thank God for:

A great team of prayer and financial supporters

Those who have recently been accepted as Wycliffe members, and others who are enquiring

The opportunity for Mark to teach on one of the courses for new members next month

Pray for:

Guidance as we pray about going overseas and possible training we should be considering now

Wisdom for us as we continue in our roles in recruitment and as personal assistant to the Director

The short-term summer teams – to learn a lot and really be excited about what God is doing