

The Nigeria Rowbory Family Update

Visiting friends in Cambridge, inset: Solisbury, Stokenchurch & London



Don'

www.rowbory.co.uk/support ~ November 2015 ~ david.and.julie@rowbory.co.uk

In brief:

- ❖ Tour de England
- ❖ USA Conference: presenting
- ❖ Finance update: increase needed

October was a month of travel for the Rowbory family, with all of us zooming round England to visit friends and family during the mid-term break before David flew off to America to attend and present a paper at a Bible translation conference. We've also been arranging meetings and speaking to groups around Scotland about what we're doing in Nigeria.

England: flying visits

This is the first time we have had to fit our schedule around school holidays and unfortunately we just didn't manage to fit in seeing everyone that we would have liked to in England. But it was delightful to see a **healthy mix of relatives and friends**, lots of fine autumnal English countryside, and all-important homeschool field trips to the British Museum and Roman Baths. We're grateful to everyone who was bold enough to put us all up and we thank God that we

managed the drive without any particular hitches barring traffic jams and travel sickness.

USA: Conference

Within a few hours of arriving back in Glasgow, David was on a plane zipping back down to London (somewhat gallingly, after the long drive north) and then over to Dallas for a biennial Bible Translation conference. You might remember he travelled there 2 years ago – a first time to the USA – and found it was a great chance to connect with other Bible translation consultants from around the world and gather some helpful insights for our work in Nigeria. This time, in line with his consultant development plan, he had a paper to present: **Making Dictionaries Serve Translation**. It still needs some final edits but David has to submit it this week for publishing along with all the other papers that were presented at the conference.

Aside from all the information presented and the encouragement of hearing others struggling with determination to translate the Bible around the world, David really appreciated reconnecting



Some graduates from NEGST/Africa International University reunite briefly in Dallas

with fellow alumni from NEGST in Kenya, where we studied 2007-9. Some are now involved in Deaf Bible translation work, others are consultants and have taken up significant roles supporting Bible translation and theological education across Africa.

USA: Visiting friends

There were also a good number of Wycliffe UK people to see; some of whom we very rarely see in person any more. He finally met several other software support people whom he had only ever interacted with over the internet. The conference lasted only about 4 days and then, having travelled so far it seemed a good time to take up a longstanding invitation



David & Julie Rowbory are members of Wycliffe Bible Translators.

We trained in Kenya and the UK and have lived in Nigeria since 2011. David trains and helps local Bible translation teams check and improve their work. Julie mainly teaches and cares for Rebekah (7), Elizabeth (5), Abigail (2) and Helen (4mo). We're in the UK for the rest of 2015.



Colorado: like Scotland... only bigger and drier

and visit our friends **the Langs in Colorado**. We had studied with them in Nairobi, going through many of the ups and downs, and their youngest daughter arrived 3 weeks before Rebekah was born.

Making Julie profoundly jealous, David had a few more days visiting Jeremy & Jamie and their 3 kids and getting a taste of the Rockies, a spot of shopping for American goodies and some time to catch up after 6 years. (After a succession of perplexing health issues put paid to their plans for Bible translation in Tanzania, they have ended up based in Colorado but with Jeremy coming to Nigeria once or twice a year working with the *Mwaghavul* Old Testament project. So we have actually seen fleeting glimpses of Jeremy over the last 2 years.)

Arriving back in Scotland in time for a Tron Church evening service,

David the next day represented Wycliffe and Bible translation at an Edinburgh University Christian Union event. Later in the week he had an afternoon talking about Bible translation with the Cornhill Scotland Training Course.

In November/December we hope to visit several more churches in Scotland and Northern Ireland, continue with a little remote work with Gworog translation and get ready for returning to Nigeria. We were encouraged to hear that Nigeria Bible Translation Trust eventually had its missionary quota renewed by the Nigerian government — necessary before we could renew our own work permits. We plan to return to Nigeria in early January, but can only do that if our permits are renewed and passports are returned in good time, and if we're able to secure a modest increase in regular funding.

Prayer reminders in brief:

Give thanks to God for:

- stamina for the conference & travel;
- the joy of seeing old friends & colleagues, seeing him sustain them;
- opportunities to talk at churches and other groups about Bible translation;
- encouraging steps towards renewal of our work permits.

Ask God:

- to help us speak clearly about our work, bringing him honour;
- to oversee work permits being issued efficiently and for the promised 2 years, not 6 months;
- for more workers to help teams translate & use the scriptures effectively to build the church;
- for new partners to fund our financial shortfall.

Finance update

We're so grateful to God for supplying our needs for life and work in Nigeria over the last 4 years through generous friends



Anthropology: learning the ropes of pumpkin carving



Local delicacies: mountain pie pizza



Some Langs and their elk; chipmunks too!

and relatives (and for studies in Kenya before that). As you probably know, **Wycliffe Bible Translators doesn't pay us a salary**, but instead we all have to find people and churches who will invest in our ministry.

Several people have asked us recently about **how our finances are looking at the moment**, and we're grateful for your concern. We've recently gone over all of our finances, looking ahead for the next year or so and in summary it looks like we'll need supporters to give another £500 / month from January to allow us to continue working in Nigeria.

When we first went to Nigeria we had saved up some money for startup costs with the house and car which was a very good help for the start and we have kept on a fairly even keel since then. But immigration matters / work permits have been a little unpredictable and more expensive than first budgeted. Housing costs, living costs and health insurance have risen a bit with inflation and as our family has grown. And obviously the costs of flights too and fro has increased a bit as the family has grown older. We've been very grateful to have a good gardener and househelps working for us in Nigeria, but again that takes its toll as we try to pay a fair living wage. We do hope that letting our Glasgow flat may provide a little supplementary income in addition to paying the mortgage but so far we have only broken even on that.

So now we have a request (but we're not just asking for money). Many of our Nigerian colleagues have recently been building up their own support networks, not only asking friends and relatives to support them but looking to find friends of friends who would be excited to invest in building God's kingdom. **Do you know anyone who might be interested in finding out more about our Bible translation work?** We don't want to do a hard-sell, but we would love to broaden our support network and broaden the horizons of Christians here who may just take it for granted that we can read God's message in language that makes sense to us. Perhaps you might know someone who would like to support one of our Nigerian colleagues. If you do think of someone who might to know more about how Bible translation is building God's kingdom in Nigeria, why don't you mention it to them and put us in contact?

Our recent video vimeo.com/126826648 gives a bit of a snapshot of what we're up to and our support pages www.rowbory.co.uk/support give some more information. We're very grateful for any thought you can give to this, and please pray that God would provide and make our partnership something that not only strengthens the Nigerian church but blesses Christians here in the UK too.

Spreading the gospel nearer to home too

Finally, has it occurred to you that talking about what we're up to in Nigeria might be a way of having a 'good news conversation' with friends who don't yet know and trust Jesus? We were so inspired and delighted when we heard that that very thing had happened with good friends of ours in Glasgow. A Nigerian dress (of all things) prompted a discussion about our work of translating the Bible, which was just peculiar enough that it opened up the door for a chat about the Bible and why it's worth everyone in the world understanding it. We're happy to supply some nice cheesy Nigerian photo notebooks, postcards or other things if it would help you reach your friends with the gospel. Just ask!

Thank you for your prayerful interest and concern for us and for Bible translators in Nigeria.

Love from David, Julie, Rebekah, Elizabeth, Abigail and Helen.

Philippians 1:10

...I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until Christ returns. (NLT)

Ənyo nyî ɲgyəw khay kyan əko yed
nyî nyyo ni, nyî fərag əpyyo nyi bə
kozan kərug, nyî yed əsəɲ əbun ti
nad utug bay Kristi ka.

(Gworog 2015 test edition)



David at a Tajik teahouse in Colorado (!)