



STUTZMAN SUMMARY

April 2012

Work Activities

Robert continues to edit the *Translator's Notes Series*. Currently, he is working on Acts chapter 4. It is slow tedious work. He has been asked to consider training to be a consultant for the *Video Audio Strategies for Translation (VAST)* project. This could involve two overseas trips per year for several weeks at a time to work with a translation and drama team—producing the *Jesus* film in previously unwritten languages. Please pray that the Lord will guide his steps.

Verna continues to counsel missionaries and missionaries-in-training. Topics that come up are: field stresses, marriage issues, parenting issues, health issues, taking care of elderly parents, knowing God's will for choosing a life partner and life ministry, and many other topics. What a joy to see people get recharged, receive healing and deliverance, get direction and move into a more intimate relationship with Father God.

Life Activities



Nathaniel, on his 11th birthday bash weekend, with Grandpa



This spring we replaced our 35 year old lawnmower with a new one, which is much heavier, so we had to build ramps to get it onto the truck.

Why do we do what we do?

We have included an amazing story of how God provides - in order to bring the scripture to even the most remote people groups of the earth. It takes a team to accomplish this task and Robert had a small part in this story. Linda Jones, the translator wrote, "I was very heavily involved in the translation and I used the *Translator's Notes*...Praise God!"

Love, Robert & Verna Stutzman

Thank you for both your prayer and financial support. We are so grateful for you. Without you giving faithfully to our ministry, we would not be able to touch the lives we do. We pray daily for you - that Father God will bless you 'beyond what you can ask or think'.

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Praise:

- Provision for our daily bread
- Fun & fulfilling relationships with kids and grandkids
- Safety during the recent Texas tornados

Prayer:

- Physical health
- Wisdom as Verna counsels missionaries and young missionary applicants
- For our summer travels

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A New Way to Work Remotely

Board a plane in Dallas, Texas. Travel for four days on eight flights far into Southeast Asia. Now climb into a truck and journey up into lush green mountains on a deeply rutted, often muddy road. Hike over slippery landslides if necessary. Eventually you'll come to a little village nestled into a mountain valley, where the local language is Yawa, but where the people have traditionally worshipped in the national language.

As you walk through the village, stop and talk to church leaders. Ask if anyone preaches from the Yawa Scripture portions published over the last 20 years. "Elder Sefnat does all the time," they'll say. Sefnat will show you two small worn books protected by brown paper covers—Yawa translations of John's writings, Acts, and nine epistles. Tucked into the pages are little slips of paper with dated sermon notes, references to Scripture passages in those two little books, and unpublished verses that mother tongue translator Andowa has handwritten for him.

Stop by a thatched-roof home and ask if anyone there reads from the Scriptures in Yawa. Everyone will point to a bearded old man called Grandfather Bertasar. "He read to us this morning," they'll say. "He told us how to apply it to our lives, too."

Walk on and you'll come to the village church. Take a deep breath because you're about to encounter an amazing scene! In this very remote village, where there is neither electricity nor phone service, translator Andowa sits at a laptop computer. A dozen people cluster closely around him, listening as he reads aloud a Bible passage in Yawa. The volunteer reviewers enthusiastically discuss it, looking for ways to improve awkward or unclear sentences. When they're satisfied with the way it sounds, Andowa revises it on his computer. Then, since his specially-designed software has a send/receive function, he logs onto the internet and "syncs" his draft.

Halfway around the world in Arlington, Texas, Wycliffe translator Linda Jones will get up tomorrow morning, sync up her computer, and read the draft that Andowa has revised. She'll check to make sure the meaning hasn't been altered and send back suggestions for the next round of discussion.

This is how the final revisions are being made to the Yawa New Testament. It's all possible because a new geostationary satellite began circling the equator in early 2009. Just two weeks after it went into service, IT specialists from Wycliffe's Seed Company brought a computer and a small satellite device to the village, showed Andowa how to connect to the satellite, and taught him to use OurWord—the special software for mother tongue translators created by Wycliffe member John Wimbish.

Andowa and Linda have been working together long-distance for 17 years now, ever since Linda and her husband, Larry, had to move away so Larry could take on various leadership roles in Bible translation. Scripture drafts went back and forth by mail and in hand-carried packets. Linda and Larry made trips to the village. Andowa made trips out of the village. Always God helped them find a way forward, but they thought they had reached the end of the road when it came to the final revision process. "We did not see how we could finish the final revisions without greater community involvement," says Linda. "It just looked impossible. I could not go there for any length of time, and they could not come here." And then came the satellite—and IT specialists who knew how to take advantage of the satellite!

There have, of course, been a few maintenance problems with the equipment and satellite connection, but IT personnel have repaired most of them remotely. Only once did a faulty part have to be hand-carried to the city and back. That led to two and a half months without communication, but eventually the connection was repaired and revisions moved forward!

∞Larry and Linda Jones∞

Epilogue:

The Yawa NT was dedicated in June 2011 and within one month the entire first printing (2000 copies) had been sold!! They had to order a second printing and just recently (April 3rd) those copies (another 2000) have been flown out to the Yawas. Just in time for Easter! The Scriptures are reaching yet another group of people, isolated, but not forgotten by the God who loves them all. He has conquered space and distance.