



Harley Street

Update on Matthew and Rachel Harley
Working with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Jos, Nigeria



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Bible translation building

Matthew



The college community gathers at the site to pray for the building work

As anticipated in our last newsletter, building work on the new Bible translation department at TCNN is finally underway! On 28th Jan, the college community gathered for prayers to

dedicate the project to the Lord, and the following day, the picks and shovels started swinging as work began in earnest. It has been exciting watching the daily progress, and as you can see below, the ground floor is now virtually complete. The first phase (walls and roof) should be finished by October, at which time work will stop until more funding becomes available. Further overseas funding is dependent upon the Nigerian church raising their share (one third). So far money has been coming in in trickles, but the fact that work has started has prompted a few donations, including one from the current translation students, even though some of them will graduate before the building is ready to use.



The ground floor in place

Accepting God's plans

Rachel



Since coming to Nigeria, I have been struggling more and more with accepting God's plans for our lives and trusting that he really knows what he is doing. This has nothing to do with living and working in Nigeria; the deep longing we've had for several years is to be able to start a family, for us to be parents and to be able to watch our own children grow and develop. I remember when we were at All Nations and I was having interviews for part-time teaching in Harlow. I was so sure that I would be pregnant very

soon that I only thought it was fair to tell the headmistress that I couldn't commit to a full year since we would be starting a family. Well I was able to finish off that year of teaching, and the next, and the one after that, and here I am nearly at the end of the fourth! I have often said to God, "I think that **now** would be a really good time"! Each month brings new

Prayer points

- That Rachel and her class would finish term well.
- That we would continue to trust the Lord in his plans for us.
- For the translation students as they continue with their fieldwork over the summer.

Give Thanks...

- for great relationships we are developing with people here.
- that we can soon spend time with friends and family in the U.K.

U.K. travel plans

- 28 May: Arrive in U.K.
- 28 May-4 June: Liverpool
- 4-13 June: Lake District
- 14-20 June: London area
- 21-27 June: High Wycombe
- 28 June-5 July: Gower peninsula, Wales
- 6 July: Bristol
- 7-11 July: Liverpool
- 11 July: Return to Nigeria

We'd love to see as many of you as possible during our time in the UK so let us know when would be a good time to meet up.

hope and new disappointment. So the last few years have been quite tough - a time of crying out to God, of asking "Why?" and "When?". The hardest times have been at school when we are planning for the year ahead. Teaching a class is such a huge investment in time and energy, and a big challenge mentally, physically and spiritually. I do love teaching and have had some wonderful classes, but when I really want to be investing these resources into our own family, I have to gear myself up again for another year of school!



Rachel's class

However, this difficult time has led me to count my blessings - a wonderful husband, a loving and supportive family back home, unique ministry opportunities.... I also realise that many people are longing for something, a spouse, work, healing, freedom... and now I feel I can identify a little more closely with them.

While it is tempting to think "God gave me this desire, so he will have to fulfil it", I know really that he doesn't owe me anything, but instead I owe him more than I could ever repay. My deepest need is to know him, to become more like him, and have eyes to see the full extent of his love and grace. As one friend said, "Even if God did answer my prayers tomorrow, he would still love me the same as he does today". As I wrestle with God over this issue, I find these words from Habakkuk both encouraging and challenging: "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour". Hab. 3:17-18.



Support: Cheques (made payable to 'Wycliffe Bible Translators') can be sent to: The Wycliffe Centre, Horsleys Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 3XL. Please also include a note saying that the gift is for us.

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M & R & Bob Moffett!

Looking forward to seeing many of you soon,
Matthew and Rachel xxx