

The Rendille Herald



Our dear family and friends,

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us") Matthew 1:23. Our prayer for every one of you is that you will experience the reality of God-with-us as we celebrate the first coming of Jesus and anticipate his soon return! We deeply appreciate each of you, for your love, prayers and support over the last year. Rejoice with us, the Rendille will be able to read the Christmas story in their own language this time!

Since our last newsletter regarding the dedication of the Rendille New Testament there have been some significant events in our lives. Perhaps the best way to convey these is to anticipate potential questions that you may have.

What have you been doing since you returned from the dedication in Kenya in August?

We have both spoken several times at our local church, Danbury Mission. These include a report back to the church by the team who went with us to Korr, talks to the ladies' group, the men's curry night, the teens Breakfast club and more. Lynne was interviewed during the Essex Women's Convention held at the church. This led to an extended interview at the

London Women's Convention in a hall in Westminster very near the Houses of Parliament in London. There were two sessions with hundreds of interested women in the audience. If you are interested, you can download Lynne's talk here: -

<https://christianconventions.org.uk/lwc/news/permalink/10-2018/recordings-from-lwc-2018>

There was talk of the Rendille Old Testament project starting

Yes, during the dedication the representative of The Seed Company, (the organisation that funds the mother-tongue translators) stated that they were ready to launch the Rendille Old Testament. This was a very exciting surprise, as it is unusual for the Old Testament to follow so soon after the New Testament. Since then the Rendille project has featured in several places. You may want to check the following links: -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFc5AB_UbFU

<http://aimstories.com/blog/2018/11/these-things-are-written-that-you-may-believe/>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/december/voskamp-havens-when-word-becomes-words-rendille.html?share=j01FlkJmsJvMIO1dJFIsaVDJLHZP5Vw7>

So has the Old Testament project started?

No, not yet. However, we have been doing several things in anticipation of it being launched soon.

- Lynne and I have asked Wycliffe South Africa if we can become members again. They have very graciously approved that request. Our membership will be on a year-by-year basis. This seems a wise and practical arrangement, giving both sides opportunity to assess the viability of continuing for another year. (The Old Testament project will take seven years to complete).
- I have begun the keyboarding of Genesis. We translated Genesis and Exodus 1 - 20 many years ago in a combined book, and it will need thorough revision.
- Lynne will be helping the work in Korr through fundraising and practical help to the literacy project and other Scripture-in-Use needs.
- In Kenya there has been a major funds drive actively promoted by the President and Vice President of Kenya on behalf of the Bibleless groups in Kenya. Churches across the denominational spectrum have supported this.
- The Kenyan translation organisation Bible Translation and Literacy (BTL), that has the direct oversight of the translators, has been interviewing potential candidates in Korr, in order to add one translator to the team. We anticipate that translators Joshua Galimogle and Laban Eysinkee, will continue.

What prompted you to apply to Wycliffe?

The Rendille Old Testament project will need my input as Exegetical Adviser, and the Tirrim project in Korr can benefit from Lynne's considerable experience with the literacy and Scripture-in-use issues. After moving to AIM in order to have more direct input on church planting, we continued to be honorary members of Wycliffe South Africa. Now that we are no longer living in Kenya, we felt that having a covering missions organisation to guide the ongoing language work would be important. In this way we will have a reporting relationship and member care. Wycliffe will help provide a wider prayer covering. It will also add legitimacy and accountability with support raising. We might be able to participate in training put on by Wycliffe UK.

Can you clarify the issue of support?

We continue to live by faith in the gracious God who supplies our needs. The journey so far

has only been possible because of the many people who have prayed and given. Thank you to each of you! Since our retirement, we have been deeply touched by the ongoing support of several friends, as well as some new supporters. Joining Wycliffe will require a larger income since the mission utilises part of the member's income to run the administration. In our next prayer letter, we will contact you with more details regarding the Wycliffe issues. We recognise that some of you are retiring and can no longer continue with support. That is perfectly understandable! At the same time, we will be looking to the Lord to add new friends to the team.

What about your retirement?

When we retired from AIM, we both faced major health issues. Lynne landed up in hospital just after we returned to South Africa and was very seriously ill with heart failure. My hearing failed completely, and I underwent two cochlear implant operations. Since then we have gradually developed more robust health. This has allowed us to integrate well into the life of the church. Effectively we will be coming back out of retirement to become Wycliffe members again. We will continue to live in Danbury, Essex. Our apartment is next to the Danbury Mission Church and the Danbury Medical Centre. God's rich blessings in allow us to live in a beautiful apartment.

How can we pray for you?

1. We praise God that we are feeling more at home in the UK after being here for two years. It has taken longer than we expected but we are so grateful to the Lord for his help.
2. Praise God for the many faithful friends and supporters.
3. The ongoing deep impact of the Rendille New Testament.
4. For new supporters to become part of the team.
5. That BTL will have wisdom in selecting the third Rendille translator.

With our love,

Nick and Lynne Swanepoel