

# Merry Christmas!

We want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. You all are important to us. We pray that God is close to each of you, as you walk through this world that does not always love the one born of a virgin in Bethlehem so long ago. As another year comes to a close, it is more important than ever to confess that our Lord came in the flesh (2 John 1:7). The traditions of Christmas are fun, but not as important as the truths of Christmas.

## Jeff's trip to Mozambique:

Thank you for praying for my trip to Mozambique in November. It was very hot there, and I got food poisoning the day before the workshop started. Some friends brought me medicine and bananas and I only had to miss one day. My colleague Benedict and I migrated all six translation projects to Paratext 8. We faced many technical difficulties such as malfunctioning laptops and poor Internet, but in the end the Lord helped us get all the computers updated and the projects moved to the new Paratext 8 server. Most teams are using the custom translation plan that I made for Mozambique. By the end of the workshop the teams saw the benefits of programming into Paratext all the tasks needed for good translation practice.

Pray for the *Ngoni, Metto, Makonde, Sena, Koti and Nhara* teams to adjust to having the software telling them what tasks they should do each day.

One of the former Takwane translators, Aramando Bizoki came to town and helped me review the Takwane Dictionary. We were able to verify 3,200 dictionary entries. I still have a lot of editing to do, but things that needed to be checked by a Takwane speaker are all checked. You can see the current version of the Takwane dictionary here: <http://takwane.webonary.org/?lang=en>

The trip was the culmination of a busy three months. I am very happy not to have more trips any time soon. (Though there seems to be a steady need for help learning the new features of Paratext 8.) Please pray as we continue to move over 90% of the world's translation projects to the new system.



Paratext 8 Workshop in Mozambique

**New office for recording**

After celebrating Thanksgiving, I moved into a new office. The empty office that I had been using to record the audio for the Paratext training videos got rented and my supervisor felt I needed a permanent place to do the recording. Many of the videos for our online Paratext course will have to continuously be revised as Paratext gets updated. Pray that we can meet the need for training to help accelerate Bible translation.

**From Peg:**

I have started back to my Translation Consultant work. I am checking 1, 2 and 3 John for a tribe in Brazil. The translator gives me an English version of the translation which I compare to the original text. I liked the way they translated 1 John 2:1 "Children, I am writing this letter so you won't do bad things. If we (inclusive) do a bad thing, there is someone who will ask our father to forgive us. His name is Jesus Christ, who never sinned." I look at each element of the original and make sure it is included in the translation and then make sure nothing has been added. Many verses have parts that can be interpreted in different ways. I have to make sure the translation follows a well-accepted option. I really enjoy being in the word at this depth.

My doctors think I am healthy enough to have another surgery on my head. They want to cover the wound with a different kind of skin graft this time. It hasn't been definitely decided yet but I can't keep doing the protocol I have been because my therapist is quitting to have surgery next week. Please pray that the doctors and us come up with the right plan.

If you would like more frequent information and updates on my health you can follow the saga at this link: [www.caringbridge.org/visit/pegshrum](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/pegshrum)

**Maggie Jo News:**

Maggie Jo has completed her most challenging semester at LeTourneau. She enjoyed a class on C.S. Lewis, but Flight Science and Meteorology made for some late nights. It was good to have her home over Thanksgiving. We are very proud of how she applies herself to her studies. Next semester she will need a car because of her class schedule. Pray that we can find the right vehicle in time for spring semester.

**Financial Needs:**

We are very thankful for everyone who gives so that we can be part of the Bible translation effort. Your generosity has been amazing over the years. But we need to share with you that we are in need of more support. Over the last 12 months we have been averaging a monthly shortfall of \$937. Our projected deficit for the year will be over \$11,000. The impact of this is made worse by the high medical expenses that we have had for over a year now. Our expectation has been that Peg would have recovered by now, relieving the financial burden, but there seems to be no end in sight. Would you prayerfully consider helping us meet this need? Thank you.

Until all have heard,

*Jeff, Peg and Maggie Jo*

If you would like to participate in our Wycliffe ministry you can give by check, bank transfer or online. Make **checks** payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators

Include a note saying:

“Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Jeff and Peg Shrum, account #303695.”

Mail checks to: Wycliffe Bible Translators, P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, Florida 32862

**Give online** at: [www.wycliffe.org/partner/JeffandPeg](http://www.wycliffe.org/partner/JeffandPeg)

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