

# J ohnson Family News

Michael & Lori Johnson family missionary newsletter  
November 2000

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**The Great Commission is our Mission!**

## Evangel Bible Translators



**giving the Word to the world**

### Geronimo!

At Hurricane Harbor water park in Dallas, there is a *very* tall water slide called the "Geronimo!" From the top of the slide, you have a nice view of the city, and things below (including the tiny pool you are about to plunge into) look very small. The slide starts off with a nearly vertical drop. It is aptly named. Our life is like the beginnings of that slide journey, right now.

Lori and I are in the process of jumping into missions with our entire family, all of our resources, and all of our time. **We have been accepted as missionaries with Evangel Bible Translators.** I am now a full-time missionary and a part-time writer instead of a full-time senior software engineer. Lori is still Abstinence Education Director with Life Choices Pregnancy Center, and will be handing that responsibility off to another lady in December. While this is the fulfillment of a long-standing vision and years of preparation, it feels very much like my first trip down the "Geronimo!" water slide. It is exciting, and it will be a good ride if we stay on God's track.

### When do you start?

**I have already started.** I am now officially a full-time missionary with Evangel Bible Translators, and have begun to do the work that God called me to. Praise God! Although I have a few other part-time obligations that I am finishing up, my primary focus is now on missionary work.

### What are you actually doing?

Although I am a missionary, now, I am still a senior **software developer**. I am also still a **Bible Translator**, but doing Bible translation work full-time instead of part-time and branching out to other target languages. I have moved from the high-tech data storage industry to the Bible Translation and Great Commission fulfillment

"industry." None of the skills God has given me to develop and practice before are going to waste. I am beginning to refine and provide software tools that will help in all areas of Bible translation. I will be building on my experience with the World English Bible, my software development experience, and my interest in computer-assisted translation.

This is a major software development task. My approach is to carefully define the customer base, define problems to be solved, decide what problems I can best solve with my skills that are not being adequately addressed by others, prioritize the resulting "wish list," plan the implementation, and then follow the plan.

My primary customer base consists of Evangel Bible Translators. My secondary customer base consists of Wycliffe Bible Translators, Pioneer Bible Translators, Lutheran Bible Translators, various Bible societies, and others who are doing Bible translation work. My tertiary customer base consists of all of the people these Bible translators translate Scripture for. Although these are not "paying" customers in the traditional software industry sense, they are the ones who will use the software in the course of performing their ministry tasks.

I have some seeds of ideas growing that have the potential of using computer technology to greatly accelerate Bible translation, especially for groups of related languages. To really do an excellent job at creating some of the Bible translation software I plan to do, I need to learn the same things the Bible translators learn in their training. I also need to be in close communication with various Bible translators. To that end, I have enrolled in the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL), and will be studying linguistics, cultural anthropology, field data management, and other subjects that are critical to my mission.

### Where in the world are you going?

My primary missionary task of software development **can be done pretty much anywhere in the world** where I have an Internet connection, and that is why I have been able to start so soon. There are some good reasons to go closer to the work, however, and we will.

We were planning to go to **Israel** in November for a conference of almost all of the Evangel Bible Translators' missionaries, but that trip got postponed due to the recent outbreak of violence.

In December, we are moving to **Dallas, Texas, USA**, to attend classes in the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics. There, I will be attending school, and Lori will be home-schooling our three wonderful sons. I will also be on the same campus (the International Linguistics Center) where SIL International writes software for Wycliffe Bible Translators and sister ministries.

I plan to work on missionary software development and go to school at the same time. (Your prayers for grace during this time are much desired.)

Some time, possibly during Spring break, Lori and I are planning to take an exploratory trip to **Papua New Guinea**.

After I pick up what I need from GIAL, we will be moving to **Tulsa, Oklahoma**, to attend the **Domata School of Missions** (and the Domata School of Missions for Children). After that, we are planning to move to **Papua New Guinea**, in or near **Ukarumpa** (in the highlands).

### What are Lori and the boys going to do?

I'll hand the keyboard over to Lori for this one.

Many people have asked me, "so what are you going to do in Dallas and Papua New Guinea?" As many of you know, I am

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not exactly a linguistic expert, though I do tend to make up new words now and then. For now, what I know is that I will **home-school** the boys in Dallas, support Mike's endeavors, and enjoy being a full-time mommy. I will continue to keep my feet wet in the **Abstinence education movement**. At this time I have applied to be a volunteer **National Trainer with Campus Crusade** with their "Youth at the Crossroads" Program. This program trains national leaders in other countries to teach their nationals about character and abstinence education. In the spring of 2001, I will attend training in Texas and then will see if I am accepted. They have just started a "Youth at the Crossroads" training in Papua New Guinea, so I will see if I will be part of that process. Pray that I would pursue God's purposes.

Our three boys are part of God's plans as we travel to parts unknown. God can use 9, 11 and 12 year olds as much as adults. I know they will grow in wisdom and grace as we seek God's will in every situation.

## Who are Evangel Bible Translators?

Evangel Bible Translators (EBT) are missionaries dedicated to **fulfillment of the Great Commission**, and focusing primarily on **Bible translation**. Evangel Bible Translators was started by Pastor H. Syvelle Phillips at the request of Cameron Townsend, the founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators, for the purpose of encouraging more Spirit-filled Christians to join in the massive work of Bible translation. Evangel Bible Translators and Wycliffe Bible Translators share in training, facilities, and other resources, along with several other Bible translation organizations.

Lori and I are pleased to be a part of Evangel Bible Translators. We know the heart of the founders for the Great Commission matches ours, and we appreciate the unity in the Body of Christ we see in the cooperation between Evangel Bible Translators and others doing Bible translation work.

For more information, please see the Evangel Bible Translators web site at <http://EvangelBible.org>.

## What about support?

We are **trusting God to bring partners** to us who will support us and our ministry in prayer and finances. We believe that those who do will **share in the rewards God has for us** in being obedient to Him and laboring to bring in His harvest of souls. A wise missionary I know told me that **"You can go into the mission field without money, but you can't go without prayer support. People who send monthly checks are the ones who are the best at remembering to pray for you."**

*"For, 'Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:*

*"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"* — Romans 10:13-15 (WEB)

Both the senders and those who are sent are absolutely essential to getting the Word of God to far-away places. As the Apostle Paul said to those who supported him, so we say to you: **"Not that I seek for the gift, but I seek for the fruit that increases to your account."** (Philippians

4:17, WEB)

God has blessed us as we sent missionaries, and now we fully expect Him to bless you as we are sent as missionaries. We believe that God will supply more than we need for food, housing, tuition, transportation (including lots of air travel), computer equipment and software, web hosting (expanding EvangelBible.org and loading it up with Bible Translation resources), telecommunications, our share of headquarters support, and all other expenses associated with this ministry. In return, we promise to pray for all who send us, to be good stewards of what we get, and to be generous for the sake of the Gospel with the surplus. We want to continue supporting some of the missionaries we have been supporting, because we believe that they are being effective for the Kingdom of God.

**Tax-deductible donations** to support our ministry should be marked for Michael & Lori Johnson and made payable to:

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For **personal correspondence and mailing list corrections** you may contact us by email or at our post office box. Our email addresses will stay the same no matter where we go in the world ([mpj@eBible.org](mailto:mpj@eBible.org) for Michael and for Lori, [Lori@eBible.org](mailto:Lori@eBible.org)). Our postal address is:

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