

Connections—Aaron and Heather

Praise God that Aaron and Heather also had opportunities to make some connections this summer. They were able to reconnect with the mission community filling paid positions within Wycliffe—Aaron doing grounds keeping and Heather in the personnel office. (No help from their parents—they got them on their own merit, applied, interviewed; etc.).

Aaron never complained about the 40-hour weeks in the Florida sun and humidity; he felt it was good experience for a landscape architect. Heather got the “office job” she wanted, and enjoyed learning the testimonies of member applicants as she helped to get their files in order. We had a memorable summer, but now that they are back at college we are empty nesters again.



“All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.”

(2 Corinthians 4:15)

Your Connection...

We couldn't do it without you! Thank you for making *our* prayer and financial support *your* mission.

As you partner with us in this ministry and God's grace reaches more and more people, God will be more and more glorified!

Your faithfulness results in thanksgiving overflowing to the glory of God.

Privileged to be *connected* with you,
Kathy & Dean

Dean & Kathy Thomas

667 Waterscape Way Orlando, FL 32828

dean_thomas@sil.org kathy_thomas@wycliffe.org
407-208-9671

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Getting the **WORD** out

Wycliffe
Partners in Bible Translation

Several months ago we joined the leadership team of **WORD**. This has been a perfect fit for us, pleasing our passions and defining our purposes. We have found that God doesn't waste any experiences we've had in our lives. He has brought them all into use as we serve in these new roles.

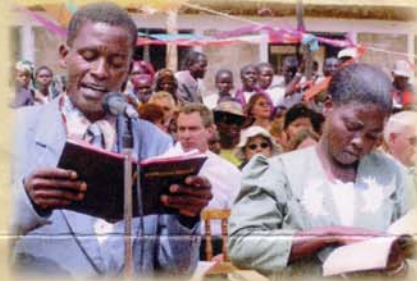


"Getting the WORD out" The title for our personal newsletter has new connotations. Our efforts at getting God's Word read through literacy and Scripture use now has a larger scope. In our positions serving on the leadership team of **WORD**, we are helping to promote literacy programs worldwide.

Introducing the new WORD

Previously, Women Organized for Reading and Development, **WORD** is now **Worldwide Opportunities for Reading and Development**. With a vision for the translated Scriptures being read and used, and six months of strategically redefining the program, **WORD** has a new mission and strategic plan. With a broader scope, **WORD** is positioned to make a significant impact for Wycliffe's literacy projects worldwide.

WORD—"Completing the promise of Bible Translation"



WORD's mission is: "To open opportunities for changed lives through the ability to read God's Word in the heart language." Committed to connecting Bible translation and literacy efforts, **WORD** is also promoting interest among Christian individuals to engage in supporting Wycliffe-sponsored SIL literacy projects.

Our positions on the WORD team*

As part of the **WORD** leadership team, we are involved in strategizing plans for the new program. Our creativity is used in planing and implementing. **Kathy** uses her organizational skills to bring definition, order, and process to ideas. **Dean**, in close partnership with key field personnel, has established working relationships to facilitate the exchange of project information and support for literacy projects. Benefiting from experience in developing a literacy program in Ethiopia, we now apply it on a larger scale—beginning with a five-language pilot project in Senegal.

* Note: Our positions will not be official until our support is 100%

The Senegal circle

This year, **WORD** will focus on a Senegal literacy project involving five different language groups. This is another full-circle for us! In 1993, prior to joining Wycliffe, we were considering a two-year art teaching assignment at Dakar Academy in Senegal, West Africa, but joined Wycliffe instead when the art teacher suddenly decided to stay on.

More then and now connections...

Ethiopia—slogan: "13 months of sunshine"

Florida—slogan: "the sunshine state"
Addis Ababa—capital of Ethiopia means "new flower"

Florida—means "full of flowers"

Kibre Mengist—town where we lived in Ethiopia known for gold mining

Orlando—means "land of gold"

WORD—the connection

Then...1995

While in Dallas, doing our linguistic studies, we helped the then-fledgling **WORD** program with a publication design, and donated our desktop computer (too big to take to Ethiopia).



Now...2005

Again we are involved with the **WORD** program. God has brought together all of our past experiences and skills for service on the new **WORD** team.



Careers—nothing wasted

You can see how the past has benefited the future. As second-career missionaries even previous skills and experiences apply. God has faithfully used our varied backgrounds to serve his current purposes. Our positions on the **WORD** leadership team brings it all together! God is awesome!

Previous experience: Art education degrees, 20 years in graphic design, business experience, linguistic and literacy training, literacy program experience in Ethiopia, MA studies in Organizational Leadership, a love for God's Word, and deeply held passion that literacy and Scripture use are intrinsically necessary to Bible translation=**WORD**.

More on back..

For your gifts:

visit <http://www.wycliffe.org/give/online> or include a note "for Dean & Kathy Thomas" with your check and send to:
Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200,
Orlando, FL 32862