

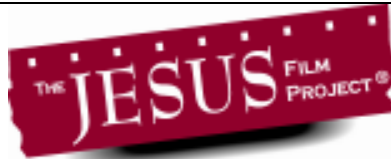
Tim and Lisa Cocking

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Things are chugging along steadily here in Fenton. Last month I began to tell you about the regular cast of characters here at the coffee shop. We have a new regular in our circle, Abdullah, who is a Muslim from the Czech Republic. For those of you who are new to our team and didn't get last month's letter, he joins Dan who is a Jehovah's Witness; Mitch the retired conservative agnostic; and Mike the retired liberal atheist. Owners Mike and Jessica are getting married in March and attended Genesis (our home church) for a while. They are friends with some of the guys in the Insyderz, so it has turned out to be a bit of a small world. Anyway, please pray for my conversations with Dan, Mitch, Mike and Abdullah. They tend to cover every conceivable topic and it keeps me on my toes.

STORIES FROM



When one of Burundi's *JESUS* film teams (two men known affectionately throughout the national ministry as "the Harvesters") arrived at an ex-rebel camp this summer, a group of former rebel soldiers were waiting for them. As "the Harvesters" set up for their evangelistic meeting, the soldiers became impatient and dispersed. Despite the small remaining group, the team members presented the gospel and planned a *JESUS* film screening for the following night. At the next day's film showing, a significant number of soldiers answered the call to receive Jesus as their Savior!

One soldier testified:

"For a long time someone spoke to me about the gospel and Jesus, but I never felt the need to accept it. Today while coming to see this film, I came reluctantly, but as I viewed the film and listened to the message, I was touched by it and was convicted of my sins. Then I decided to receive Jesus in my life."

Lisa's Computer News



We hope that you've had a chance to visit our web page (www.cockingfamily.com). I recently discovered that the site doesn't view correctly in any browser except IE, so I'm recreating it in a new program. The program is taking me some time to learn, though, since I have no knowledge of HTML or anything else related to web design! I won't be updating the main part of web page for a bit while I learn this new program, but we will continue to use the blog and add photos to the photo gallery. So keep checking the page for all the latest!

Because there are deviant people out there, we are putting password protection on the photo gallery. Click on the "login" link in the photo gallery, and enter:

username: friend
password: mellon

If you can guess how I came up with this username and password, email Tim. The first person to correctly identify the source will get a bookmark made of a few frames of a retired *JESUS* film print. Feel free to share the username and password with our friends and family.

A Harvest Partners (Church of the Nazarene) *JESUS* film team in Argentina watched as God used their choice of taxi driver to bring a family into His kingdom! As the film team screened *JESUS* throughout a specific neighborhood, they hired a taxi driver to transport the film equipment. During one trip, the driver wept and felt the presence of God. On another night he stayed at the film site, watching all of *JESUS*. Deeply moved, the taxi driver brought his entire family to another showing. Now he and his family, five in all, are attending a local church. (October 2004)

As you can see we have included a picture to put on your fridge. We hope that every time you see it you will be reminded to pray for us.

From the latest issue of *Christianity Today*:

An interview with Freddy Boswell from Wycliffe International.

There are 6,913 languages in the world. But only 2,300 have as much as one book of the Bible translated and available. With a mere 25 new translation projects starting every year (as of 1992), Wycliffe International, the famous Bible translation organization, knew a different approach was needed.

In 2004 Wycliffe personnel were involved in starting 82 new projects! How has that remarkable acceleration been possible?

For one thing, we've implemented some creative strategies in the computer area. We have a new program, developed by one of our entrepreneur linguists in Papua New Guinea, called Adapt It. This program helps translate from one language to another closely related language. Instead of having a translator go through all of the exegesis, background, and training in order to get a good first draft, the software helps to generate a first draft. If the grammar is very similar, a translator can be trained to make substitutions. It doesn't give a finished translation, but it does give a greatly speeded up first draft that literally can take years off the translation process.

What about people groups who do not have a written language?

They do need a written text; they do need a written repository. But many of these people are not going to learn to read in their lifetimes. This has been a hard realization for some of us. There are many millions of people in the world who are going to die before they can read. The Epic Partnership, which we are part of, works to impact primarily oral cultures. As Wycliffe has emphasized literacy hand in hand with translation over the years, we're now strategizing more intensely about how to deliver the Scriptures in an oral or visual capacity. You see us working closely with the *JESUS* film, for instance.

So what's the new average translation time, taking into account your new tools and new partnerships?

[Formerly], the average New Testament generally took about 17 years. I think now we're probably looking at maybe 13. You're not finding many entire Bibles that are done in less than 20 years.

What areas of the world need the most translations?

There are three main areas. One is the Papua New Guinea and Indonesia archipelago. There are roughly a thousand languages there that need translation. The Indonesia needs are staggering. Second is Central and East Asia, with more than 700 translation needs. The third major area is in Central Africa, plus Nigeria, with perhaps 700 languages needing translation.

This article first appeared in Feb 2005 issue of *Christianity Today*. Used by permission of Christianity Today International, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

I have put a link to the full text of the article in the blog section of our website.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support.

Tim + Lisa

P.S. For those of you who usually receive our newsletter by email, we will resume that next month.