

# A TEAM CHRISTY UPDATE

January 2013

Dear friend,

My Wycliffe journey began on a cold winter night in March almost eight years ago when I went to hear a missionary speak about the needs of the Bibleless people. These were people who needed to have the Scriptures in a language that they could understand. In 2004, there were 2,644 languages needing a translation representing millions of people who needed to hear about Jesus in a language that they could understand. In 2012, there are less than 2000 languages that need translation.

As I reflect back now I can see how the Lord had been calling and getting me ready for this ministry for many years. First through hearing about Wycliffe through a couple from my home church in Kanata, ON who were getting ready to head out and then following them through their newsletters, then through Urbana 2000, then having the skills, experience, desires and passion to make a difference in this world. My desire was to faithfully serve the Lord and make a difference in at least one person's life.

There have been many highlights, adventures, experiences and exciting opportunities through the years. My character has been certainly developed and grown and I have done things that I never expected or dreamed possible. I have so appreciated the friends and colleagues that have been formed through this ministry.

At the end of November 2011 Wycliffe appointed a new president, Roy Eyre to take on the leadership of Wycliffe and to re-position the organization to ensure its long term success. In 2012 it was decided that Children's Ministry/Education Resources was one of the ministries that would come to a completion. This ministry has been able to equip and create vision for children and youth leaders across the country for the value of missions, language, culture, and the important role that children play in building the Lord's kingdom. Thousands of children's lives have been impacted as they have learned and been challenged to do their part in ensuring that the gospel reaches to all corners of the world. The seeds that have been planted will one day grow up and flourish into great oak trees.

With the changing landscape of Wycliffe Canada the Lord is now taking me on a new adventure. I know and trust He has a much greater plan than I can ever dream possible and I look forward with eager anticipation to seeing how it will all come about. I am looking forward to new things, new experiences, new highlights and new friendships.

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11*

As I look back upon my time with Wycliffe I am so pleased to see how things were pioneered and have blossomed. For example, Race to 2025, the adventure race that I was instrumental in organizing, planning and implementing in 2007 has now helped about 585 young Canadians embrace that vision by helping to raise in excess of \$472,000 for Bible translation and literacy projects in Africa, Asia and South America. These adventure fundraising events, held twice

annually in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta, bridge the adrenalin rush of adventure sport young Canadians crave and the extreme adventure to which Jesus calls His Church—to make disciples of all nations.

It has been great to see the ripple effect as lives have been touched and the decisions people have made concerning their own lives. Friends have gone out around the world to serve the Lord through the ministry of Wycliffe.

In Ephesian 6:7 we are commanded to serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men. I believe together we have served the Lord with our hearts and the Lord has blessed the works of our hands. We have served faithfully through all walks of life. The Lord has done so much more and I am so thankful for having the privilege to have been involved and had the opportunity to serve him.

I would like to share this paragraph as a word of encouragement to each of you.

*"God does notice us, and he watches over us. But it is usually through another person that he meets our needs. Therefore, it is vital that we serve each other in the kingdom... In the Doctrine and Covenants we read about how important it is to '...succor the weak, lift up the hands which hang down, and strengthen the feeble knees.' So often, our acts of service consist of simple encouragement or of giving mundane help with mundane tasks, but what glorious consequences can flow from mundane acts and from small but deliberate deeds!" Sometimes all it takes to serve God is to give a smile, hug, prayer, or a friendly phone call to someone in need.*

I would like to thank you so much for your faithful financial support, prayers and encouragement. Together we have been able to impact the lives of many and build God's kingdom for eternity. As with all changes things do not stay the same and I will unfortunately be stepping away from the ministry of Wycliffe and exploring where the Lord will take me next. One of the things that I will be starting will be to take further education and be working on gaining some more skills and abilities in the area of Adult Education.

I would invite you to keep in contact with me personally as I would enjoy hearing all about what has been happening and the latest updates in your lives. Please feel free to e-mail or call me. I can be reached at 403-547-5817 or [credwards21@gmail.com](mailto:credwards21@gmail.com)

My mailing address is:  
1124 Ranchlands Blvd. NW  
Calgary, AB T3G 1G5

Wycliffe Canada will be accepting donations on my behalf until March 30, 2013.

Thank you for being such an important and influential factor through this chapter of my life.

I look forward to seeing what the Lord will do next.

My prayers and thoughts are with you.

Many Blessings,  
Christy