

Work Report: Wayne and Sally Dye

March 2018

Hello friends,

Thank you for your encouraging notes, prayers and financial partnership. It is a challenge though to send individual thanks. To accomplish our core responsibilities, we have to focus. There have not been too many events or changes to report since our last letter. Life has been good, though, because we are still doing the work. When people ask why I don't retire, my normal answer is: "What would I do after retiring that is half as interesting and still be making a difference?" Colleagues and former students continue to tell us how the insights they learned have contributed to changed lives.

Please read or skim our attached PL from last September. Here is the update:

1. I have continued to teach Scripture Engagement and Sally has continued to support me, though with steadily decreasing strength. Her doctor is still trying to find a cause; pray that she will find what is going on. I have slowed down a little as well; younger colleagues whom we have mentored are now doing the main teaching in all courses and I am now assisting. This gives me more time mentoring younger teachers and alumni.
2. Our trip to Michigan was wonderful. We were hosted by friends old and new, and that enabled us to touch down with many family members. We reported to four churches that have been partners through the years. We also took part in the Ward Church missions conference. We believe God put it all together, enabling us to communicate with more people than we expected in such a short time. What a blessing that was.
3. The medical doctor training program we told about in the letter was put on hold. It turned out that a large mission had been setting up another program, and medical missions wanted to use that first.
4. The GIAL online course for church short term missionaries, however, is now shaping up nicely. We plan to pilot test it in a couple of months. More on this later.
5. I am on the way to Thailand for a large conference that brings many missionaries and national church leaders together with internet and media specialists. It is designed so missionaries and church workers can learn how to use electronic media in distributing the Bible in local language in many creative ways. They in turn teach the media specialists what is needed to work effectively in each country. There will also be some "missiologists," specialists in mission strategy and methods. I am one of those people. I will teach several sessions and be part of many discussions.
6. In two weeks, on my way home, I will meet Sally at Jamey and Cheryl's house in California and we will spend Easter there with several grandchildren as well. Our family members here in Dallas have agreed to celebrate Easter at our house the following Sunday. God is good.

A note on financial support: We are grateful for your continued partnership with us. Social security takes care of our food, housing and medical insurance these days. Your gifts help with work costs, trips, conferences, helping others, and medical copays. Gifts are best sent to Wycliffe Bible Translators. See instructions on www.wycliffe.org Wycliffe has assigned us to teach full time at GIAL. Or just phone us: home phone (best for Sally) **972-460-4043** cell phone (usually better for Wayne) **214-693-0919**.



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GIAL ALUMNI

In the Trenches!



GIAL Alumni, Chris and Lori Gassler and their children

After working as a college professor for 13 years, Chris Gassler began to ask what the eternal value of his work was. Toward the end of his teaching career he found himself falling in love with teaching a class called World Music and Culture at Longwood University in Virginia. At the same time, he and his wife, Lori, became more involved in their church and were growing significantly in their faith.

Later, while doing research for their church's missions committee, Chris discovered a listing of job needs in ethnomusicology. "Wow, I teach a class in that field," he thought, "but I had no idea it could be used in cross-cultural [service]." Soon afterward, he and Lori contacted Brian Schrag, founder of GIAL's Center for Excellence in World Arts, a connection that eventually led them to attend GIAL. Now, Chris is studying for the M.A. in World Arts, planning to complete it in the next few years.

Currently, Chris lives with his family in Cameroon serving as an Arts Specialist and Scripture Engagement Coordinator. As an Arts Specialist, he coaches local artists in creating local worship expressions using their own “heart music” (their culture’s music styles and instruments). He conducts scripture songwriting workshops and is finishing a research project for the Cameroonian government regarding an ancient method of drummed messaging. Chris also facilitates a course called “Arts for a Better Future” at All Nations Christian College near London and is overseeing a French translation of the course so that it can be taught in French-speaking Africa, beginning in 2018.

Chris’s newest role is as the Scripture Engagement Coordinator for SIL Cameroon. Describing the connection between Bible translation and scripture engagement (SE), he explained, “Belief is a fantastic and necessary step. But Jesus called us to make disciples. Similarly, having the Bible is absolutely essential. But we’re leaving the task incomplete if people are not being engaged by what is produced—if they are not using, consuming, and being affected by what has been brought.”

Chris shared an example of SE from his own ministry: “I enjoy seeing people’s reactions when I talk about worshipping God while being fully whom they are. Using local arts tells people that they can be fully Iyasa, fully Makaa, fully Batanga, fully whomever and fully in the body of Christ, just the same as I can be fully American and fully in the body of Christ.”

Join us in praying for Chris and Lori and their children, Noah, Kristin, and Ben, as they encounter the struggles of living cross-culturally. Also, please pray for Chris and his colleagues as they train local believers as leaders in these ministries. Finally, pray that God will preserve the peace in Cameroon and make it a thriving training ground for Christian leaders.

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YOU DID IT!

Because of your participation in the **Strike A Match** campaign we have reached the goal of **\$40,000.**

Thank you!!

Your generous contributions have been matched and are having double the impact. This helps GIAL continue to offer exceptional training to our students who cross language and culture barriers with the Word of God.

Two donors have generously presented GIAL with a scholarship challenge grant that will **DOUBLE ALL GIFTS** up to **\$14,000** received for scholarships through **December 31, 2017!**

You can multiply your gift, thereby multiplying the opportunity for more students to be trained. We ask you to join us during this exciting time by prayerfully considering a special contribution to meet the \$14,000 **PAY IT FORWARD** challenge grant. Any amount you contribute will be greatly appreciated.

LEADING THE WAY

When Wayne was only eight years old, two of his uncles were killed while bringing the Gospel to a fierce Amazonian tribe. Six years later, God called Wayne himself into missions while he was helping another uncle and aunt tell their missionary story.

Wayne received an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies from Fuller Seminary. In 1960, he and his wife, Sally, joined Wycliffe and SIL and were first assigned to serve as Bible translators for the Bahinemo people in Papua New Guinea. God transformed many Bahinemos with the Gospel, with scriptural music that the Dyes encouraged locals to compose and with audio Bible recordings they helped develop—a story you can read in a book by their son Jamey Dye, *From Fear to Freedom*.

Later, Wayne and Sally became the first people in the Bible translation movement to research and teach strategies for helping people interact with God's Word in transformative ways, leading to the development of what is now called Scripture Engagement (SE). "Scripture engagement is about people meeting God through the Bible," Wayne explained. "Scripture engagement work is doing whatever is necessary to enable and encourage people to engage with the Bible." Types of SE work include ministries in scripture and art-based trauma healing, oral Bible storying, as well as scripture-based radio dramas.



GIAL Assistant Professor, Wayne Dye and his wife, Sally

Wayne shared some examples of the life-changing impact of SE ministry: "People tell me that as God spoke to them through the Bible, they were able to overcome alcoholism. Others overcame fear, got their marriages back in order, or began to feel good enough about themselves and their language community to work hard and effectively and drastically improve their daily lives."

Another example of God's powerful work through SE happened in Australia on Elcho Island. Many Aborigines there were suffering from poverty, low self-image, and alcoholism. They were being taught scripture using Western cultural methods, but without much impact. "Then they worked with the few Christian Aborigines to retell the Bible stories in the Aboriginal way, using symbolic dance dramas outside at sunset," Wayne said. "Within a year, many people on Elcho had been transformed, as they discovered in this way that God was their God too; He understood and accepted the Aborigine way to engage with Him."

Wayne has written many articles about SE and a book full of additional invaluable insights on SE called *The Bible Translation Strategy: An Analysis of Its Spiritual Impact*. He is now an assistant professor of SE classes at GIAL and an international SE consultant. Currently, he is leading a team in developing a training course at GIAL for medical personnel preparing for cross-cultural work. Also, he is part of another group developing an online training package for teams

preparing for short-term service. Let's pray for God's wisdom for them in these projects, for strength for Wayne in all his other work, and for His hand in drawing many more to join in SE ministry worldwide.

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& COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



News from Wayne and Sally Dye

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September 2017

Thank you, everyone for your greetings, memories and prayer to make our 60th wedding anniversary, Sally's 80th birthday and 50th anniversary of the Bahinemo church our most meaningful celebration ever. Counting family (see photo below) and co-workers here in Dallas, over 120 joined us on May 27. Praise God with us.



These days, our main work of teaching with the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL) is growing and broadening. See below for more details. My GIAL role is changing this year. I have finally passed my leadership role in the Scripture Engagement teaching on to Tim Hatcher who will receive his PhD this fall. I now assist Tim with key courses. I am also representing the faculty on the GIAL board. I will have presentations in two scholarly conferences this Fall. My role as an international consultant with SIL also continues. Almost every week there is a new email asking for my take on some new or complex Scripture engagement issue that is challenging the field consultants. The bulk of SE consulting, though, now belongs to them. I do continue to be involved with how to use electronic media for Scripture engagement, and expect to take part in another overseas conference next Spring.

Currently, my creative energy is going into developing a cross-cultural training program for medical personnel preparing to work long term in rural hospitals overseas. Last week I went to Charlotte to present that program to a group of agencies that send out medical missionaries. I am also part of the team developing an online cross-cultural training program for church short-term missions.

Sally continues to be my go-to person for discussing academic issues; she is my encourager, editor and keeps things going on the home front. We both researched historical details and proofread our son Jamey's book on the Bahinemo people and our call and ministry among them. *From Fear to Freedom* by Jamey Dye is now available on Kindle or by emailing Jamey.Dye@wsp.com . All proceeds beyond actual expenses go to a special fund to assist Bahinemo people with training to help their own communities.

Those of you who have backed us with prayer and gifts are a vital part of this work today as in the past. We thank God for each of you. We look forward to seeing some of you in our brief trip to Michigan, September 19 through October 10. We will attend a five-day missionary conference at WARD Presbyterian Church in Northville, MI. The following two weeks will be an opportunity to touch down with other partners in Saginaw (October 1), and Battle Creek. Doug and Joann Blake are inviting partners south and west of Detroit to a dessert meeting with us Sunday Sept. 24, from 3:00 to 4:30. It will be in their home at 27946 Six Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152. RSVP: 734-634-6878.



The GIAL Story

GIAL started as a graduate school whose focus was to prepare students to use linguistic and cultural insights for Bible translation, making scriptures available in multiple formats, and helping church leaders engage their congregations with the scripture. Those courses continue. Many students come for a year of foundational certification in language analysis, translation principles and cross-cultural communication sufficient to begin cross-cultural work. Many come back for their Master of Arts in Bible Translation or Applied Linguistics or Scripture Engagement or other related specialties.

GIAL offers seminars and courses in modular format, which shortens the duration of study programs, but makes them more intense and focused than a more traditional format would have. The highlight of the year for all of us at GIAL is graduation each June. Our graduates and trainees are serving in 79 countries under 65 different agencies.

Now GIAL is branching out to teach other types of cross-cultural workers. We now also have an MA in World Arts, where we teach students how to assist people anywhere in the world to use their own art forms to praise God. As part of that program, GIAL trains workers who can help people deal with the psychological effects of trauma. GIAL also includes the Abraham Center, where students learn about Islam and Judaism and how to work with people in those religious traditions.

Although most GIAL students are in an MA program, the institute now offers a BA in International Service. There is also a certificate program in applied linguistics (good for



language learning, culture learning, and starting to analyze a language) and a graduate certificate in multi-cultural teamwork.

