

Mike Squires' Togo Social Ministry Newsletter

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To Contact Mike Squires:

228-932-6186 (mobile)
 mike_squires (skype)
mike_squires@sil.org
 (email)

or by mail:
 SIL, B.P. 57
 Kara, Togo
 West Africa

Submitted by:

your servant & partner in Africa.

Mike Squires

Praises:

Praise God for my housemate Lari (Miboika Lari DAPOKLE), whom I have been mentoring him for 3 1/2 Years in community development, literacy and Scripture Use, starting the process of applying to Wycliffe Togo. He serves as the secretary and social ministry coordinator for the Lutheran Church of Togo, and helps lead their Kara congregation when Pastor Charles is teaching in Dapaong.

Lari is from the tiny village of Lokpano in northern Togo, where I lived 1994-2000. His father Miboika is the congregation president there, and we worked closely together in church leadership. Lari is a student at the University of Kara with a degree in English, and is now studying sociology and community development. Martha is his wife and Irene is their 2-year old daughter. He has his own Facebook page. Please pray for him and his family.

Why Wycliffe does Translation and Literacy

Wycliffe's work of Bible translation allows people to hear directly from God in the language they speak in their homes—the language of their birth. And when people are able to understand God's love and respond to it, their lives are transformed. Wycliffe's work benefits people in other ways too—by teaching them to read and write, by translating disease prevention information and trauma healing material, and by preserving the unique language and culture of each minority community.

Cultural Preservation

Many small language communities in the world are not valued by the larger surrounding culture. They feel marginalized and, as a result, begin to lose their unique cultural identity—and yet they struggle to fit into the dominant culture. But when Wycliffe puts their language in written form, they start to see it with new eyes, recognizing its value for the first time—and through that they begin to see God's love of their language and culture. Thanks in part to Wycliffe's efforts, many language communities are now celebrating their identity and are taking steps to achieve their own development goals.

Spiritual Transformation

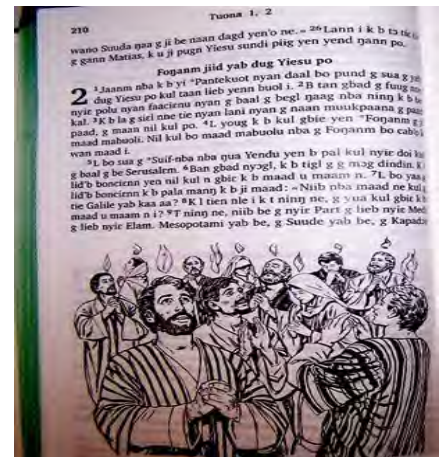
Translated Scripture—Scripture in your own language, the language you think in—reaches your heart and transforms your life in a way nothing else can. God wants to bring freedom from sin and oppressive false beliefs through the truths of His Word. Because of Wycliffe's work of translation, people are experiencing the Bible in a language they can truly understand, and it's resonating to their very core.



Mike and Lari at the GRAAP community development office in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso.



Lari teaching for the Kara congregation, Togo.



The New Testament translated into the Moba language of Togo and Ghana.



Contributions may be given quarterly, monthly, or annually online (www.wycliffe.org), by telephone (1-800-992-5433), or by check (payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando, Florida 32862-8200). All donations should be designated to *Mike Squires, #283780*. Your financial donation is tax deductible.

Thank you for being my prayer and financial partners. I couldn't do it without you, and feel privileged to be on the same team with you, honoring God by seeing his Message made available to everyone in the language they understand best. "The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It never needs a furlough, and is never considered a foreigner." -- Cameron Townsend, Wycliffe founder



People celebrating receiving the Bible in their own language.



I travel around Togo by public transportation such as inter-city taxis and motorcycle taxis.



Behind me in my yard in Kara is a mango tree, so I can eat grafted mangos in April. I also have papaya, banana, orange and lemon trees growing in my yard. I really miss tropical fruit while on furlough in the U.S.

Prayer Requests:

Praise God for enabling me to revise lessons recently on "Management and Income Generating Activities," "AIDS and The Church," "Marriage and Family," "Improving Children's Lives," and "How to Evaluate."

Praise God that the weather has been relatively mild, without the strong winds that blow dust off the Sahara Desert and cause lots of health problems in West Africa. It is 85 degrees and quite dry.

Praise God that I was able to spend Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Eve with fellow missionaries in Kara.

Pray for my extension work with the people of northern and central Togo. Pray for safe travel as I work in a different region each week, that the people will work together to overcome their problems and will put into practice in their daily lives what they learn from the the community development and Bible lessons we are teaching. Recently we taught the lesson "**Appreciative Inquiry: What Already Works Well**" in the villages.

Pray for the **local language literacy classes** currently being taught, that the students would be able to attend and finish the classes, learning how to read, write and count in their own language.

Pray for 2 conferences at which I will be speaking: February 16-20 in Accra, Ghana; and March 26-April 3 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Pray for good health and productivity during the next 6 months as I prepare for a year of furlough starting in late June.

Pray for me being able to find a room somewhere in Castro Valley, CA as I will be on foot during my year in the US.

Pray for the Holy Spirit of God to touch the hearts of His people to respond to the financial needs of Christian ministries that face difficult times. Pray for my continued financial support as well, as some of those who have supported me have had to cut back because of their many Christian commitments and the current economy.

Furlough 2010-11: I will be in the U.S. for at least a year starting in July 2010. Let me know if you would like me to visit your church congregation or other group to explain in person how I am serving God in Africa, my missionary work with Wycliffe and what God is accomplishing through Bible translation, literacy and community development. I speak at worship services, Sunday School, Bible studies, youth group, men's or women's groups meetings, school chapel and classes. I would love to share with you how to "think globally and act locally," how everyone can be part of what God is doing in Africa, and how you can serve God wherever you are while supporting those who serve God elsewhere. *Our evangelism and servant efforts far away are only an extension of what each of us is called by God to do in our own community.*

Facebook: Let me know if you would like access to my Facebook page. Use my e-mail address mike_squires@sil.org and click on "Add As Friend." Or send me your e-mail address and I will click on "Add As Friend." It is a good way for us to keep in touch. I am adding photos to my Facebook page so you can see our work in Africa.

