

Hello folks!

The month has flown by. It's been busy, fun, stressful... oh, a whole load of things, I'm really not short of news.

The biggest recent highlight is that Tany has moved up here to Horsleys Green to live. I spent last weekend in Southampton helping her pack before we brought her final bits and pieces up to the Centre and squeezed them into our flat. For the moment she is staying with another couple here at the Centre, but she has a key to our flat and we get to spend most evenings together. We've got a few adjustments to make to the place before we can both fit in there sensibly. I think the plan is to visit Ikea this weekend and find some wardrobes for the bedroom, which should generate some more space. (This was written on Friday. We've now been to Ikea and the wardrobes arrive on Wednesday. I hope they turn out to be as good as the ones we saw in the store, just to make up for the saga of getting them delivered here).

Tany also has work, which is good for her as she gets to meet some local people. She's doing some shifts at Wycombe General Hospital in the orthopaedic theatres where she counts as experienced staff, I think this came as a bit of a shock to her. Fortunately, it's a bit more of a relaxed environment than Southampton so she's getting time to think through the work she is doing, rather than rushing from one case to the next.

Final details are now being sorted for the wedding. We think pretty much everything is in place and it's now just a case of getting to the day and sorting out any last minute glitches.

Aside from moving and wedding prep, you'll be pleased to know that I have been doing some work.

The peace and quiet of my first few weeks is now well and truly gone and I have no problem finding things to do during the week. We started sending some press releases out regarding events Wycliffe are involved with and promptly had requests to provide people for interview on BBC radio London, Nottingham and Derby. That was all to do with the From Eden to Eternity Tour (of which I'll say more in a minute), but we also had UCB Radio asking to speak to someone about Lost Languages. I mentioned in the last newsletter about UNESCO's map of languages that are dying around the world, well, this came about on the back of that. If you'd like to know more about how translation projects are helping communities in ways other than providing them with a version of the Bible, you can listen to a podcast interview with Dave Pearson on the Wycliffe website. <http://tinyurl.com/ccva53>

From Eden to Eternity was the other event of the month. The Saltmine Theatre Company toured the country with some representatives from Wycliffe, staging a production of the Bible in about one hour. It was a fantastic event and over 2,000 people came along to the 15 performances. Wycliffe were also using this to raise money for a translation project in Nigeria. Thanks to the generosity of the donations given at the performances at least one part of the project has been fully funded for one year.

In the office I've been creating havoc and it's only the skill and patience of my colleagues that are managing to keep some level of order in the chaos. There are

lots of projects all taking place at the same time that are in some way interlinked. Just by taking a fresh look at the Wycliffe identity means that we also need to review all the communications methods we use. That's everything from business cards and letter head paper, through online and web-based communications, to the magazine and prayer letters. I'm having fun with all this, I just hope that at some point it gets to a conclusion.

Once a month I also head back to Southampton to work with David Couchman. I've been a trustee for Focus for over a year now and have been able to get involved with a number of projects. At my visit last week I ended up becoming the voice of the news for this month's Slipstream podcast, <http://tinyurl.com/djalcu>, (released by the Evangelical Alliance) and took a digital recorder away to interview Andrew Williams at St Andrew's, Chorleywood.

Andrew Williams is the co-author of Breakout, a book telling the story of how an Anglican church transitioned a traditional church to one based around smaller community based clusters. It's proved to be a huge success for meeting people in the local area who wouldn't usually wander into a church service. The groups do try to get together, one Sunday in four, at the church, but there are now so many people in these groups it's impossible for them all to fit into the building for the same service.

Anyway, I sat with Andrew for over an hour, talking about the church and how he has seen the changes. He gave a really good interview which will eventually appear as a podcast in the Seize the Day series.

OK, that's basically the update. I'm doing pretty well in the middle of all this. Some things have been pretty stressful and I'm starting to realise that simple things, like getting a haircut and finding a pub to watch the football, takes more time than they used to in Southampton, but I'm enjoying being here and am really enjoying the work. It's good to have Tany here too, it's been nice just to be able to spend some time together without having to drive home immediately afterwards.

Have a good month and I'll e-mail again in May.

Phil



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