

# Van Weerdhuizen's Words

News from Ken and Chris  
Serving with Wycliffe and JAARS  
August 2020



## Waiting...



I'm not very good at waiting.  
But that's what God seems to have for us  
right now.

I'm guessing that you can relate to:  
Waiting for the pandemic to end  
Waiting for worship to be in person with many  
voices singing together  
Waiting for clear direction for next steps.

***Thankfully, we don't have to wait for God's word in our language!***

*Through our times in scripture, especially  
during these last months,  
He draws us closer to himself  
He gives words to the laments of our hearts  
He reassures us of his love and presence  
Our faith is strengthened  
His everlasting arms uphold us when we  
have no strength of our own  
Fear is overcome  
Peace that passes understanding becomes  
an increasing reality in our hearts.  
Praise continues to be on our lips.*



We long for and continue to work toward the day when each person can hear God's voice in a language they understand and respond to him. We don't understand why God seems to be slowing the process down, with many translation team members isolated from one another. But we continue to be encouraged by stories like this from a translation consultant-in-training in Asia:

*This year has turned out very differently from what we'd all anticipated. However, that's not to say that Papa has stopped demonstrating His faithfulness since mid-March. Just the opposite!*

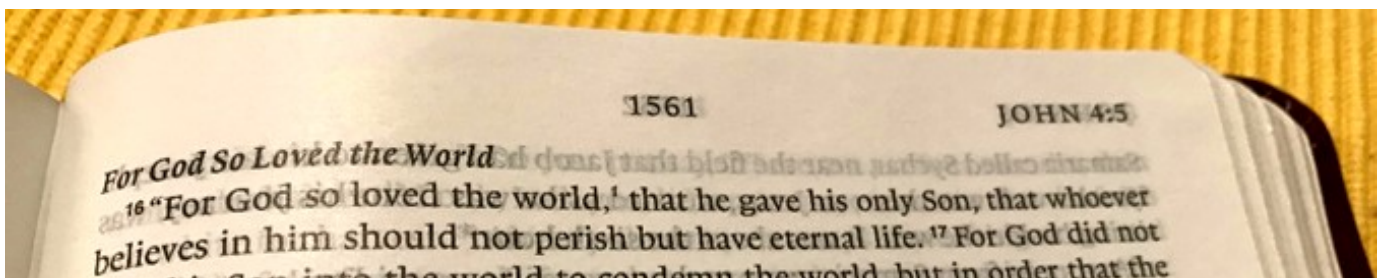
*The workshop in March was not cancelled, just moved online. It was definitely a stretching experience to check three chapters long-distance. At the time, the Tam translation team didn't have internet at all in their village and weren't allowed to travel to a larger town. So, we conducted the check entirely via conference call. The team sat on plastic chairs at one of the two phone signal "hot spots" in their village, with the phone balanced on a fence or a box to catch the signal. They'd work for hours like that, for the sake of having the Word in their language.*



The Tam team at work



Their hotspot: a fencepost!  
(story and pictures used with permission)



When we last wrote, the country was hopeful that the pandemic would turn around in a few weeks.

We had not really adjusted to working from home.

We had begun grappling with new realities in our lives.



An eerie quiet blanketed most of the JAARS campus for several weeks. Colleagues found ways to do the core of their work from home and online. Aviation Orientation transitioned to online classes but had to postpone flight training.

One by one, the Missions At The Airport events were cancelled across the country.



While commercial solutions were ramping up, a team of JAARS personnel served by making masks, visors and other Personal Protective Equipment to give away to local first responders.

Ken's part was cutting foam pieces for the visors.

Local restrictions are easing. Slowly various departments are opening again on the JAARS campus. Ken is eagerly waiting for the day when he can again regularly be on campus and daily contribute to the mission of JAARS.



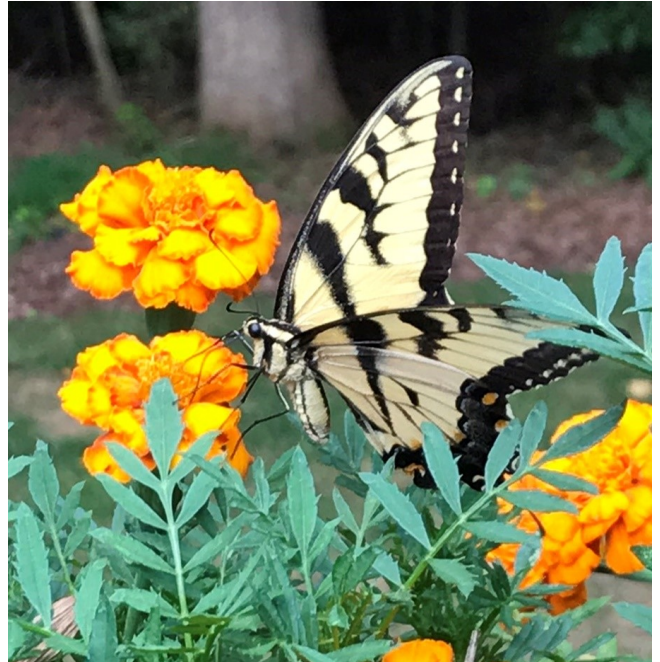
Since my role in member care is designed to be done remotely, I'm impacted in different ways.

Wycliffe members around the world grapple with changing realities.

Wycliffe leadership and our Care Team grapple with how to serve them well.

Some members chose to stay outside of the US. Others came to the US.

Travel arrangements are frequently thwarted by uncertain flight schedules and changing travel requirements.



Everyone feels the strain of uncertainty and waiting.

Wondering how the work will go on.

## ***Waiting.***

Yet we hear hope in their voices.

God is continuing to provide.

Translation moves forward in creative ways.

Over and over,  
I'm hearing from people who are waiting,  
transitioning, wondering, lamenting,  
revising plans, moving forward.

Their oft-repeated theme is  
*I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."*

*Psalm 91:2*

We echo their words.

Our prayer is that you can echo those words as well.

Many of you have asked about our plans, especially as they relate to moving to Michigan. That's probably the biggest "waiting" for us right now. We invite you to continue to pray with us for God's timing and direction. We don't see a move as imminent, but at the same time if God says "go now," we'll follow his leading.

How can we be praying for you in this season of uncertainty and ambiguity? We want to join with you as you wait for God's direction for your next steps.

Thank you for continuing to partner with us in our Wycliffe ministry as together we shorten the wait for those waiting for God's word.

Serving and waiting with you,

*Chris – and for Ken*

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## End Stuff (with more pictures at the very end)



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Two family events brought us to Michigan in May.

First, we welcomed Titus Jay, born to Becca and Jason on May 13.



Because we had been socially distancing, we even got to hold him for the first couple days we were there.

He's changed so much already and we are eager to see him again.

The second event celebrated family, memories and a wonderful Godly heritage. I'm so thankful for each of those! (And Dad is still grinning!)



Here's what my Mom wrote about it the next day:

Ernie's dad drove a 1969 Jeep on the farm. Our kids have fond memories of all the things they experienced in it. Our sons found a very needy one about 4 years ago. So after a ton of hours, traveling all over the US to find parts, too much money, and lots of love and frustration,

it was gifted to Ernie as a complete surprise yesterday. He is still in shock. It is showroom perfect and very beautiful. It seems as though everyone but him knew about it. That was a long time for me and the family to keep a secret, but we did. Now so many more memories.



More highlights of the last few months...

Having Don and Anna and kids come to visit!

The living room was wonderfully messy.



And we got to show them one of our favorite kid-length hiking places.

Oma's not very good at selfies... but I sure had fun on Mason's swing!



And tromping through the fields behind their house, discovering all the cool places that he and Logan like to hang out.



Introducing Titus to Big Red.



Celebrating with Sofia in Australia that she's going to be a big sister in September!



Ken's socially distanced drop-in party for his 60th birthday!



It's not the same as being there, but Facetime is a blessing!



We took a couple days away and biked the whole Virginia Creeper.

Until next time...

