

Sam Caught Some Fish

By John Watts

Sam was barely out of high school when he felt a strong pull to the frontier. The wild and wooly west was something that began pulling at Sam in the fourth grade. He and one of his classmates used to sit on the curb during recess and talk about Alaska. Needless to say, it was hard for Sam to endure his academic responsibilities once springtime came to the Rockies.

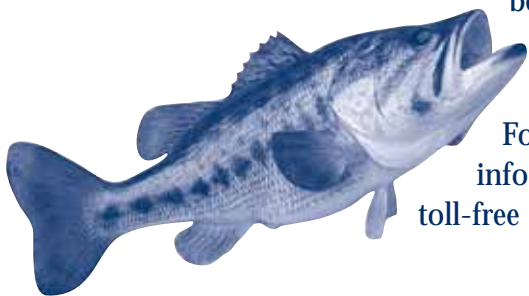
Having grown up in Colorado, he had a deep love for the mountains and more importantly the streams and their array of alluring fish. He loved to catch fish in the lakes, rivers and streams. As his high school days came to an end, Colorado was far too tame for his adventuresome spirit. The ink was barely dry on his high school diploma when he set out for the wildest of Northern American frontiers—Alaska.

Stories of the fishing opportunities off the coast of Alaska meant an opportunity to explore and follow his heart, and follow his heart he did. Sam's life over the next 25 years was replete with success, built not only on following his heart to a new frontier but an unparalleled work ethic. He first worked on a boat; then acquired a boat and crew where success followed. Then there was marriage and a family. His wife Ellen also shared his adventuresome spirit and began to plow their profits from fishing into real estate investments.

Recently Sam called me with two problems—first, his income had been high and second, he wanted to make a gift to charity but control its use. Sam and Ellen, both entrepreneurial free-spirited individuals, had an unusual desire for control.

The obvious charitable choice appeared to be a donor-advised fund with the charitable entity in a brokerage firm where they would have as much control as donors could have in doling out the gifts. One meeting with legal counsel and the gift was a “done deal,” enabling them to make a gift of \$1 million and retain a degree of control well into the future. I know there will be more gifts to follow in this scenario so well suited to their adventuresome mind set.

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PARTNERS IN PLANNING

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Off to Africa

By Heather Kinghorn

Anxious to attend their first Bible dedication, Jim and Judy Rheberg took the two-day flight to Nairobi on March 8 and will continue doing God's work in Kenya until April 20.

Jim, a volunteer with Wycliffe Foundation, and Judy, a volunteer in the communications department of Wycliffe Bible Translators, will attend the dedication for the Pokomo New Testament. Because they are friends with the translators, they felt this was an opportunity they've been waiting for.

“Everyone in Wycliffe should go to a Bible dedication, and this is our chance,” Judy said.

While in Kenya, the Rhebergs are also engaging in missionary work. Jim is updating finance manuals and procedures, helping with accounting projects and teaching Kenyan accountants how Wycliffe accounting rules work.

“I'm very curious to see the interaction with the Kenyans,” Jim said before he left. “The views we have [about finances] are vastly different from theirs, so it will be fascinating to experience.”

Judy is cooking, teaching drawing and painting at West Nairobi Schools and helping illustrate pictures for shell books. As tools for literacy all over the world, shell books contain a standardized story format with pictures that translators can access and easily translate into the proper language. These books save translators hours of creating stories and illustrations.

The Rhebergs filled their suitcases with eyeglasses, art supplies and Wycliffe Foundation pens to give to the Kenyans. While the eyeglasses are inexpensive and easily obtainable in the United States, they are a sought-after luxury in Kenya, Jim said.

While this will be their third time in Africa, they Rhebergs are asking for prayers for their continued safety and missionary work.

“We just have to be as careful as we can and let God do the rest,” Judy proclaimed.

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The Chairman's Challenge is successful!

By Heather Kinghorn

The snowy New York night's frigid temperatures didn't freeze the generosity of Wycliffe supporters. Bundled up in layers to protect themselves from the January cold, Wycliffe friends gathered at the Metropolitan Club in Manhattan to attend a dinner to help complete the Chairman's Challenge. And, as of Jan. 24, the Challenge has been met!

A little more than a year ago, an anonymous donor gave Wycliffe Foundation a \$1 million challenge grant, allowing people the opportunity to have their contributions to the Foundation doubled. The Challenge was to match \$1 million by December 2004.

With the Challenge so close to completion, the donor agreed to extend it through the end of the dinner in January. With 25 guests and eight Wycliffe representatives present that evening, several individuals shared the impact God's Word had on their lives, and some reiterated the importance of giving the remaining 380 million people without access to Scripture the chance to experience the impact of the Word through a Bible written in their heart language.

Throughout the evening, many people in attendance became inspired and donated to the Chairman's Challenge, but, near the end of the dinner, it was still more than \$150,000 short. Upon learning of the shortage, a Wycliffe friend, who wishes to remain anonymous, stepped up and wrote a check for the amount needed to complete the Challenge.

In response to why he thought the donor wrote the final check, Former Vice President of Wycliffe Bible Translators Ron Yaddaw, present at the dinner, responded, "The donor has a heart and passion for Bible translation and reaching marginalized people of the world. He understands the vital role Wycliffe plays in that."

Ron Ryan, special adviser to the president of Wycliffe Bible Translators, commends Wycliffe Foundation's Board Chairman, Roger Tompkins, for diligently working to find matches to help complete the Challenge. Tompkins recognizes the significant impact the Foundation has on the fulfillment of Vision 2025, and he found people who supported his belief, Ryan said.

"At times when we wonder how God's working, we look back and see how He's completed the circle," Ryan said.

The \$2 million raised through the Challenge will be invested to establish the infrastructure of the Foundation and develop the gift-planning products and other tools needed to generate the additional \$3 billion needed to translate Scripture for the remaining 2,737 language groups.

"The Wycliffe Foundation is in its infancy," said President and Chief Executive Officer of Wycliffe Foundation, Don Erickson. "The successful completion of the Chairman's Challenge campaign will enable us to grow more quickly and permit us to make a growing impact on the goals of Vision 2025. None of this would be possible without the Holy Spirit moving through the hundreds of individuals who responded to the Challenge. Our thanks goes to each of them, but, above all, our thanks goes to God, who has called us to go and make disciples in all the world."

Upon learning the Challenge was complete, Ryan recalled a time when he saw the impact of translated Scripture. During his trips to Peru, he often went to local churches and observed

the men on one side, listening to the Spanish-spoken sermon, and the women on the other, nodding off or conversing with friends—because the women were primarily monolingual, they did not understand the Spanish-spoken sermon.

However, during one of Ryan's visits to Peru, 1 Timothy had recently been translated into the people's native language. During a church service Ryan attended, the preacher focused on speaking to the women; this was the first time they ever heard God speak to them. The women were attentive and engaged, actively responding to the questions posed by the preacher.

"The Word of God is for all people," the preacher told them. "We've heard it in our church before, but you were blocked from hearing it. But, today, I have a special gift for you because God speaks all languages."

The impact of translated Scripture is phenomenal. Because many people want to make a difference in others' lives, they decide to donate to Bible translation, linguistics and literacy training.

"Our financial partners want to be part of a great commission, and, through their finances, they can help fulfill this commission," Yaddaw said. "People understand God's Word and have a passion to help so everyone has the chance to hear it."

A new way to learn about supporting Bible translation

By Scott Toncray

Last summer, we listened to missionaries, financial partners and others interested in the works of Bible translation, literacy and linguistics training on how they wanted to be communicated with about the progress of Bible translation through gift planning. As a result, Wycliffe Foundation staff is streamlining the way we communicate to maximize efficiency and reduce costs so we can effectively support our affiliate organization's including the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics; JAARS, Inc.; SIL International; The Seed Company; and Wycliffe Bible Translators.

We listened. We learned that a majority of you are using the internet to get news, communicate with your children, grandchildren and missionaries you support. We learned you have a heart for the work of Bible translation and like to learn about the progress and the different ways to become involved in the work.

With this information, Wycliffe Foundation is pleased to launch a new communications initiative. You can now receive up-to-date gift planning information through your computer via our new Web site or electronic newsletters.

- Learn how to receive fixed lifetime payments while making a gift to Bible translation, literacy and linguistics training.
- Read inspirational stories about people like you, who are supporting the work through gift planning.
- Learn how to support missionaries over a period of time through a one-time gift.
- Receive information on steps to giving wisely

All this and how God is working through the Foundation in getting His Word to the millions still waiting.

**As of January 24,
the Challenge has
been met!**



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—Don Erickson

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