

## **Friends,**

2020 was a tough year for everyone! We praise God that our situation is stable as we walk in his LIGHT. Thank you for your prayer and support; our year could have been much worse. We have escaped Covid-19 by God's Grace as we followed prevention guidelines. Praise God for Zoom. I have been teaching and conferencing on Zoom for years, so the only change was to use it more often. We have Zoomed family, friends, our Bible Study group, students, and teachers, which has helped prevent loneliness in this lock-down.

The highlight of our year has been looking back at our 60 years with Wycliffe Bible Translators. This has been the most exciting life we could ever have imagined. We taught and mentored people who were preparing for a specialized task: encouraging others to really get into the Bible and grow. God uses the Bible so wonderfully that we in turn have felt immense fulfillment and joy just from being a source of insights for them.

The lower light of our year was retiring from Wycliffe because we are both slowing down. After retirement, the IRS requires a maximum of 20 hours a week of volunteer work in the organization where we were working. Cutting back has been a surprisingly challenging adjustment.

What makes it better is seeing it in the light of our last decade, the years since our 50<sup>th</sup> Wycliffe anniversary. It was just in these last ten years that younger colleagues all over the world have fully come into their own, developing many new methods for what mission workers call "Scripture Engagement". They have pioneered many valuable initiatives, some that we had hoped for and others we did not anticipate. We are now members of a large, multinational Scripture Engagement effort.

Here at Dallas International University where we had developed the foundational Scripture Engagement courses, our younger colleagues, Tim Hatcher and Michelle Petersen, have shone more light on Scripture Engagement and made the courses better than ever. They are now leading teachers contributing new insights in this field. Sally and I could quietly disappear, and the work of Scripture Engagement specialists would continue to develop in our absence.

Our new challenge is to continue to provide some light through advising and mentoring when asked. Please continue to pray that we will have God's guidance each day. There are still more people to mentor and more new initiatives to take part in, as well as academic articles to publish about our insights. There is no need for us to completely stop working, though our roles are no longer central as they once were.

This is all part of what you have accomplished, you who prayed for us, gave money, and helped us in practical ways to do this work. Also, those in Wycliffe who made traveling and living in remote areas possible have always been vital parts of this team. You have blessed us immensely, and we will be forever grateful. It would have been utterly impossible to do our work without your generosity and commitment. Thank you!

Our expenses continue, only with less needs for travel. Note one important change in the system: gifts can be sent to us directly or through Wycliffe. Those sent through Wycliffe need to be labeled “retirement expenses of Wayne and Sally Dye” instead of “ministry expenses.” You will still get a tax-deductible receipt if you give through Wycliffe ([www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org) is the easiest way). We will be grateful as God provides through you.

We do need your continued prayer for our health and strength. There was one close call: in October, a dangerously low sodium level put me in the ER. An intensive four-day regimen in the hospital brought my sodium level back up, though. Since then, it became clear that my crooked back from the leg that was shortened in a childhood accident led to both the recent six months of diarrhea and my severe Sciatica pain. With a carefully designed exercise program by my chiropractor (along with some other changes) I am nearly recovered from all three issues. Sally’s main challenge is overcoming physical weakness, although she is now free of her own bout with Sciatica this past year. God has been good to us yet again.

We continue to hope in a God who is able to do more than we could ever ask and imagine. Thank you for continuing to hope and pray with us as we prepare to walk in the light Jesus gives us through 2021!

Rejoicing in God’s grace,

Wayne and Sally Dye

