

# ◆ The “Scoop” on the Scotts ◆

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Hank, Krista, Amanda, and Nick Scott    Mail: 7403 Davis Rd., Waxhaw, NC 28173-8416    Emails: [hank\\_scott@wycliffe.org](mailto:hank_scott@wycliffe.org)    [krista\\_scott@wycliffe.org](mailto:krista_scott@wycliffe.org)    Phone: (704) 225-3851

## Back to Africa *Hank Takes a Second Trip to Kenya*

At the end of January I took a two week trip to Nairobi, Kenya, along with my coworker Bill Mayes. When Bill and I made our first trip in November, 2009, one result was the initiation of a training program for African IT workers which we called Africa IT Connect. This training began during 2010 and now we returned to design the second stage of training which will take place over the next year.

*The planning team for Africa IT Connect*



This training is crucial to help Africans strengthen their technical knowledge to enable Bible translation and literacy work. As time goes on, fewer and fewer American missionaries are doing this work and more of it is being handled by Africans. This is the case all over the world: more local people are engaged now than ever before, and that is a great thing! But many of the IT support people have not had the same opportunities to receive the quality training and experience that American IT specialists benefit from. When they are faced with an advanced problem they struggle to find a solution and often Bible translation is brought to a halt or delayed because of technical issues.

The Africa IT Connect training program is designed to equip the national IT support staff through a two week training course with hands-on exercises in topics that

are specific to the African context. This provides practical experience in a group setting, working alongside other Africans to develop and reinforce skills. Personal relationships between African IT workers is strengthened, a key cultural factor in that part of the world, and they receive spiritual refreshment.

Bill and I met with other IT leaders from Africa and through God’s grace, by the end of the week we had developed the curriculum for the second phase of training. Now the team of specialists that I work with in the U.S. are starting to develop the detailed course content. The current schedule calls for the training to begin in June, but this is a very aggressive plan since all of the IT specialists have other work to do as well.

We are investigating whether it’s possible to push forward for the first session in June or if we should delay this training until later in the year to ensure that the critical course content can be developed, and that trainers have been identified. Please pray for wisdom in this decision as it affects my technical staff’s workload, and the schedules for the African trainees, who are already planning to attend the June course.

The program is designed to provide three two-week sessions each year, one in East Africa, one in Central Africa, and a French session in West Africa, the common language for that region.

*Students during a 2010 training session*



After the week of meetings in Nairobi focused on the training program, I spent the second week assisting the IT team at the Bible translation center in Nairobi. The Nairobi center is a hub that supports Bible translation and literacy work not only in Kenya but also for neighboring countries, affecting hundreds of ongoing projects. There are five organizations working in partnership at this large center, supported by a team of five IT staff.

They had a list of work for me to help with which included:

- ✓ An IT security audit,
- ✓ Fixing some advanced network problems,
- ✓ Installing a new video conferencing system,
- ✓ Researching and setting up a new network server for an upgrade to their financial accounting software.

It was great to provide this assistance, since I had already travelled all that way for the IT Connect planning meetings.

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## Low Power Computing & Remote Connectivity Project

The team continues to provide support for this project, as we assist with the setup and delivery of computers, small power systems, and Internet connectivity solutions in remote places. New systems were just deployed to Cameroon and the South Pacific. In Nigeria a huge effort was made by Wycliffe Associates to set up Internet access for 25 language projects this month. The work is progressing and we are hearing great reports from those receiving these tools, as the solutions are advancing Bible translation progress rapidly! Glory to God!



*The new office building at the Nairobi center*

## Prayers and Praises

- ◆ Praise the Lord for Hank's safe trip to Kenya and that he remained healthy!
- ◆ Thank the Lord for His provision of new tools to accelerate Bible translation for those on the front lines.
- ◆ Our medical bills have been adding up. Thank the Lord that one of our supporting churches that has offered to pay off these bills, amounting to \$2,500!
- ◆ Thank you for praying for Krista's relief from migraines. The medicine she is taking is helping. Please continue to pray that the Lord will reduce or eliminate these severe headaches, and that the medicine will help her function normally.
- ◆ Please pray for the Lord's leading as our son Nick works through the college selection process, and for good college financial aid this year.
- ◆ Amanda will be staying at college this summer to take summer courses. Pray that she will be able to have a job during that time to offset the costs.
- ◆ Please pray for increased financial support for our ministry. We thank the Lord for the team of faithful financial and prayer partners that have sustained us through 11 years now!

*Counting our blessings,*

*Hank & Krista*

*Left: Future Translators — Like their parents, some of these children could grow up to translate God's Word for their people.*



**Wycliffe**

Wycliffe Bible Translators  
P.O. Box 628200  
Orlando, Florida 32862-8200

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*For the ministry of Hank & Krista Scott*