

Dear All

News at last

Maggy

Dear friends,

It's been 'long time no hear', for which we do apologise! In addition to the pressures of settling into a new country, Johanna has been unwell for a lot of the time since moving into our house in early September. However thanks to an excellent local doctor she's now on the mend, and we've both started work on our new Wycliffe assignments — in between continuing to get set up, organising repairs and improvements to our house, and many other 'first time things'. Anyone who's moved long-term to a different country will know what we mean!

Thank you to those of you who have written encouraging letters and emails recently. Again, apologies that we have not always managed to reply directly.

Some highlights (and lowlights!) of recent weeks:



Our **container** arrived safe and sound, PTL! It sailed through customs clearance, and everything appears to be present, correct, and in working order. Even the piano was *almost* still in tune! What a relief, after the prospect several weeks ago that we might lose it all!

We have most of the boxes unpacked, but the last few are waiting for our kitchen extension to be built (so we have somewhere to put the washing machine!), and for our daughter Jen to be able to remove the boxes we brought out for her. We hope everything will be in place by Christmas! Meanwhile we're trying to get used to the strange sensation of seeing all our familiar UK furniture arranged in completely different surroundings...

But we **love** our new **home**! For Johanna, particularly, the sunshine and the beautiful, well-developed garden are balm to the soul. We pray that this place the Lord has given us will also be a blessing to others who'll visit us in years to come.

There *are* a few drawbacks, however. Like when we were told we cannot get a **telephone landline**! Having moved to one of the most developed cities in Africa to be sure of good communications, this came as quite a shock! So we have been searching for a wireless solution instead. But one wireless provider after another has checked our locality and told us, sorry, we have no service to that area (or only at very slow connection speeds). So we inadvertently seem to have fallen into a communications black hole! However we know the Lord brought us here, and we're trusting him for a solution. One wireless company so far has said they can provide what we need; we're seriously considering them, though they're not the cheapest. (*This is why no landline is listed in our contact details at the end of this letter.*)

We've enjoyed meeting our new **Wycliffe colleagues** out here, and getting started in our new roles. Wycliffe South Africa is a small group, and it was great to have a fellowship lunch with them recently. More on the work side below.



It's been wonderful, also, to have **Jen and Warren** so close. They often drop in for a cuppa or a potluck meal. Since we live just round the corner from Warren's parents, they come to us more often than we go to them on the other side of Johannesburg. We all miss **Stephen**, of course, and are looking forward very much to seeing him in December–January. His work doesn't allow him to make it for Christmas, sadly; but he'll be with us for New Year.

On the work front:

I (**Steve**) have started picking up the threads of my job again after many months of relative inactivity (though I've kept up with the most essential correspondence). This is turning out to be an interesting challenge, as things have moved on and there are quite a few new developments in the area of scripture publishing in Africa and elsewhere that I need to get my head round. So I'm starting to get in touch with people involved in typesetting around the continent, and especially with my immediate boss, Paul Kroening (who's based in Nairobi, Kenya). We'll be talking through future plans, which will include visits elsewhere on the continent, and also to Germany in March for a follow-up to the international publishing conference I attended in Thailand this year.

And I (**Johanna**) have been able to make my first regular commitment to work outside the home in 30 years. I will be going in to our Wycliffe office once a week to begin with, on Tuesdays. (The work I did at our HQ in the UK was much less structured.) And I'll also be doing other work at home. I have just painted what is now my 'home office', changing a candy pink girl's bedroom into a muted cream work space! And I've almost finished unpacking all the non-Steve boxes...

At the Wycliffe office I had an introductory session with my director, Karen Floor. Since first discussing the possibility of my becoming part of Wycliffe South Africa, she has had this verse on her mind — for me, and for the recently expanded team:

*I will build you with stones of turquoise
Your foundations with sapphires.
I will make your battlements of rubies,
Your gates of sparkling jewels,
And all your walls of precious stones. (Isaiah 54)*



This was for me a promise that He would give me the strength for my new role in member care. But also a promise that He would build us into a team of precious stones, and I feel so privileged to be working with a small group of members who are all truly, very precious stones... Since then we have had a meeting with all the personnel in the South African Wycliffe office. They include an older couple in their seventies (bearing fruit in their old age!); the director, Karen Floor; a young couple who will set up a Wycliffe Youth Network in South Africa (Esther and Tyrone, for those of you who know them); and two applicants who hope to work in Angola. One of them is a man from Cameroon.

My first “project” is to help each and all of them as they face really big financial challenges with regard to their support. They all need encouragement and new supporters who can enable them to do the work to which God has called them. Please pray for wisdom for me, and open doors for them. Next week I will lead a one-day seminar to see how they can deal with the shortfalls they all face, and the need for more supporters.

Some of you have asked for **Praise and Prayer points**:

PTL!

1. That we are settling in and have made a start on our new assignments
2. For increasing good health for Johanna

3. For the safe arrival of our container
4. For the new home the Lord has given us
5. For wonderful friends and colleagues!

We'd value prayer:

1. For wisdom in our work
2. For Johanna's 8 colleagues (3 couples and 2 singles) who are looking for new supporters
3. For good internet access and good communication with our colleagues spread out over Africa and the rest of the world
4. For rapid and efficient completion of our planned extensions to the kitchen and office.

Thank you for your friendship, and being "with us" as we have started out in this new phase of our lives and work!

— **Steve and Johanna.**

Steve & Johanna: *Street address:* 52 Sabie Road, Brackendowns, Alberton, 1448, South Africa.

Postal address: PO Box 166899, Brackendowns, Alberton, 1454, South Africa.

Mobile phones: Steve, +27 790 573 543. Johanna, +27 790 484 930.

Emails: Steve, steve_pillinger@sil.org or steve_pillinger@wycliffe.org. Johanna, johanna_pillinger@wycliffe.org.

Skype (Steve): spillinger. *Website:* <http://www.pillingers.net/>.

Wycliffe Bible Translators: The Wycliffe Centre, Horsleys Green, High Wycombe, HP14 3XL, UK.

Phone: 01494 682268. *Email:* Askus_UK@wycliffe.org. *Website:* www.wycliffe.org.uk.

Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 548, Kempton Park, 1620 **South Africa.**

Phone: 011 452 2715. *Email:* wycliffe_southafrica@wycliffe.org.

Website: www.wycliffe.org.za.