

Profile:

David and Julie Rowbory

Our Story So Far

David and Julie Rowbory have been members of Wycliffe Bible Translators since 2006 but both had prior experience of cross-cultural mission work in Africa and Asia. David's a computer programmer by background and Julie a History teacher, but they're both convinced that Bible Translation is the work God has prepared for them to do right now.

Preparation in UK & Kenya 2006-2010

We studied Bible Translation at Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology, where Rebekah was born in 2008. Training in Greek, Hebrew, Biblical studies, linguistics and translation set David on track to become a translation consultant. Julie took the Cornhill Training Course Scotland 2006-7 and studied linguistics in 2009 at the UK Wycliffe centre. Elizabeth was born in Glasgow in 2010.

Translation Consulting in Nigeria 2011→

Translation consultants help mother-tongue translators improve their work and ensure that they are translating accurately, clearly and naturally before publishing. Nigeria not only lacks translators, but has an even greater shortage of consultants. That means translation work can't progress as quickly or effectively as it should and over 300 Nigerian languages lack a word of scripture.

In early 2011, with prayer and financial support from friends, we moved to Jos, north-central Nigeria. David began work as a trainee consultant, mentored by existing consultants and gaining experience. In 2011-2012 he worked with eight or so diverse teams¹, some translating the New Testament and some the Old, as well as helping new teams make the very first steps in writing their language. He also taught Bible Translation students at a nearby theological college. There's much to learn and many challenges for Nigerian pioneer translators as they figure out good ways to write their previously unwritten languages so their people can read and rely on the scriptures.



Even where churches have been established for 80 years or more, generations of Christians have grown up with the Bible locked away in partially-understood foreign languages. Much of the time they don't even realise that the Bible is a book that can be understood clearly and which must have an impact on everyday life. This is the path Wycliffe and Tyndale trod, pioneering the Bible in English over 500 years ago, against much opposition.

Why Translate The Bible?

Two key reasons undergird our enthusiasm: First, we believe the Bible is God's word for all. Everyone made in God's image needs to receive it in the language that moves them most. Secondly, God does not show favouritism (Acts 10). So we can't remain faithful to him and leave his word as something foreign by keeping it bound up in Latin, English or any other alien language or culture.

¹ In case you're interested look up Maya, Kamwe, Nyankpa, Waci, Düya, Gworok, N'kyob, 'Bwaaty at www.ethnologue.org

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These practical and theological reasons push us to play our part in the Christian tradition of translating God's word into every language, culture and society that needs the gospel. The translated scriptures brought the gospel and the churches alive again in Europe after years of stagnation. In Africa's Christian history, the churches with scriptures in mother-tongues have survived the onslaught of Islam and other destructive false teachings, whilst others which seemed strong at the time have simply disappeared. It's not just about getting a book but it's about providing a solid, long-lasting foundation for the church in every people, nation and language.

Partnership

We're not actually employed by Wycliffe Bible Translators. Other Wycliffe members support and oversee our work in different ways, but to enable our work we need a supportive network of partners outside of Wycliffe. The apostle Paul often talked about his partnership with others in the gospel and Jesus too relied on mission partners who supported him practically.

As Christians we're each part of the body of Christ which means we can use our situation and God's gifts to play our own distinctive rôles in God's mission. Maybe you are very interested in Bible translation work but can't go yourself to get involved on the 'front line'. Perhaps you could give some of your earnings to make it possible for others to go. Perhaps you could pray, or recruit others.

Two major areas where missionaries need support are in prayer and finances; there's a little more about these aspects on the next pages, together with response forms. Please get in touch if you'd like to use your gifts to partner with us, even if you can't think how that would work.

We would love you to get involved in Bible translation and building God's church with us!

A Letter from the Wycliffe Director



Our God is a God who reaches out to people of every tribe, tongue and language and one of the ways He does this is through the translation of His word, the Scriptures, into the heart language of all people.

Getting the translated Scriptures into the hands of people who will read and study them involves a dedicated team of support workers, translators, linguists, literacy workers and many others; each one with a crucial role to play.

You can be part of the team by praying regularly for David and Julie Rowbory. This will help provide a strong spiritual foundation for their work. David and Julie are not salaried, and so they look to God to provide funds through individuals and churches to enable them to do the work He has called them to in Nigeria.

Please consider joining the Rowborys' team through prayer and/or financial partnership. You will make a real difference, not just for them, but also for those waiting to hear the Good News!

Thank you in advance,



Eddie Arthur

Prayer Support

Our joy as Christians is that we may pray in whatever language we like, at whatever time we like to the God who made us. And if we pray according to his will, particularly for our brothers and sisters in Christ and for the extension of his kingdom, we can have complete confidence that he hears and delights in our prayers. At the same time, it's a great comfort **for us to know** that we have people praying for us. Wycliffe too need to know that we're not just trying to do all this on our own, but have friends and supporters who are committed to praying for us regularly. So just as we need to know where the financial resources are coming from to enable us to work in Nigeria, we need to have a realistic sense of our spiritual and prayer support too.

Our Part

We know God our Father knows what we and our friends need before we ask him, but we also find it a lot easier to keep on praying for our friends when we know what's happening in their lives. So we promise to help our prayer partners by sending regular news and prayer requests. We've not been great at doing this while we've been in the UK, but we do resolve to make a better job of this in the future, and especially while we're in Nigeria.

We send **monthly museletters** as our main communication with supporters in an email and printable format. If you can't wait a whole month between emails and want maybe a little more detail, you can get our **fortnightly fact files**. All our supporters have a personalised area on our website where you can read past editions, change your email address or unsubscribe as necessary.

Your Part

If you're already receiving news emails from us then you don't need to do anything, but otherwise email us or send us the form below if you'd like to receive regular updates. We normally email everything, but write to Derek McPhail (see below) if you need a printed version posted to you.

However, prayer is more than receiving newsletters, and we know that sometimes we receive updates from more people than we can realistically commit to pray for. So as well as indicating below if you'd like to receive newsletters, we would be particularly encouraged if you could tell us whether you can specifically commit to praying for us on a weekly or monthly basis. Tell us when you'll be praying for us and we'll aim to pray for you then too; it's a partnership.

Prayer Support Response:

Name:

Email (or postal address):

Please send me regular news: (choose 1)

- Monthly Museletters.
- Fortnightly Fact Files.

I would like to pledge my **regular prayer support to David and Julie Rowbory:**

- Monthly on the day of the month.
- Weekly on (day)

Email these details to rowbory@gmail.com or complete & send to our prayer coordinator
Derek McPhail: Flat 1/1, 1 Belgrove Street, Glasgow G3 1AF



Supporting David and Julie Rowbory

Financial Support

Wycliffe Bible Translators as an organisation doesn't pay us a salary and juggling a salaried job with translation work isn't really feasible. Therefore, just like other Wycliffe members (including the Director), we depend on other Christians providing the income we need to live as a family and do our translation work. As a charitable organisation, Wycliffe Bible Translators UK can use the Gift Aid scheme to augment donations by reclaiming income tax you've already paid.

We're very grateful for **one-off** gifts (to help with start-up costs, for example) but the most helpful form of partnership for us is when people commit to giving some amount **regularly**, even if it's not much. That allows us to plan wisely. Before we can begin our assignment we need to know we have a solid support base of committed prayer and financial supporters.

Rebekah Wake (contact details below) is helping us keep track of financial support. For our own planning it's best if you can tell us (or Rebekah) if you want to pledge regular (or one-off) gifts, but the gifts themselves should be sent to the Wycliffe UK Finance Office marked for our support. You can also give electronically through the Wycliffe website. Rebekah can also forward gifts to the Wycliffe Office. If you want to give anonymously, please tell Rebekah and make sure you tell the Wycliffe UK Finance Office so they can be sure to protect your anonymity.

Financial Support Response:

Gifts to support David & Julie Rowbory, Account 211613

(Tick boxes, fill blanks and delete as appropriate.)

Name:

Email:.....

I would like to offer financial support to **David and Julie Rowbory** with a

One-off gift of £.....

Regular gift of £..... every month/year/.....

(Please complete and send in the Wycliffe **Standing Order form**.)

See www.wycliffe.org.uk/memberfundraising/David+and+Julie+Rowbory to give securely online by Credit Card/Direct Debit through Wycliffe.

Gift Aid — Optional for UK tax payers

I am a UK tax payer and want Wycliffe to reclaim tax under Gift Aid on all donations made by me. (Send the **gift aid form** along with your first gift.)

Please make cheques payable to **Wycliffe Bible Translators** and specify (to Wycliffe) that gifts are for David & Julie Rowbory, Account number 211613.

Send the response form to:
Rebekah Wake
81 Netherton Road
Glasgow
G13 1LJ

Name of charity: **Wycliffe Bible Translators**

Details of donor

Title _____ Forename(s) _____ Surname _____

Address

Postcode _____ Phone No. (optional) _____

I would like Wycliffe to treat

- the enclosed 'one-off' donation of £ _____
- all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise
- all donations I have made in the six years prior to this date, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise

as Gift Aid donations.

Please tick box(es) as appropriate.

I have read and understand the Gift Aid Regulations listed below.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The person signing here must be the person who signs the cheques/standing order etc (even if a joint bank account is used)

Notes & Regulations

Under Gift Aid regulations you are not allowed to give a gift, via a charity, to a close relative. ("Close relative" means children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, siblings or the spouses of any of these.)

You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that Wycliffe reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).

Under UK tax laws, husbands and wives are taxed separately and we therefore cannot accept a 'joint' Gift Aid Declaration. A **separate** Gift Aid Declaration **must** be completed by each person who wishes to give under the Gift Aid Scheme.

If your declaration covers donations you make in the future:

1. please notify the Finance Department if you change your name or address while the declaration is still in force.
2. you may cancel your declaration at any time by notifying the Finance Department - we will then make no further tax reclaims on donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.

If, in the future, your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and/or capital gains equal to the tax that Wycliffe reclaims, you should cancel your declaration (see note 2).

If you pay tax at the higher rate, you can reclaim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.

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