

Franks' 2007-2008 Annual Report



David and Lynn Frank
Wycliffe Bible Translators

Helping in French Guiana and Brazil

Fresh from the printer, boxes of the Gospel of John were stacked on the bookshop floor. It was August, and I was in Cayenne, French Guiana visiting with the [Guyanais](#) translator, Martial Attica. Glancing at the boxes, I asked Martial about his next step. He explained that he had planned to continue translating into Guyanais, but now after finishing the Gospel of John he was going to stop. Surprised, I asked why. Martial began to share the difficulties of this translation project he had been doing in addition to his regular job. The Suriname Bible Society was supporting the project, but the language barrier with Suriname made communication difficult. Martial felt isolated and like he didn't have the resources to continue. Although John was printed and people wanted to get copies of the translation, he didn't know how to distribute the books or how much to charge. Because of the slow progress, Martial was on the verge of quitting.



Martial Attica holding [Levanjil Jan](#)

I was sent to Cayenne with a proposal on how to continue. [Adapt-It](#) is a computer program designed to assist in translating from one language to another related language. Martial had already been using the [Guadeloupean French Creole New Testament](#) in draft as a basis for his translation. After explaining [Adapt-It](#) to Martial, he agreed to give it a try. I spoke with Martial in French Creole, though I had to try to adapt my St. Lucian variety to his Guyanais variety. We began with Philemon. The program doesn't just translate from one dialect to another with the push of a button. It starts off slowly as you enter the

information. The more you enter, the more the program learns about adapting from one language to the other. Martial is good at computers and he enjoyed learning this approach. In just one afternoon, Martial and I had adapted the book of Philemon into Guyanais, and Martial was getting excited about the potential.



Recording the Prodigal Son story

Two days later, I was in northern Brazil showing Adapt-It to Brazilian missionary Adriana, who had been working on the [Karipuna French Creole New Testament](#). Adriana had been studying the [St. Lucian Creole New Testament](#) as she was drafting the Karipuna translation. She had completed the Gospel of Mark, but the work was difficult and translation had slowed to a halt. After introducing the Adapt-It program to Adriana, in just one day we were able to adapt all five chapters of 1 John. Adapt-It reignited Adriana's motivation for continuing with the translation into Karipuna.

Martial is eager to continue the translation using Adapt-It. He and Adriana are also interested in collaborating, since they are both translating the New Testament into related French Creoles. I'm happy to say that Martial now has the Gospel of John for sale in his bookstore, and it looks like both projects will move ahead by using Adapt-It.



Crossing the Oiapoque River into Brazil

Conferences, Meetings, Courses, Consultation

Bible Translation 2007	Dallas	October 2007
Consultation on Translation Projects	Dallas	December 2007
ABS Translation Conference	Lima	December 2007
Bible Translation 2008	England	February 2008
Total it Up (taught phonetics, phonology)	Waxhaw	May, July 2008
Society for Caribbean Linguistics/Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics	Cayenne	July 2008

The paper I presented at the Bible translation conference in Lima, Peru, is to be published in a book on translation to come out next year.

I have also been an active part of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission, sponsored by the US Department of Interior. This involves meetings at least quarterly with a set of leaders from four states representing the Gullah community, and in the past year we met at the Penn Center on St. Helena Island, SC, in Charleston, in Wilmington, NC, and in Darien, GA.

I am continuing to work as a mentor and consultant to Carlos Benitez, who is on furlough from Niger. His furlough time is coming to an end, but I will continue in that role with him after he returns to Niger. Carlos and I attended the creole linguistics conference in Cayenne this summer, where we both presented papers, and then he returned to the States while I stayed longer to work with the translators in French Guiana and Brazil.

In the Office

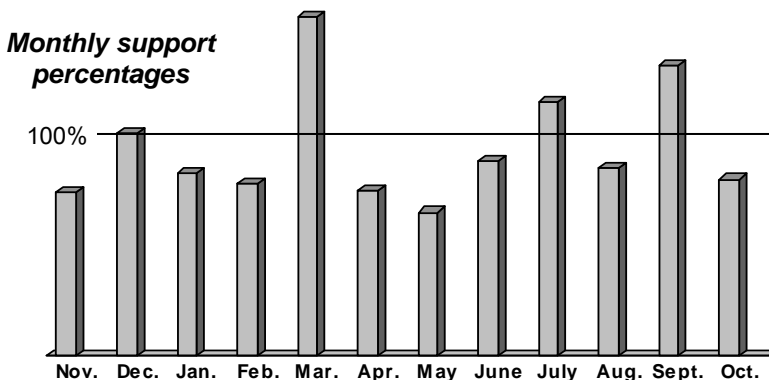
Lynn and I moved into a new office in the Language and Translation Dept. at [JAARS](#) in April. I have been editing the *Journal of*

Translation and am currently preparing the next issue for release. Lynn is getting back into editing under the direction of the SIL Editing Dept. in Dallas.

As we reported in previous newsletters, Lynn has been updating the linguistics and translation library here which is used by consultants, members producing tools for translators, and by translators on furlough. The final steps will involve taking a shelf inventory and making sure the library computer catalog has entries for all the books.

Financial Update

We could not be doing this work without the financial support we receive from individuals and churches. We do appreciate your gifts, which help make this ministry possible. As you can see from the chart, the amount of financial support we receive goes up and down. Averaged over the past year we have received 94% of our support quota, which is an encouraging increase over past reporting periods. Still we are short just a little over \$300 per month as illustrated in the graph below.



2007-2008 support level average: 94%

Plans

Some of our plans for the next period are predictable while others are tentative and too early to announce. After our seventeen years working on the French Creole translation in St. Lucia and another five years working on completing the Gullah translation, at this time we don't have primary responsibility for a translation project. We expect to continue working out of the [JAARS Center](#) in Waxhaw, NC, teaching, editing, writing, and consulting, with a specialty of helping with creole languages. These plans involve both working with people long-distance and also some traveling for on the spot consulting with translators on the field.

As I did during in the past year, I expect to travel overseas to a couple of different continents to offer help with creole translation projects that are already in progress. When these plans get firmed up, we will send you the details.



Family News

This is graduation year for our daughter, Kimberly. She will graduate from UNC Chapel Hill with majors in both French and Political Science. Our son, Mark, is in graduate school at Columbia University, studying the Chinese language, history and culture. Michael, our youngest, is in his freshman year at UNC Wilmington. We're looking forward to seeing Kimberly and Michael for Thanksgiving, and all three will be coming home for Christmas.



Praise and Prayer

Praise:

- Guyanais and Karipuna New Testament translators are encouraged and have been helped by the Adapt-It program.
- Carlos Benitez's knowledge of translation principles and of contact languages has expanded and he is better prepared for translating into the Tagdal language in Niger.
- Our children are doing well in college and graduate school.
- We have 94% of our support quota.

Prayer:

- For continued good progress on the Guyanais and Karipuna New Testament translations.
- For Kimberly's decision on a job after graduation, or a possible study program.
- For God's direction, His wisdom and good plans as to how we should be further involved as advisors and consultants with creole language translation projects.

Personal Note:

Lynn and I appreciate your support of our ministry with [Wycliffe Bible Translators](#). Your prayers and support enable us to help spread God's message to people who do not yet have it in their own language. You have helped us train present and future translators. You have helped translators like Martial and Adriana and Carlos to continue their work. Thank you for ministering with us!

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