

Franks' 2008-2009 Annual Report



David and Lynn Frank
Wycliffe Bible Translators

Supporting translation in the Americas and Africa

How do you say ‘desert,’ as in Mark 1:3,4,12, in a language spoken in a lush country with no deserts and no word for one? How do you say ‘glory’ and ‘holy’ in a language without such complex theological terminology? It’s not just that speakers of this language might not know the word, but rather that the word simply does not exist in that language. To say ‘disciples’ in Portuguese Creole, we tested one word and found it didn’t communicate anything, but then we tried *sigidores* ‘followers’ and it tested well. ‘Synagogue’ is now being translated as *kasa di juntamentu di judeus* or ‘the meeting house of the Jews.’ These are examples of the challenges we faced in translating into St. Lucian Creole, and then Gullah, and now Portuguese Creole. It makes life interesting!

This past spring marks twenty-five years since we first went to St. Lucia to start working on translation into Creole languages, and October marks ten years since the St. Lucian Creole New Testament was published and four years since the Gullah New Testament was published. After some 18 years concentrating on a French Creole in the West Indies, then another six years concentrating on an English

Creole (Gullah) spoken in the Southeastern U.S., presently we continue to stay involved with St. Lucia and Gullah but our most recent translation assignment is now with a Portuguese Creole spoken in Guinea-Bissau, in Africa.



David with the translation team in Guinea-Bissau

With modern ease of communication and travel, we can be involved in language and translation work around the world. We are still

based at [the JAARS Center](#) in Waxhaw, NC, but have been supporting translation work in different places. The past year has been especially eventful in terms of travel: regionally in connection with Gullah, several trips a little farther away within the U.S., to Central America, to Europe, and two consultant trips to Africa. Between trips we take advantage of e-mail for communication and work long-distance back at the office.



Kids in the village of Lendem, Guinea-Bissau

The translation in Guinea-Bissau is being done by a team of mother-tongue speakers. What they need from us is consultant help. The translation work there is being supported by the local church, by a Brazilian organization called [ALEM](#), and by [SIL](#), with one SIL member assigned there full-time as a language programs manager. Others of us who are involved in the project there as consultants or administrators travel back and forth. In 2009 I (David) made two two-week consultant trips to help guide the translation team, and next year we expect to make several more, between the two of us.

Other travels in the past year, besides consulting in Africa, have been for presenting papers at different academic conferences on Bible translation and on Creole languages, and for coordinating with others involved on consulting and editing in support of Bible translation.

David's main responsibilities in the past year have been consulting, teaching, writing and editing the *Journal of Translation*. Lynn's main job for the year has been editing a discourse analysis textbook that will be used for educating people going out to do Bible translation. She is also the librarian for the Language and Translation Department here at JAARS.

Conferences, Courses and Consultation in 2009

GGCHCC meeting*	Jacksonville, FL	February
Giessen Creolistics Workshop	Germany	April
consulting on Kriol translation	Guinea-Bissau	April
GGCHCC meeting	Georgetown, SC	May
Academic Editing Workshop	Dallas	June
teaching at TOTAL It Up!	Waxhaw	June, July
GGCHCC meeting	Wilmington, NC	July
consulting on Kriol translation	Guinea-Bissau	August
Americas Area Linguistics Consultants	Tucson	September
Leadership Development Seminar	Panama	October
Bible Translation 2009 Conference	Dallas	October
GGCHCC meeting	Savannah, GA	October

* GGCHCC stands for [Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission](#), under the U.S. Department of the Interior.

At the conference in Giessen, Germany, I presented a paper I had written comparing varieties of French Creole, and then in Dallas a



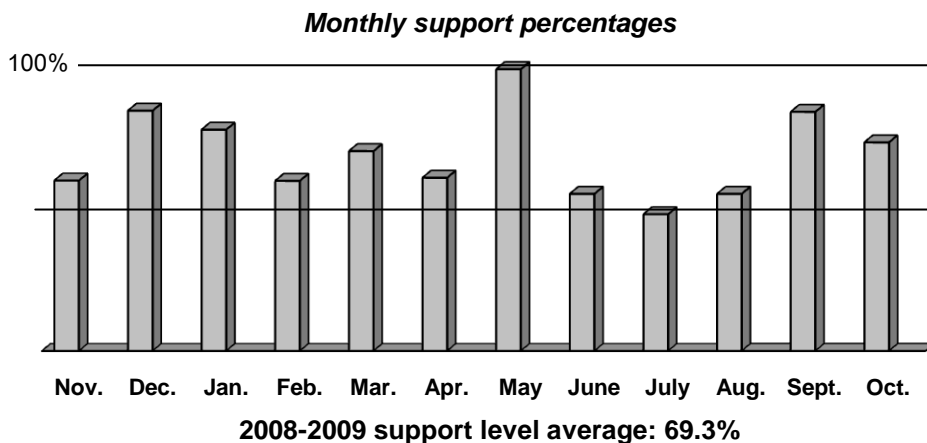
At the Canal, which was more picturesque than the conference room where we spent most of our time in Panama

paper on the theory of Bible translation. Other trips were for consulting with national translators in Guinea-Bissau, and to meet with SIL consultants and editors who are involved in the same kind of work we do.

Financial Update

We are able to contribute our time, talent and energy toward language development and Bible translation because we are supported by churches and individuals. Last year our financial support had reached 95% of our quota, but because of various factors, including financial struggles our supporters themselves are going through, our support level has dropped to about 70% again. We know that we have continued to receive support from some people who are themselves out of work, which makes us especially grateful. In the past year we have not received our full quota for any month, and one month it was a little below 50%.

There are no supplemental funds to help us when support is low. We would appreciate your prayers for an improvement in this situation. We would welcome any opening to make a presentation in your area on our Bible translation ministry.



Plans

In the next year, we will continue to support Bible translation and the development of minority language groups by consulting, teaching, writing and editing. We have both been asked to consult in Guinea-Bissau. I have several conferences with papers to present, and will teach again at a TOTAL It Up! course here in Waxhaw. Back at the office, we will communicate by email as a consultant and as editors, to Dallas, the Carolinas, and Africa. We would also like to meet in person with our supporting churches and individuals and others who would like to know more about the ministry of Bible translation.

Family News

Our older son Mark is in graduate school at Columbia University, studying Far Eastern languages, literature, history and cultures. Right now he is in China for six months improving his fluency in Chinese. Shortly after he returns from China in February, he will be getting married to Maria Shendrick, and then will continue with graduate school.

Kimberly is now also in graduate school, after graduating from the University of North Carolina. Her graduate studies are in Political Science, with a specialization in Trans-Atlantic Studies. Beginning in January she will be studying in Paris for a year, with the help of a State Department scholarship.



Michael is out of school and living at home now, and has a temporary job with [Operation Christmas Child](#). He has been trying to pursue service with the Air Force, but getting started on that has been surprisingly complicated. He loves music and occasionally being part of a Christian musical group.

Praise and Prayer Points

Praise:

- Translation work in Guinea-Bissau is going well, and we are blessed to be able to help.
- God speaks to virtually all of us through translation, and we are able to help spread the Good News into other languages.
- Mark is doing well in graduate school and in China, learning a lot and enjoying it, and will be getting married in March.
- Kimberly is in a good graduate program with a scholarship.
- Michael is gifted and is searching for how he can best be of service.
- God has blessed us with good health, and friends and family.

Prayer:

- That God will continue to guide in how we can best use our time and energy to help spread the Good News through translation.
- That the St. Lucian Creole and Gullah New Testament translations will communicate well and be used.
- That God will bless the translators and the plans in Guinea-Bissau, to communicate the Gospel clearly, accurately and naturally.
- That our financial support level will increase \$1500 per month to reach the quota Wycliffe has set for us.
- That the editing of the discourse analysis textbook will be completed soon, and will be a helpful resource for translators.

Personal Note:

This season we have much for which to be thankful! We thank God for sending his Son for our salvation, and for calling us through the Great Commission to share in spreading the Good News about His love for us. We thank God for blessing us and equipping us for “every good work.” We are thankful for our family and friends, and for you who share in our ministry and make it possibly through your prayers and gifts. May you also enjoy God’s blessing and provision throughout the next year.

David and Lynn Frank

Wycliffe 

PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200
1-800-WYCLIFF
www.wycliffe.org

David and Lynn Frank
6908 Legacy Lane
Waxhaw, NC 28173
(704)243-3654

dfrank@wbt.org
www.thefrankfamily.org
www.seaislandcreole.org
www.gullahbible.com

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