



RCA Missionary Update

from the Miersmas

Both the RCA and Wycliffe Bible Translators (WBT) have a rich history of bringing God's Word to people everywhere. In 2003 the RCA and WBT entered a partnership that will strengthen their shared efforts to bring God's Word to millions of people still without a Bible in their language. For 25 years Harry and Pat Miersma have provided counseling and crisis intervention services for RCA and WBT missionaries in over 100 countries. Now based in Dallas, they continue to serve WBT and RCA colleagues worldwide. As senior member of Wycliffe's counseling staff, Harry counsels and consults with missionaries who serve countries all over the world. He also helps prepare other counselors for this unique ministry. Pat is the International Clinical Consultant to Wycliffe counselors who work in five areas of the world. She also provides counseling consultation and training in the Wycliffe trauma healing effort which provides Scripture use materials for churches suffering from conflict, persecution, AIDS and poverty.

RCA mission: "To make disciples of all nations."

Wycliffe mission: "To assist the church in making disciples of all nations through Bible translation."

Vision 2025: To see a Bible translation in progress in every language still needing one by the year 2025.

Number of languages spoken in the world: 6,913

Languages still needing a Bible translation: 2,000



MINISTRY

Counseling and consultation for missionaries and crisis intervention and training for national church leaders

LOCATION

Dallas, Texas

PARTNER

Wycliffe Bible Translators International

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Dear Friends,

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How does trauma impact the soul? How can Christian counseling help? How do missionary counselors...and church leaders.... need to be prepared to minister in global areas of trauma? These were among questions I was examining during my latest international trip to England, southern Sudan, Kenya, and Holland. With my sincere gratitude for your prayers, encouragement and support for this trip, here is a brief summary of some things I was doing between late March and early May:

ENGLAND

- Met with co-authors of *Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help* to discuss needs related to continuing requests for and ongoing use of this book in traumatized areas of the world. Little did any of us suspect in 2001, when we first met with African pastors to write it, how far and wide this Scripture use book would travel...finding it's way into over 100 languages, many countries on many continents, and into the hands of some of the world's most traumatized people.
- Co-led a Trauma Healing Workshop and consulted with 30 leaders from churches in England, Ireland and Scotland who minister to refugees from the Middle East, Africa and other traumatized areas of the globe.
- Met with British and Irish counselors who have served with Wycliffe in Africa and expect to return as counselors to missionaries there.

KENYA

- Met with staff at Tumaini Counseling Center in Nairobi that Harry and I helped establish in 1989 for the support of missionaries across Africa.
- Met with Wycliffe and other mission leaders about the growing needs among expatriate and African missionaries for counseling and crisis intervention support across the continent.



Refugee trauma healing workshop in England

SUDAN

- Taught a 2-week trauma healing module of a 3-month Peace and Reconciliation Course at the RECONCILE Center (supported by the RCA) in the southern town of Yei. Christian leaders at the course were there to deepen their expertise in ministering to the suffering, strengthening their churches, and stabilizing their communities in preparation for hoped for lasting peace in the south.



Some of the students at the course in Sudan

HOLLAND

- Met with a Christian counselor trained in and practicing in the Netherlands to learn more from her about European academic and clinical preparation, what this offers to our growing Wycliffe international team of counselors, and what current needs we have for more European counselors.
- Met up with Harry to take some long delayed holiday time with close friends from our days in PNG.



International Wycliffe Counseling Team

Even though we live and have offices in Dallas, Texas, this trip reflects whom we see as our “target population.” As Wycliffe and its partners, like the RCA, stay committed to bringing God’s Word to every person on earth in a language they understand, the missionaries from many countries who work in these places need all the support they can get...including the emotional, mental, and spiritual ministry of Christian counseling. Thank you so much for your part in making it possible for us to be part of bringing this support to the global Bible translation team and its partners.

In coming days, if you’d like to pray for us, here are some of the things on our hearts:

- Wisdom, strength and safety for missionaries serving in dangerous places. While I was in Sudan, the LRA was attacking, killing and abducting children less than five miles down the road from our location.
- God’s provision of human, financial and prayer resources for the remaining huge task of Bible translation in over 2,000 language groups still without any Scripture
- Wisdom in our counseling and consulting activities with missionaries and our mentoring of the Wycliffe counseling team in the U.S. and abroad.
- God’s call to qualified professional Christian counselors to join us. Wycliffe currently has needs for over a dozen counselors from Africa to Asia to the Pacific.

- Planning and financial provision for the 2010 International Counseling Ministries Conference. These biennial conferences are the only time our international team of counselors gather all together for prayer, encouragement, collegial support, and professional skills development.

We recognize that many of you individually, in your communities, and in your churches are experiencing very challenging economic circumstances. Your faithful prayers, continuing partnership and sacrificial giving humble us. Thank You.

In Christ,
Pat Miersma

To access extensive information about the Miermsas, or to make a gift for this ministry, simply go to www.rca.org/miersma.

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To sign up, contact Eva Fennema at (800) 968-3943 or efennema@rca.org.*