

► **Dan Moury** is scheduled to take another story-gathering trip to Africa later this month. Dan will be in Ghana the last two weeks of September to film and edit stories of how having God's Word in their own languages has impacted some people groups.

► **Beth Grimm** will return in early September from six weeks in Papua New Guinea. She has been at Ukarumpa, the headquarters for Wycliffe translation teams in the country. Beth helps to test, diagnose, and write lesson plans for students at the missionary school who have learning disabilities. This allows their parents to remain in missionary service rather than coming off the field due to their children's educational needs.

► **Kurt and Nancy G.** combined a deputation trip east to Pennsylvania with a quick visit to their newest granddaughter in Washington, D.C. Kurt & Nancy were in central PA in late June/early July to visit churches and family. They are grateful for the time with both, as well as safe travels from and back home to Michigan.

► **Dan Dixon** recently learned that he must update his educational requirements, due to new regulations recently enacted by the Kenyan government. This means he will need to do an additional six hours of master-level courses in the next year. Dan is planning on doing an online course/thesis each semester, in addition to his already busy schedule of teaching, coaching, and being a class advisor. Please keep him in prayer that he will be able to focus on all his responsibilities.

► **Brian and Micah Wagner** took off in late August to return to Rift Valley Academy for the beginning of the school year, but **Missy** stayed behind another two weeks to help daughter **Hannah** get settled in at Messiah College. Best wishes for a good freshman year, **Hannah!**

► **Jonathan and Kathy Wilson** give praise that the Binandere translators were able to arrive at Ukarumpa to help work on the New Testament translation. One of the pastor-translators had to drop out, but another was able to fill in. The men had to make a 100-mile trip by boat, and then a 100-mile trip by bus to get there. That's dedication, folks!

► **Jim & Janet Stahl** spent some time in Bethlehem, PA in mid July; they said good-bye to Jim's aunt and hello to a new great-nephew on Janet's side of the family. They spent early August in Washington D.C. at a Network of Biblical Storytellers Gathering, and this month they are on the road again to train story tellers in Asia and Africa.

► **Ivy Limbert** is now at Black Forest Academy in Germany. You can correspond with her at ilimbert@teachbeyond.org. Please keep Ivy in prayer as she begins this new season of service for the Lord.



Her Father's Heart

Recently the news told the story of a young woman who lost her father to an accident. She was still in high school when he passed away. The father was an organ donor, so a man who needed a new heart was the recipient. The young woman asked if she could keep in contact with him by social media (email, etc.) and the man said yes.

Fast forward about seven years, and the young woman is going to be married. She invited the man who was the recipient of her father's heart to her wedding. In fact, he walked her down the aisle. They hadn't ever met in person; they only had communicated by email and phone. As she met the man whose life her father had saved through his generous act, she greeted him and hugged him. Then she tenderly placed her hand over his beating heart – her father's heart – for the first time since she was a teenager. For her, it was the next best thing to having her father there for her wedding.

As you can imagine, there were a lot of tears shed that day. Tears of joy, tears of sorrow, happy memories of good times and sadness for the one who couldn't be there to see his daughter's special day. Even though the young lady's father couldn't be there physically, she felt his presence through that which he had given to another – a new chance at life.

What a wonderful parallel for what Christ does for His followers! We were dead in our sinful life, but He saves us and gives us new hearts – His heart – so that we can live forever with Him.

But the purpose of a new heart isn't just to be a better person, it is to be more Christ-like. Scriptures often refer to those who deny God as being hard hearted; they don't want to respond to God's message of love and redemption because they don't want to worship anything besides themselves. As believers, we are to have 'soft' or tender hearts, seeing others as Jesus sees them and showing them compassion.

Instead of being judgemental and critical of others who are different from us, let us model the behavior of the One we say is our Lord and be true 'Christ followers so those around us will see that we truly have our Father's heart.

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." II THESSALONIANS 2:16-17 (NIV)

-Pat Strain

