

# Matzke Update

Thanksgiving 2010

## What is mother-tongue based Education?

In many parts of the world, children are forced to leave their mother-tongue behind when they attend school. What they have learned at home has little importance in the classroom, as they are taught in a language they have never heard before. They have to learn to read words that they don't understand and stories whose meaning is not clear to them. Such a system also communicates an implied message that their own language and culture have no value in the outside world. Not surprisingly, many children struggle unsuccessfully, often dropping out of school, feeling disenchanted with the system.

When children begin their education in their own language, they learn faster and better. They also gain a strong foundation from which to build future learning in the national language. In addition, the entire community feels pride in their language and values when the education system recognizes and accepts their language.

Through mother-tongue based education, we can demonstrate God's love and concern for the people who speak these minority languages. At the same time, we are giving them skills to access to the life-giving Word of God.



Recently, in a university classroom in Southeast Asia, our colleague Dr. Susan Malone was teaching a course for educators from fifteen countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. The course focused on developing teaching and learning materials for multi-lingual education programs, in which ethnic minority children begin their education in their home language, as they learn and then transition to the official school language. During the course one participant suggested that it would be helpful to have resource materials on the internet so people involved in these programs could access them easily. When Dr. Malone answered, "We're working on that," the classroom broke out in applause.

Dr. Malone is an expert in multi-lingual education and travels the world throughout the year, advising governments, non-profit organizations and language communities on the development of policies and programs. She often receives emails from around the world seeking her advice on various aspects of multi-lingual education. For several years, she has dreamed of finding a way to put good research and resource materials on the internet to give easy access to anyone who needs them. But she lacked the means to make that happen.

When Dr. Malone, who is also SIL's international literacy and education coordinator, learned that Tim was interested in learning more about multi-lingual education and was willing to help edit, organize and put the resources on a website, she was thrilled to know that her dream could become a reality. She asked Tim to serve as her assistant coordinator, based at our International office here in Dallas, giving special focus to the website project.

When we served in the Solomon Islands, the Ministry of Education was interested in developing a multi-lingual education component to their educational plan. However, they lacked expertise and welcomed Tim's input to a plan of action. Tim was happy to help, but often felt inadequately prepared himself in this area of literacy. Working on this important project will not only serve the international literacy community, it will help Tim to be better equipped to assist in the Solomon Islands when we are able to return there.

Over the past few months we have seen an increase in our support team and we are grateful! We are trusting God to provide the remaining \$1500.00 a month that we need. Wycliffe will release us to work full time in our new assignments once we reach that goal.

With grateful hearts,

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# Family News



Sarah is in 8th grade and was recently accepted into the gifted and talented program at school. She enjoys being a library aide and singing in the school choir.

At home, Sarah can often be found curled up in a chair with a book in her hand. Extra practice is paying off and she is becoming more proficient on the piano.



Emily is a senior and is working diligently in her classes and getting good grades. She is looking at colleges and is planning to pursue a secondary-education social studies major. She is also has an interest in American Sign Language.

## Praise:

- New financial partners and an increase in support.
- Safe travels as Tim & Martha have visited churches in several states.
- Safety for the girls as they have stayed home alone while we traveled.
- A happy renter in our house in the Solomon Islands.

## Prayer:

- God's provision for the remainder of our financial support.
- Wisdom for Emily as she looks at colleges.
- Provision for braces for both of the girls.

## Financial Update:

Wycliffe determines the monthly income we need to receive in order for us to cover our living expenses. We trust God to touch the hearts of His people to join our team. We are thankful for the new financial/prayer partners who have made commitments over the past couple of months, putting us closer to our goal of 100% pledged support.

- 2 financial supporters have increased their giving
- 7 couples and 1 single have made monthly commitments
- 1 couple made an annual commitment of \$500
- 1 couple has made a quarterly commitment of \$250

These new team members come from four different states. Two live overseas. One team member is unemployed, but has decided to step out in faith saying, "I want you to see you be able to get going in your new assignments soon."

The past few months, we have traveled to Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Kansas and around Texas. We are thankful for those of you who have invited us to speak in your churches and homes, or introduced us to pastors and friends. Personal introductions from friends are one of the best ways to introduce new people to our ministry. If you know people who might be interested in learning about our ministry, please contact us.



Tax deductible gifts can be given toward our ministry through Wycliffe:  
by mail: at the address to the right - marked for Timothy Matzke account  
online:  
<http://www.wycliffe.org/Partnership.aspx?mid=2024BB>  
or by phone: 866-736-4387

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