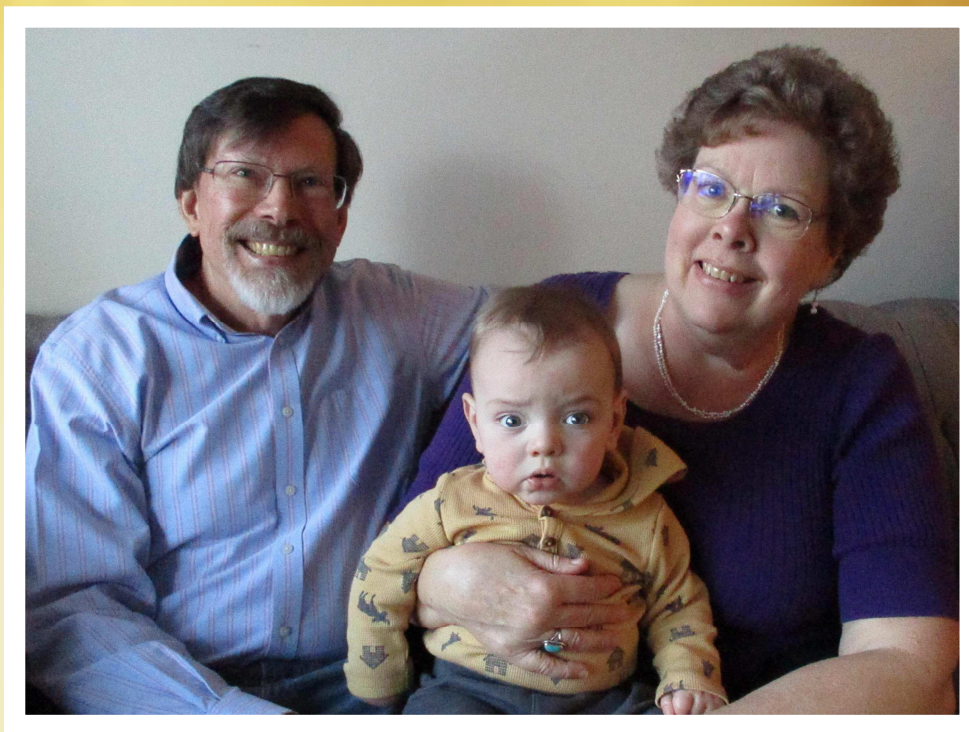


Merry Christmas !



Ron & Joanne
with Wesley



Tim & Naomi
Jonas, Asher



Steve & Amber, Ethan,
Stella, Wesley

2022 Highlights

Family:

- In March, our newest family member and 5th grandchild, Wesley, was born. He is child #3 of our oldest son Steve and his wife, Amber.
- In May, Joanne's second knee was replaced. She now has a matched pair and is very happy with the outcome.
- In June, Steve, Ethan and Stella came down with Covid. Thankfully, their cases were mild and they fully recovered by July. By God's grace, both Amber and Wesley never caught the virus.
- In August, little Wesley underwent surgery to widen his aorta for improved blood flow. We praise God that the surgery and his recovery went well.
- In September, my brother Bob underwent major surgery with two procedures on his lower back to fuse vertebrae and stabilize the spine. We thank the Lord that the procedures went well and that he continues to heal day by day.
- In November, our youngest son Tim and family came down with RSV, an unwelcome "gift" from Asher's nursery school. Thankfully, all of them recovered fairly quickly.
- We enjoyed some visits to our north woods property. This year we were able

to blaze a ~360 foot trail through the forest and improve the driveway for better access. So far the only building we've managed to put up is a lone out-house. Our hope is that we can add a shed at some point to give it some company.

Teaching:

We thank the Lord that Joanne's ESL classes continue to go well. Her classes are still online for the most part, with occasional in-person visits to the school for testing or other work.

Translator's Notes (TN):

I continue to write Translator's Notes on Micah, a resource and guide to aid Bible translators. This past year my editor, Larry Allen, updated/drafted chapters 1-4 while I drafted chapters 5 and 6. Chapter 7, the final chapter of the book, is on the docket for 2023. My hope is that TN on Micah will be finished and ready to distribute to Bible translators by the end of next year.

Bible class:

I enjoyed leading an online Bible study on King David as a ministry of our home church, Crosspoint in Bloomington, MN.

ROMANIAN DEAF CHURCH DISCOVERS GRACE*

A draft of the translation of Luke into Romanian Sign Language read: “Lord, when you get to your kingdom, remember how good I am so when I get there, you’ll let me in.” The Bible translation consultant who reviewed the translation was confused and contacted the translation team for a video conference to ask for clarification.

The Deaf translators assured him that’s how they had always understood this phrase from the *written* Romanian version of the Bible.

The consultant explained that the thief wasn’t good; he knew he deserved death. He was only asking to be remembered, not thinking he could ever make it to paradise.

The team leader asked, “But Jesus said the thief would be with him in paradise, so how does that work if he never gets a chance to do anything or change his life at all?”

Overwhelmed by God’s grace, the whole team began to cry

“That’s grace,” the consultant answered. “None of us can do anything to earn God’s forgiveness.”

Overwhelmed by God’s grace, the whole team began to cry. They corrected their draft and brought it to their church Bible study a few days later. After showing the rest of the church this passage, one of the translators asked, “Do you see what that means? That’s what grace means! God forgave us while we were still sinners!”

Understanding dawned on faces around the room, and several had tears in their eyes. “I never understood that before. Are you sure that’s what it means? But if that thief went to heaven, that means that God’s forgiveness is enough.” The discussion lasted at least an hour as they grappled with the huge truth God had revealed to them.

These Deaf believers, who had access to the written Romanian Bible for years, missed this crucial aspect of the gospel until they had God’s Word in a language and format they could understand!

*His choice is based on his grace, not on what they have done.
For if God’s choice were based on what people do, then his grace would not be real grace.
Romans 11:6 (TEV)*

* Adapted from “Romanian Deaf Church Discovers Grace”
Wycliffe Bible Translators, P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200

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