

There and Back Again

David Ford's Wycliffe Newsletter



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Intellectual Property Pilot Project

Since the end of July, I have been working with an SIL International task force on a special pilot project. SIL International has recognized that while we produce quite a lot of intellectual property (IP), field entities are often not particularly good at managing that IP. Is it stored securely in a location where those who need to can access it? Is there a proper inventory list of all published material, without items falling in the cracks? Since much of our material is produced in partnership with local church or government entities, is it clear which partner actually owns the rights to the material? These are the questions that SIL seeks to answer, and provide entities with structure and guidance on how to tackle them.

Ethiopia was recommended as an ideal entity to conduct a pilot test of IP strategy that could be used as a model for implementing a methodology to better steward our intellectual property worldwide. The recommendation was not only because SIL Ethiopia is a robust entity for publishing (we've produced over 2,200 print-based materials to date), but also because it has a dedicated archivist who has done an excellent job archiving those print-based materials—me!

I have been meeting weekly with this task force on Zoom as we blunder through how to go about collecting data and making strategic suggestions for change. This is not easy, as it requires a LOT of inter-departmental communication. We've got a good

system for archiving books, but this is only one aspect of the IP we're involved in creating. There's also apps, audio Scripture recordings, music recordings, language learning materials, and keyboards for Ethiopian languages. We help with language websites, development of alphabets and scripts, and video dubbing for products such as the Jesus Film. These all come from several different departments, and it will be a challenge to come up with a strategy that appropriately centralizes all of this.

The pilot project is expected to end this month. We won't have everything neat and polished—this wasn't expected—but we hope we will have learned some good lessons that can be applied to help SIL worldwide.



Group picture from the last day of our annual Prayer & Fasting program in September. Spouses and children were invited to join during this final day of the 3-day program, so we are quite a big group!

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SIL Ethiopia: Staff Reflection on 50 Years of Ministry video

I am very pleased to share with you **a new and unique video** (click the link) that will tell you all about the work that SIL Ethiopia does, straight from the mouths of our staff! This six and a half minute video, which I initiated, features 14 different staff and partners, all sharing about their own experience and expertise within SIL Ethiopia. My colleagues can each share about their own departments far more ably than I am able to talk about it all!

This video was only made possible through the occasion of our 50-year anniversary celebrated earlier this year, for which all the raw interview footage was recorded. Under normal circumstances, I would never be able to secure anywhere

close to this amount of professionally recorded interview footage of my colleagues, which made the anniversary a one-of-a-kind opportunity. And since I have no knowledge of video editing, the mixing of the raw footage into this final product was only possible with the great help of RCA Global Mission's Communications Coordinator, Kelli.

I really, really encourage you to take the few minutes to watch this video and get to know my colleagues and hear from them what SIL Ethiopia does. For those of you reading this newsletter hard-copy, the easiest way to find this video is to go to my Global Mission profile at rca.org/dford; this video is linked at the bottom of the page.

← Here are some of the several colleagues who you will hear from in this video!

Praise and Prayer Requests**PRAISES**

~For the opportunity and resources to have a great video produced to clearly communicate the work of SIL Ethiopia.

~For the ability to assist SIL globally through participation in the Intellectual Property Strategy pilot project.

~For a great Kenya vacation with my family from the US in July (family picture to the right).

PRAYERS

~I have been plagued with especially severe insomnia in the past couple of months, frequently having nights where it takes me five or more hours to fall asleep.

~I injured my foot tripping over a loose rock in early September. It seems to be healing well, and I think it's almost fully recovered, but do pray for full healing.

~For peace in Ethiopia.

