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## **News from the Jefferys**

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**Dear friends,**

I'm sure you will agree that the world is changing at a dizzying pace. New technologies replace the old way of doing things, new responsibilities and relationships make our lives increasingly busy, and challenges to our health and security mean constantly accepting new normals. It is comforting to know that there are many things that do not change, but remain foundational to our faith and life. SIL International is Wycliffe's partner organization overseas and was our sponsoring organization while we were serving on the field. SIL has recently shared the following foundational initiatives:

1. **BE CONNECTED:** Understand and respond to the global realities that are shaping mission in the 21st Century.
2. **BE HEALTHY:** Develop as a joyful and diverse community of people who learn and grow together.

At CanIL we attempt to instill these values in our students. They need to be connected to God's purposes in mission to the world, to work alongside His people wherever He may lead them. They need to be people full of faith and joy, embracing diversity while focussed on unity. It is a joy to work at CanIL and be part of training the next generation to serve in an ever-changing world with an unchanging God at their side.



CanIL shirt day with some of our students and staff

### **On the work front...**

We both enjoyed the calmer pace this summer with Dave on partial sabbatical. The eight students in his online course proved to be just the right level of work commitment for him. We were able to stay connected to everything at school through ongoing involvements on committees, being in the library a couple of days a week (for me), attending skit nights and other key summer events and volunteering as course marshals for the CanIL Ride on July 22nd. If you were praying for this last event, God blessed us with a gorgeous Ride day. \$202,000 was raised for student scholarships!

Now we find ourselves already more than halfway through Fall Term and enjoying our biggest enrolment ever. Dave is teaching Language and Society and can't say enough good things about the two teaching assistants that help him with the course. In spring 2019 he will be teaching the Language Programs course with the help of one of our CanIL graduates.

### **On the health and home front...**

While Dave's ALS seemed to progress very slowly over the first three years, in this fourth year the speed of change has accelerated. His left hand and arm are weakening noticeably so it takes him longer to feed, clothe and bathe himself. He has ALS in his legs as well now so he walks much less and feels unsteady when he does. He has just begun to use a walker. In mid-October he had surgery for a feeding tube on his doctor's recommendation. At this point he can still eat and drink normally, but he now has a way to get nourishment should his ALS start to affect his ability to swallow.

God has been giving both of us grace to meet these physical challenges. The prospect of surgery to install the feeding tube was a source of considerable anxiety but, as I was getting out of bed the morning we were heading to the hospital, God put a Bible verse on my heart that gave me total peace about moving forward. That verse was Psalm 118:24, "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." We have been genuinely glad ever since and managing a feeding tube has turned out to be a straightforward routine. Another big challenge for me has been doing more of the driving. Dave can still drive, but he is weary after he teaches so I take his place at the wheel. For years my fear of driving--especially on the highway--has been like a

phobia. I'm so grateful to the Lord for giving me coping skills as I tackle this fear head on.



Our niece, Anna!



Bocce in the park with Alec and Lukas!

Despite Dave's limitations, it's been a memorable summer for both family visits and family holidays! We had a great time hosting our niece, Anna, and nephews, Lukas and Alec. Dave and I then headed east to spend a few days exploring BC's Kootenay Region. There was a lot of smoke from forest fires in that part of the province, but we still enjoyed some bike rides. We came away from that time with a new appreciation for folk in the interior who routinely face fire or flood--and sometimes both!--in any given summer. From the Kootenays we drove directly to Okanagan Falls where we were joined by our kids. We had a happy and healthy time together on this second annual shared holiday. The skies were smoke-free and the weather was beautiful, allowing us to be out and about constantly.



Cycling the NorthStar Rail Trail in Cranbrook BC



The Kettle Valley Trail bridge at Okanagan Falls

Finally, in mid-October Dave and I spent a few days in Tofino on Vancouver Island's west coast. Again, we were blessed with unseasonably sunny weather. We had not been to Tofino for ages and appreciated all the tourist-friendly development that filled our days. However, it was God's creation--the beaches--that topped everything.

### Some prayer requests...

- Pray for **Dave and the colleague who will team-teach the Language Programs course in Spring Term**; that they will work well together and that their students will finish the course well equipped for their future ministries.
- A number of our **students need to complete their theses** in order to graduate with their Masters degrees. Pray them through this process so that they can move on in following God's call on their lives.
- Dave has facilitated the last two monthly sessions of our **ALS support group** at the request of the regular leader who is out-of-country. In October he arranged for our excellent counsellor to address the group and some **definite needs for counselling** became evident. Pray that these individuals/couples will get the help they need.
- **Dave** is still able to eat three good meals a day. Pray that a fourth supplemental feeding daily, by feeding tube or mouth, will help him **gain back some of the weight he has lost**.
- Pray for me (**Susan**) as I do more and more of the **driving**. Pray for safety and protection in driving and that I'll become more comfortable in traffic.
- Robby's wife, **Bitsy**, has had a very positive teaching practicum this fall. Her studies will finish at yearend. Pray for her as she looks for **work** in the New Year. The prospects of her getting something (preferably in Abbotsford!) look good as many staffing vacancies in area schools remain unfilled.

We can't thank you enough for standing with us through thick and thin!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Susan and Dave Jeffery



Address: #32-32310 Mouat Drive, Abbotsford, BC V2T 4J1  
Phone: 604-855-5088 E-mail: susan\_jeffery@sil.org

Canada Institute of Linguistics: <http://www.canil.ca>

Wycliffe Bible Translators, 4316 10 St NE, Calgary AB T2E 6K3

Phone: 1-800-463-1143 E-mail: [info@wycliffe.ca](mailto:info@wycliffe.ca)

<http://www.wycliffe.ca>

Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando FL 32862-8200

Phone: 1-800-992-5433 E-mail: [info\\_usa@wycliffe.org](mailto:info_usa@wycliffe.org)

<http://www.wycliffe.org>

Cheques should be made payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators and designated "for the ministry of Dave and Susan Jeffery".