

## Training the Next Generation

# News from the Jefferys

Dear  
Friends,  
October, 2023

Oct

This may very well turn out to be a November letter before you see it. I usually think of October as being a quiet month, but not this one. I think you will understand why when you hear what I've been up to.

As per usual, there's Care Group on Monday evenings, with working at my church's Foodbank evening as a team on the third Monday of each month. We are studying the Beatitudes. I would never have guessed that we could spend an evening studying one "Blessed are" and learn so much. As a group we have noted that we have matured in our walk with the Lord and so see depths of meaning we never did before, which is encouraging!

A friend who lost her husband to ALS early this year has joined me in attending GriefShare on Tuesday evenings. I have sat through three of the 13 weekly sessions so far. I'm finding it helpful to be around people who "get" what I've been going through because they're dealing with it too. And it's deeply satisfying and healing to share bits of my own journey when I think I can speak to some question or need expressed by another participant.

On October 19<sup>th</sup> I was asked to speak to my church's Good Friends (seniors) group on the subject of my life and life work. Simple assignment, right? Not when you are into your 7<sup>th</sup> decade of a life packed with life experiences. It took a lot of preparation and editing to come up with my finished talk which was about 40 minutes long. Really, all I could do was skim the surface. I enjoyed the chance to share, but am hoping that future opportunities will be of the one-on-one type and informal.

And, finally, there's my current house guest, Miriam, my CanIL colleague with cancer. Miriam completed her chemo regimen, only to be told that her cancer hadn't been

touched by it. Plans for radiation were put on hold and she immediately began immunotherapy. A week ago she shared with her CanIL colleagues and other friends that she is no longer up to being alone on this journey and so would welcome staying with someone who could prepare meals for her, do the cleaning and help with her hospital visits. Long story short, I'm that person till mid-November. Miriam will then switch to living with a church friend who has experience caring for a cancer patient. She is planning to be back in Nebraska with family by early December, latest.

### **On the Work Front**

Although enrollment at CanIL continues to be disappointing (71 students in total as compared to recent fall registrations of 122 students in 2020, 79 in 2021, and 91 in 2022), we certainly can't complain about the quality of students coming our way. They love the Lord and a good linguistic challenge, and many of them are preparing to embrace a life of service in the Bible translation movement. Despite the pressures of their studies, they delight in blessing others. They prepared a lovely breakfast for us staff and faculty the day after Canadian Thanksgiving—just to let us know how thankful they are for US!



Some of the breakfast crew

Since I last wrote my special project has been reviewing Subjects in my library catalog, something I've never done before in my 17 years in the Library. I have also trained a new circulation assistant to cover for me on days I work at home. Talks exploring the option of CanIL Library amalgamating with the main library on campus are just beginning.

### **Family News**

When I last wrote my first granddaughter was about to be born. Alina Marie arrived by C-section on July 30<sup>th</sup>, weighing in at 9 lbs, 5 ozs. She is thriving and, if the adoring

looks she gives her parents are any indication, she's very grateful for their excellent care.



Josiah has made tremendous strides in talking and is stringing words together some now. As an almost two-year-old he loves fast cars and trains and has endless energy for jogging. His coordination keeping a ball rolling nicely in front of him is impressive.

Jonathan and Leanne have purchased a townhouse in Chilliwack (a half-hour drive east of Abbotsford) and moved in on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Their new home includes a fenced-in

lawn and garden for their dog and kiddos. For those of you who are wondering, their second child due early in the New Year is a GIRL.

#### **Items for Prayer and Praise:**

- **Miriam**; that immunotherapy will achieve what chemo failed to deliver.
- Thank God for **14 new M.A. students** this fall. **For graduates exploring service options overseas, pray for clear guidance and encouraging progress in partnership development.**
- **CanIL's President and Board**; that they will find creative solutions to keep CanIL's training programs and recruitment efforts adequately funded and strong.
- **VP of Administration**; still needed. New issues keep arising that such a VP would deal with.
- **New faculty members**; A Wycliffe couple with 14 years of field experience has been invited to join the CanIL team. The husband is a translation consultant and is working on a Doctorate degree. The wife is a literacy specialist. Pray for temporary, affordable **housing for this family of four by January 2024.**
- **CanIL Library**; that discussions between TWU and CanIL will be productive in deciding CanIL Library's future following my retirement.
- **Susan**; that I will glean what God wants me to from my GriefShare sessions and have freedom in sharing when an issue arises that I can speak to from personal experience.
- **Leanne and Baby VanderMeer**; for healthy development and safety for baby and a continuing good pregnancy for Leanne.

Thanks so much for your friendship, prayers and financial support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".

Susan Jeffery



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Cheques should be made payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators. Kindly attach a separate note specifying "for the ministry of Susan Jeffery".

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