



Baines Broadcast

March 2008

David and Evelyn Baines.
Serving with SIL International.

A year in Brussels

David is finding his work challenging and rewarding. He is using his prior experience in software testing and it is appreciated by the team he is working with. Translators around the world are already using FieldWorks and we've included some of their comments about this software. Another part of his full-time work is responding to emails from translators about program errors. David tries to ensure that the translator can continue working and reports the error so that the developers find and fix the problem. Computer trouble last year limited David's work for a few weeks. However there was a good outcome: the problems were resolved and the department sent us another laptop as a back up system. This will ensure that we are able to continue to work even if we encounter a serious computer problem in the future.

In 2007, Evelyn began the task of localising FieldWorks into French. Localisation is the process of making software acceptable to people of a different language and culture. Evelyn needs to gain knowledge of French computer and linguistics terms as a part of this work. Teams in francophone parts of the world are keen to have FieldWorks in French so

**Computer technology
facilitating
language development
and
Bible translation**

that their national colleagues can be more involved in the work.

When we first joined Wycliffe, we didn't expect that software testing and localisation would be key opportunities to further the work of Bible translation!

David's assignment with SIL International was initially for one year. It's been renewed for a further two years. We look forward to being in the same place for 3 years. It will be the longest we've stayed in one place since we got married!

We are both reasonably healthy and try to exercise regularly. We continue with the fertility treatment that is available to us here. We have seen good progress in determining where the difficulties lie and have been encouraged but also known some losses more recently. Doctors are encouraging, and say that Evelyn is responding better than someone her age normally would.

We are trying to develop our social networks and be further involved with our local church. David is on the monthly rota for the sound system and Evelyn for the Sunday school. We are now hosting our house-group twice a month. Evelyn has been attending Italian evening classes since September and has completed her first term exams successfully.

Highlights

July 2007: We attend the wedding of David's sister Jenny, in Cirencester.

David's Dad Rev. Derek Baines passed away unexpectedly.

His funeral was a moving celebration of his life.

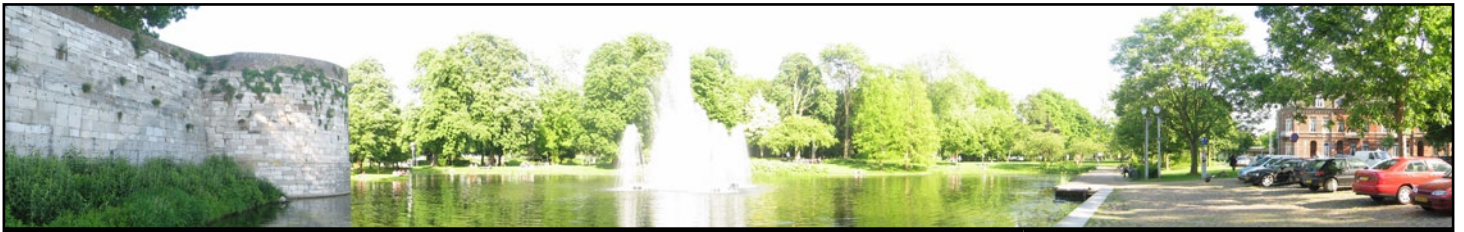
August: We are encouraged to hear the feedback of more people using FieldWorks in their work both within SIL and in universities. We spend a weekend in Zeeland with Evelyn's sister Nadine and nephew Josh.

September: On the 15th, we attend the Memorial Service for David's Dad in Bourne. We visit friends in London over the weekend and attend Hook Church. Computer trouble limits our work.

October: We attend Sunday services at Holy Trinity Brussels all month and share about our work.

December: A 4-day visit to Prague is a welcome holiday break. FieldWorks 5.0 is released! We relax and enjoy Christmas in Brussels!

February 2008: SIL Chad members are safely evacuated to Cameroon after an attack on N'djamena by rebels. Chadian employees and their families are safe. SIL centre is untouched by bombing or looting! David's brother Colin and his wife Kim come to visit us for a few days. David enjoys a conference about Open Source Software.



FieldWorks Feedback

Recently we have received some comments from people around the world that have appreciated using Language Explorer (FLEx) which is one of the programs in the FieldWorks suite.

Paul Murrell working in the Central African Republic. "We have found FLEx to be very accessible and intuitive to learn. The ease of data entry has meant that we now have access to a 12,000 word database which was entered using a team of six nationals taking their first steps in using computers!"

Freddy Boswell: "I have just completed writing my Ph.D. thesis on the grammar of the Cheke Holo language of Solomon Islands. FLEx has been a constant companion in this academic endeavor. The seamless interaction between the texts, concordance, and word lists has been foundational to the research and analysis. Looking back, I cannot imagine doing this project without FLEx!"

FLEx has even moved some to poetry:

Ed Boehm said, "Oh, FLEx, how I love thee, let me count the ways: Once I got started with FLEx I was extremely happy. That is not an overstatement. I smile to myself almost every time I open FLEx! It puts incredibly useful computing power at my fingertips. For the first time I feel like I am in control of my own data, instead of having to send it off to various experts to get it to look nice. One practical result is that I've been able to print a dictionary to give back to the people that funded a recent workshop."

We thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement and we're grateful for your partnership with us in this work!

David & Evelyn

Our address in Belgium

David & Evelyn Baines
129/22 Rue Th. De Cuyper
1200 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 771.06.80

Mobile 0494 66.62.32

david-evelyn_baines@sil.org

Wycliffe Belgium

St. Jansbergsesteenweg 97
B-3001 Heverlee
Belgium

Tel: 016 20 04 42

wycliffe.belg@wycliffe.org

Wycliffe UK-Scotland

129 High Street
Linlithgow
EH49 7EJ
UK

Tel: 01506 840500

(Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)

scotland_uk@wycliffe.org

Please mark gifts to this address:
"For David & Evelyn Baines"

Wycliffe UK

Horsleys Green
High Wycombe, Bucks
HP14 3XL, UK

www.wycliffe.org.uk



*SIL is a Wycliffe Partner
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work overseas*

Praise the Lord with us.

- FieldWorks 5.0 was released in December and version 5.2 should be out soon.
- For this time in Brussels, we feel more settled now than we have in 7 years of marriage.
- For the safety of SIL Chad members, the Chadian employees and the SIL Centre during the recent attack on the capital.

Please pray with us.

- As we continue to work on FieldWorks this coming year and complete the translation into French.
- That the Lord will grant us the joy of becoming parents.
- That SIL Chad members will benefit from their debriefing and retreat in Yaoundé and that each will have wisdom in making decisions about the future.