

PILLINGERS' NEWSLETTER, September 2019

Dear friends,

Our apologies that you haven't heard much from us in recent months: the time has flown by with our ordinary everyday jobs, and we've had nothing special to report. But now we do!

New Permanent Resident!

*After more than nine years of applications and re-applications, Johanna has finally received her **permanent residence permit** to stay in South Africa!* This is cause for great rejoicing! We always said we would paint the town red when it finally came through, and in a way we will when Stephen's here! (See below.) But at last the pressure on Johanna has been lifted of frequently needing to reapply for a temporary permit, with special documents to be gathered, checking with our immigration consultant, waiting in long queues at government offices, and so on. That's (almost) all over now, which is a huge relief! [**Picture:** *At Home Affairs immediately after receiving the long-awaited document!*]

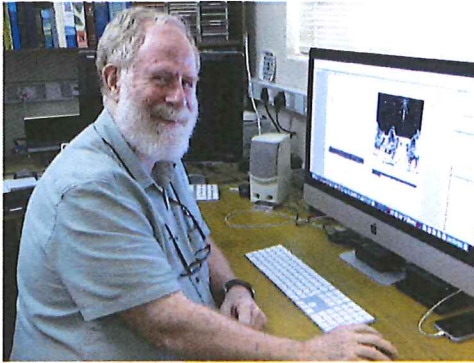


We say “almost”, because Johanna does now need to apply for a South African identity document (which all residents are required to have, but which will greatly simplify her life when she has it). *We'd value your prayers that this will go smoothly—and quickly!*

Meanwhile our daughter **Jen** is still waiting for her permanent residence permit. (Both she and Johanna have Dutch passports and have based their applications on my South African nationality.) Unfortunately until she receives it she can't apply for any kind of employment, though she can, on a part-time basis, continue as a freelance professional photographer and videographer. During this time she

continues to live with us in the flatlet behind our house. *Please pray with us that her permit will also come through soon.*

Steve



Earlier this year Steve finished typesetting the **Gbaya New Testament** (South Sudan). It's at present in South Korea for printing, and the dedication will probably be early next year.

Since then Steve has been catching up with work on the online **Maps and Illustrations**

Repository: a project he started some years ago to pull together the many different maps and illustrations being used by Wycliffe scripture typesetters worldwide. These are now available to all organisations involved in publishing newly translated Scriptures, such as the Bible Societies, SIM, Pioneer Bible Translators, Word for the World, and others (subject to copyright restrictions). A major reorganisation of the repository has now become necessary in order to simplify it and make its different applications more apparent to the user; and Steve has been working with his supervisors in Kenya and the United States to implement that.

Johanna

Recently Tshego, a younger colleague in the Wycliffe South Africa office, and I (Johanna) spoke about Wycliffe at a church near Johannesburg. To our amazement we found that there was a small group of mostly elderly ladies in the church who had been praying for Wycliffe South Africa's members and work for decades. *Will we ever discover the full impact of their—and your—prayers over the years?*

My part-time involvement continues to be in a role of general support to my colleagues; in prayer, in listening, and sometimes practically (such as weeding our little office garden!). I find great joy in serving according to my gifts in a variety of ways, as my health allows. Many of you are aware that I have struggled with chronic fatigue for a long time; and in the last two months I have

not been very involved. However, thanks to the help of a very skilful medical practitioner, I am picking up again.

Family

Our daughter Jen

Jen's freelance photography work is mainly for **Wycliffe South Africa**. She has been on several trips to neighbouring countries to make promotional videos of local projects that fall under Wycliffe South Africa. She has been to the **Himba** in northern Namibia and a translation "cluster" of **San**



languages straddling the border between Namibia and Botswana. (The San are the "little" people, the original inhabitants of South Africa, now very marginalised, impoverished and mainly living in the Kalahari Desert). She also visited another "cluster" in **Mozambique**—see photos. (Clusters are parallel translation projects in closely related languages). You can see some of her videos on the Wycliffe South Africa website: <https://wycliffe.org.za/>.



We can specially recommend a promotional video Jen made for the "**94.7**" **(km) cycling event** in November, when groups and individuals cycle for their own pleasure or to raise funds for NGO's.

Wycliffe South Africa has seen a team of cyclists riding every year, raising funds for individual projects, including the Himba: <https://wycliffe.org.za/947-cycle-challenge>. In the video you'll also meet Bonifacio, a man from Mozambique who heads our Translation department as senior Translation Consultant.

Freddie in Kenya

For those of you who remember Freddie—our “foster son” from Kenya days—we have some good news! He is now in his mid-thirties and has struggled a lot to find his place in life. Some years ago he gave his life to the Lord, but battled with loneliness as his family is very dysfunctional. One painful reality for him was that he was diagnosed as



not being able to father children, which led to a break-up with the girl he loved and the prospect of spending the rest of his life alone. Freddie has always been very fond of children, and is very good with them. [**Picture:** ‘Selfie’ of Freddie and Jen in Kenya last year.]

Note: Among some working class/traditional Kenyans, marriage is a process that usually doesn’t begin until both parties have shown that they can produce offspring. Not being able to do so is incredibly humiliating. The marriage process includes a bride price from the husband, which can take years to pay off. However, many Christians out of respect for the elders follow the traditional ways of making marriage arrangements.

More recently, however, Freddie met up with another girl who was single with a 3-year old daughter, and a relationship developed. Recently she gave birth to a little baby girl! They are now in marriage negotiations with her family.

Freddie himself has a steady job as an Uber driver, and is committed to his Christian way of life. And now he’s the happy father of two little girls.

Stephen and Rosie in Glasgow

This coming **Thursday (5th September)** KLM will deliver our son to us at the Johannesburg airport! Stephen will be with us for three full weeks, a very special treat indeed. He and Rosie couldn't both afford the trip, so Rosie is kindly letting him come on his own. As Jen is by herself and living with us, this will be a special time together with our original family of four. We're all very much looking forward to it! [**Picture:** *Stephen likes to arrive in style!*]



Thank you, as always, for your prayers and support. You are our partners in this work, and we could not do it without you! The Lord bless and encourage you all.

— ***Steve and Johanna.***



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Steve & Johanna Pillinger

52 Sabie Road

Brackendowns

ALBERTON, GP 1448
South Africa

[Add us to your address book](#)

Postal address (best for mail): PO Box 166899, Brackendowns, ALBERTON, 1454, South Africa.

Home phone: +27 11 868 1905. **Mobile phones:** **Steve**, +27 79 057 3543. **Johanna**, +27 790 484 930.

Email addresses: **Steve**, steve.pillinger@wycliffe.org.uk; **Johanna**, jpillinger@wycliffe.org.za.

Skype: Steve, spillinger. Johanna, sjpillinger.

Wycliffe Bible Translators

United Kingdom: Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 1594, High Wycombe, HP11 9NA.

Phone: 0300 303 1111. *Email:* askus@wycliffe.org.uk. *Website:* www.wycliffe.org.uk.

South Africa: Wycliffe Bible Translators, 1 Syringa Place, 29 Smith Avenue, Edenglen, 1609.

Phone: 011 452 2715. *Email:* wycliffe@wycliffe.org.za. *Website:* www.wycliffe.org.za.

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