

DON & CONNIE PHILLIPS' UPDATE: JOURNEY TO THE UK '08



Waiting for our driver in London



shortly after we arrived,
Wycliffe Bede Bldg above dining hall



Don and Ed installing steel beams

We arrived at London Heathrow Airport Thursday after a 15 hour journey, after lunch, we unpacked and took a tour of the Centre, seeing the project and greeting the other newly arrived volunteers and trying to keep our eyes opened for a few more hours until bedtime. Friday morning after having breakfast and devotions with the group, Don went to work just in time to help pour 2000 feet of concrete. What a way to start work! That took them three days.

The Project, in the Bede Building at the Wycliffe Centre (near High Wickham, England) is located on the second floor of the dining hall. The goal was to build 29 en suites, each with private bath, install an elevator, put in 58 skylight windows in the roof, drywall, taping and mudding, all new electric wiring, painting and much more.

Chuck Moe, the Head Superintendant of the job put Don in charge of the steel work. He and his crew put up steel ceiling joists, separated rooms with steel studs. That took lots of cutting steel but also lots of waiting for materials. He and his crew worked on steel pretty much all the time that it was available, when not they work on drywall or windows.

There were volunteers from the US and Canada and even some from England. There were 6 couples and one single from Iowa. Forty five more or less volunteers were there on the average. Some for the full time like us, then some for a couple of weeks or more, like Leigh Carpenter our daughter. We really enjoyed her being there and the three of us had two good days in London. However, I found out **that being a tourist is work!**

CONNIE'S WORK WHILE IN ENGLAND

WE received this: "Dear Connie & Don: We want to thank you again for your many kindnesses that you two showered on us while we were participating in the Wycliffe UK project. From the moment you met us at the airport, Connie, until our farewell hugs; it was just a delight spending time with you. Love, Bill & Carol K"

And, also this: "In closing, we want so say thank you for all your help (drug store runs) showing us around and giving guidance. Connie, you and Don made us feel as one of the group from day one. Meeting us at the airport and giving us special treatment to make the arrival and working so easy. We will say again thank you. Warm Regards, Dennis & Mary T."

That was one of Connie's jobs, picking up new folks at the airport and Don and Connie's gifts, hospitality... It was fun to greet them and show them to their flats and then around the Centre. We were able to get acquainted as it was a good hour drive from London. She also worked along with 3 other ladies shaping up the Boutique as it was in need of a real overhaul. The regulars and visiting missionaries there did appreciate it. We were getting lots of business! Connie kept busy vacuuming (the Brits call it 'hoovering') the large dining room and lounge, she also gave perms and cut hair for guys and gals until her shoulder got so painful she had to stop. She did mailings for the Wycliffe Office; computer input work and kept up our flat, as we had several single men.

With so many folks getting ill after their arrival it turned out that Connie did a lot of gathering up and borrowing from others of Tylenol, cough medicines, cold meds for folks with high blood pressure (and even chicken broth) until she could get to the pharmacy in Stokenchurch and talk to the pharmacist for the folks that were sick and obtain their meds.. Therefore, her pockets were full of requests and she had notes from many to do their shopping in town every Tuesday. I think she felt very comfortable in this arrangement.

During our stay at the Wycliffe Centre in Horsleys Green, England we were pleased to meet several translators that we worked with in the last 23 years, Dorothea Jeffries, New Republic of Congo (previously Zaire), Dave & Sue Pearson, Chad, and several from Cameroon and Sentani, Indonesia and Davao, Philippines. (Jim & Karla Smith were working in Malaysia when we met; Jim needed a ride from where we were having a couple of days of R&R while building the Center in Davao in 1998.) They are in England for a stay of two years and were able to find a set of china and many items to start up their housekeeping from the Boutique. It was good to see how all these translators have finished up their work and are in consultation and helping others in translation project throughout Europe and Asia. God is working through these willing and able folks. What a privilege to have had the opportunity to know and work for and with them and to be part of this great work! God has truly blessed us throughout these last 23 years serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators. We thank you dear Friends for your encouragement and cheering us on, God bless you!

We also made new friends outside of the Centre. Kim and Amy Mowforths were grand! They picked us up many weekends and took us on excursions in the area that we lived. One Saturday we went to a quilt show and the guys and kids went to Henley RAF Air Museum. Another time we went to see the Queen...well at least where she was in residence, Windsor Castle. We didn't go in but enjoyed the town and seeing the castle and getting away from the Centre and being with a family. We truly enjoyed their home and friendship. Another friend Geraldine Melsom lived just a short distance from the Centre and volunteered at the Boutique once a week. She had a friend Lyla and me over for lunch at her home and took us shopping when we needed. All in all it was a good time there and much accomplished. We wish we could have finished the whole project but needed another month to do that. There are some younger single men and 2 or 3 couples still there working, but they may need to be hiring some of the work done to finish up. Our hosts there at Horsleys Green Wycliffe Centre were very gracious taking us on 3 bus tours to some neat places!



Don & Connie enjoying a cool drink in Oaxaca



finished en suite at Wycliffe UK



St. Paul's Cathedral in London



Don & Ed Weber an Iowan. We've known him and Marietta for years as they were also WBT members when we were.

Thanks to those of you who prayed and helped us get there to do the work, you are just as much a part of it as we are. God has blessed us as we were able to keep on for those 3 months. His heart doctor at Iowa Heart has given Don good results of his Cardolite test and fluid retention outcome. He is feeling good! We are so grateful.

Tuesday May 6th is the day for Connie's surgery...10:30 AM CST at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines. The doctor plans on removing the bone spurs and hopefully relieving the pressure on those nerves that are effecting my neck, left arm and shoulder blade, then applying a small metal plate with a couple of screw to fuse the two vertebrae. That may not sound exactly right but hopefully you can get an idea of the procedure.

Afterwards, I will stay over night in hospital and go home the next day, Lord willing. Then, no driving for 6 weeks as I won't be allowed to turn my head. I have a wonderful family however who are offering any help that is needed. And of course our Heavenly Father. His Word in Isaiah 26 tells me that He will keep those, whose mind is stayed on Him in perfect peace because he trusts in Him! I am so thankful to know Him and I do trust Him, I am in His Hands.

Thank you so for your concern and prayers, dear friends.

Serving Him together with you,
Wycliffe Associates

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