



December 2022



## The Loss of a Dear Friend

Most of you have heard by now of the November 7th tragic death of Stephen Troell who was serving in the middle east. He knew the risk he was taking and he took it willingly because of his deep passion for the Lord and the calling God gave him to reach Muslims.

Enraged by the events of 9/11/2001, Stephen went to the recruiting office to join the military. The recruiter told him to go home and pray about it and that God had a different plan for him. That started a work in his heart that turned hatred into passion for the gospel. Stephen was loved and highly respected by all who came in contact with him, especially his middle-eastern friends. He often repeated the words of the 18th century Moravian missionary who cried out, "May the Lamb of God receive the full reward of His suffering."

Just a few weeks ago, Stephen sent me a recorded voice message in which he described from his own missionary experience the deep, powerful impact of heart-language Scripture on those he was trying to disciple. He expressed gratitude for our efforts at WorldView to translate Scripture in the heart languages of Bibleless people groups. His message was very timely and a huge encouragement. It will be treasured and will be replayed often in the future.

We know God makes no mistakes and we are praying Stephen's death will become the catalyst for a great moving of God in the middle east and a challenge for more people to give their lives to the MISSION of God.



*In Sep, 2020 I went to Kentucky to preach a mission conference not knowing Stephen would be there. The matching outfits were coincidental. Don't we look like brothers?*

## WorldView Institute (India)

The Overton Family arrived home recently for the Christmas break. We are glad to have them home for a few days. Please pray for Toree in the loss of her Aunt Bonnie. She was the last living sibling of her mother.

## Madi Project (Uganda)

The translation analysis check is in process for John & Romans. Once finished, it will be ready for printing and distribution. The Madi pastors and churches are excited.

The Madi team just returned from a short visit to the Lhukonzo project in Kasese. Their experience and counsel was a great encouragement to the younger team.

## Runyankore Project (Uganda)

Please pray for Briana, the 11 year-old daughter of our lead translator, Robert. She has already had five surgeries to correct gynecological issues due to birth defects. She is dealing with severe pain and facing another major surgery which doctors hope will bring healing.

## Persia Project (Armenia)

Nathan & Alicia departed yesterday to return to the U.S. for a visa reset. They will be home for a short time and then return. We are thankful for some recent friendships that have been made with some people from Ir\*n and praying these will lead to key contacts that will help us with this translation project.

## Family News

Emily graduates from high school in May '23. Uuuggghhh!! We keep telling her, "When you go off to college, we are coming with you." (She thinks we are kidding)

We look forward to a few days with family at Christmas time. We wish all of you a wonderful, Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

