



# The Hedges

FALL 2013  
REPORT

## Family

WORKING WITH  
BAPTIST MID-MISSIONS in Chad, Africa



### A Quiet Work



Two years ago, when my family visited the Louvre museum in Paris I saw for myself Hohlbein's portrait of Erasmus. Historians recognize Erasmus for his influence as a theologian, social critic, and writer during the European Renaissance of the fifteenth century. I appreciate Erasmus for his contribution to the development of the English Bible. His compilation of the New Testament Greek text served as the basis for the translation of the King James Version.

Now go back to the portrait. There is a remarkable resemblance between Hohlbein's image of the Renaissance scholar and that of a twenty-first century Bible translator. The painting captures a man engrossed in his work. The setting is quiet. He is alone. And he is in deep concentration. If you want a modern version of that image then spend a day with a Bible translator. You will most likely find him or her in a quiet place, alone, pouring over texts of Scripture. (Of course, in most cases the laptop has replaced the quill pen and parchment.)

If you want to know what much of my work "looks" like I refer you back to Erasmus' portrait. If I am not working with our Day translation team, most likely I am alone, in a quiet place, and in deep reflection. This is an essential part of serious Bible translation ministry. And for the next three years, God has providentially placed me in a place more suitable for this kind of sustained concentration. In my Grand Rapids office, I do not have to manage the many challenges that are a part of living in Chad such as intense heat, power outages, water issues, leaking roofs, tropical illnesses, and unexpected visitors (although I have snow to contend with now!). My family longs to return to Chad. And we are willing to brave the challenges of living there again.

But at the same time we can recognize the advantages of our temporary stateside location.

There is a tendency with some people to despise this aspect of ministry. Again, I recall a comment made years ago, "So what is he going to do all day? Sit in a cubicle and translate the Bible?" There's no action. There's no excitement. There's little to show by way of immediate tangible results. It's too slow and too much "behind-the-scenes" to satisfy many fast-paced American Christians.

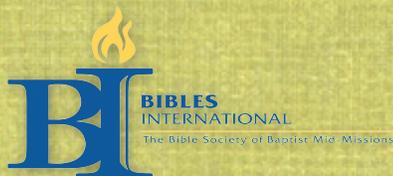
To help us appreciate this quiet aspect of Bible translation ministry we need to consider the impact it has made. Those thousands of hours of quiet work have birthed over 2,100 Bible translations today. And those translations have impacted millions of people representing thousands of ethnic groups scattered worldwide such as the Day people in Chad.

And those translations continue to impact this generation and will continue to impact generations of the distant future. Who can measure or quantify that influence? It's impossible. But remember that those results had "quiet" beginnings.

So we want to thank you for praying and supporting our family. You make it possible for me to give a major part of my life to this quiet ministry which will one day make it possible for the Day and other people groups to have the Word of God in their languages and ultimately in their hearts. It's a marathon work not a sprint. We have to have a long-range vision realizing that we will never see much of the harvest produced by the sowing we are doing today.

— Joshua Hedges

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# ♪ Thank You

We want to say a special "Thank You" to all of our supporters who are hanging on with us through this transition. A transition from foreign field residency to US residency usually means a loss in support. We have experienced some of this already. In

Grand Rapids  
Michigan

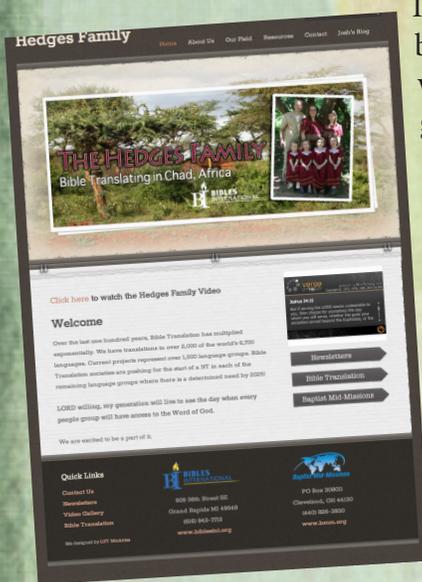


Rebekah playing in the leaves

fact, immediately after announcing that we needed to remain in the US this term in order to allow time for Rebekah's recovery we received a letter from a supporting church indicating that they would be discontinuing their support. A few months later, one of our largest donors informed us that their support would end at the end of the year. Besides adding a significant financial pressure to the family, this kind of news is emotionally painful. It is like losing a friend. So we do not take those of you who continue to support our ministry for granted. Thank you for believing in us and sharing in our passion to get the Word of God into the hands of the millions who still wait.



## WEBSITE



I am about 12 years behind in having a website developed. We gave it a shot a few years ago, but I did not give it the attention it needed. But the ball is rolling again. So we invite you to check out our site at <http://hedgesinchad.weebly.com>. At the bottom of the page you will find a link to our video gallery where you will find a nice presentation of BI's work in Africa.



## PRAISES

- a. We welcomed **Moriah Elise** into our family. She was born Sunday evening Oct. 13. For you ladies who like to know, she weighed 9lbs. and 7oz, and she measured 21 inches. And she is beautiful!



- b. We are in our own home! We have not owned our home since 2001 when we sold our house in Minneapolis to begin our journey as

missionaries. Since then we have lived in someone else's house, rented, or lived on mission property. We praise the LORD providing a house that is beautiful, spacious, and close to work.



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for

- a. The advancement of the **Day Translation team**-My next workshop will be in January at which time I hope to finish checking the book of Job and to tackle the Proverbs. Most of my time will be spent getting ready to check Proverbs.



- b. The provision for **Bible printings**-These are exciting days at Bibles International. Several translation projects, including the Rito NT for Chad, are or will be ready for printing soon. We are praying for God's provision for these printings.

- c. **Our family** -Barbara has the tremendous responsibilities of caring for our newborn Moriah and of home-schooling our girls. Pray that God will provide her sufficient rest and strength.



- d. **Rebekah** -Pray that her health condition will be resolved. Now that we are moved we will be connecting with the DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids for her follow-up care.