

Micheals' Moments - Worth the Wait! - May 1, 2018



Dear Family and Friends,

The story below is just too good to not share! For four years I have been working with Tim and Martha Matzke (Directors of the translation work in the Solomon Islands) to help them find an Operations Director for their office at Honoria, Solomon Islands. It has been a challenge because the area does not have an Missionary Kids (MK) school and so anyone coming with children would need to homeschool.

I have talked to numerous people over the years who seemed interested in this position, but for one reason or another didn't want to go there or once they discovered things about the place decided it wasn't for them. One couple was set to go, but an aging mother they thought would die is living on to a very old age!

So, about August last year I worked with a Wycliffe colleague to get this need posted on the Wycliffe Managers For Missions web site (<http://www.managersformissions.com/critical-SolomonIsOpMgr2.html>). I created my own video of the need with material that Martha Matzke sent me which was posted on that site. Over the next number of months I posted that link on my Facebook page and asked people pray for this need and to share it. Maybe some of you saw that. I didn't get any responses, other than people telling me after watching the video that they couldn't believe we didn't have dozens of people applying.

In February of this year I got a name from another Wycliffe colleague who followed up on a contact that came from our Wycliffe web site. The name she gave me was, Josh Goshert. The name rang a bell with me. I know it sounds crazy, but for many of my recruits I see them as my children and I remember their names. I looked him up on my computer and found that he (photo below) attended a Total It Up (TIU) week long Bible translation course back in 2002 in Chicago, which Barb and I hosted! I had met him at Grace University in Omaha, NE earlier in the school year and invited him to come to TIU. He did and we corresponded a bit after the course, but he graduated and we dropped contact as he didn't feel called to doing linguistics.



I contacted Josh after getting his name again in August last year and he said he remember the 'grocer from PNG' story and so we renewed our friendship. I found out he had gone down the path of management and was a co-manager in a Walmart store in northern Michigan that was downsizing its staff due to the impact Amazon was having on food services. We had much in common. He asked what he could do and I told him the store manager position at Ukarumpa was filled.

He shared with me about his family and so I arranged a phone call with he and his wife Katie. I found out they have five children, were homeschooling and were looking to serve in missions, but hadn't found a good position with any other mission agency. In that call I

found out Josh was also a handyman of sorts and enjoyed management. Katie told me she loves homeschooling and would love to help other families in their homeschooling efforts. It didn't take me long to connect the dots with him and the job in the Solomon Islands since they had been looking for a family with children who wanted to homeschool and they told me that they needed someone to help with other families working in the Solomon Islands who were homeschooling (the office there has a small classroom set up).

I sent them a job description for the Operations Manager position and they said they wanted to know more. So, I sent them the link to the web site we created. They watched the video and then we talked. They told me that after watching the video they believed this was the work God was calling them to. They told me they were excited about the work there.

I will remember the day when I watched a slide presentation from SIL PNG back in 1984 called "Sharing the Load" which was put together by the PNG branch and it was about the Bible translation work of the Andersons. In that slide presentation there was one photo of the store at Ukarumpa and at the end there was a photo of men carrying a long pole needed to build a house. The accompanying cassette tape narrative said, "We can't do this by ourselves. We need your help to finish the task." I was hooked and the rest they say was history for us!

So, I sent Josh and Katie's resumes to Martha and asked if she wanted to talk to the Gosherts. She did and so I connected those dots. Within a few hours a call had been arranged between the Martha and the Gosherts and within a day they had talked. Both said they liked what they heard.

I had a few more conversations with the Gosherts to focus on readiness issues. It wasn't long before they were ready to apply. They were accepted as missionaries with Wycliffe and also accepted an invitation to go to the Solomon Islands to take on the role of the Operations Manager.

Thanks for all your prayers for us and for this need. All the praise and glory goes to God alone! Please continue to pray that they will have success as their go through needed training and partnership development to raise needed funds.

Sometimes people say, "Is long term missions work worth it?" We hope you see the value of it and why we also value your continued prayers and financial partnership in our work with Wycliffe. To learn more about our work and how you can partner with us, see the links noted below our signature.



Sola Deo Gloria!

Chuck & Barb Micheals

Financial Support:

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(Make check out to "Wycliffe Bible Translators". On a separate note write, "Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Chuck & Barb Micheals, Account # 221879")

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