



The Hafford Communiqué

James & Lois Hafford
Wycliffe Bible Translators

Maple Joyce Hafford Born August 14, 2015

Our son John and his wife Asami are the joyful parents of a new baby girl, Maple Joyce Hafford.

We were grateful to be in the Pacific Northwest when Maple was born, and to spend a few days with her and her parents. We also saw Asami's parents, who traveled to Seattle from Japan.



Asami, James, Maple; John, Lois, Maple; John, Asami, Maple (right).

Training Bible Translators—A Story of God's Provision

James graduated with his Ph.D. in linguistics in May, and we had originally planned to head back to Papua New Guinea right away. But Maple was due to be born after we were scheduled to leave. As we got close to the date we would return overseas, we felt a desire to be in the area when Maple was born.

The Bible refers to the Lord as יהוה יְרָאֵה (Jehovah Jireh), or God the *provider*. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac, but God provided a ram, so that Isaac would be spared.

In our case, we were willing to head back to Papua New Guinea, but God provided a way for us to continue working, and still see Maple! A few nights before we were to purchase our airline tickets, while James was praying, he had the impression that he should contact the Canadian Institute of Linguistics (CanIL) to see if they had any needs for an instructor. It turned out there was an urgent need! (CanIL is a Wycliffe institute that holds an intensive summer term at Trinity Western University in B.C., Canada. The institute offers the [accredited] linguistic course set that is required for Bible translators to go to the field).

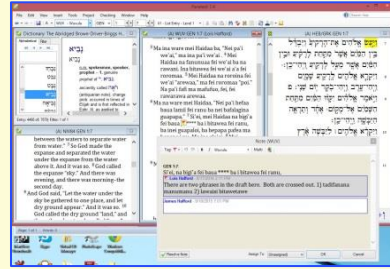
James taught Linguistics 360, *Grammatical Analysis*. The timing was fantastic. A Ph.D. in linguistics was required for the role. Check. We moved to Lynden, Washington and James commuted to Canada. This enabled us to work full-time, and spend time together with Maple, Asami, John, and Asami's parents. God provides!



"Dr. Hafford" and sister at graduation ceremony; James teaching Bible translation candidates at CanIL; students and staff of CanIL summer, 2015.

Wuvulu Bible Translation

In addition to James' teaching work, we continue to mentor Wuvulu translators. We are working with drafts of Genesis, Exodus, Ruth, Esther, Jonah, and passages of Proverbs. We are presently doing a technical edit of Genesis, and are excited by the prospect of its eventual publication because it contains foundational truths about the nature of God and humans—including creation, sin, and redemption.



Lois working in the Paratext Bible translation application; Paratext screenshot with notes from Lois' first edit.

Teaching Papua New Guineans in the Fall!

In September we fly back to Papua New Guinea. James will be teaching linguistics to Papua New Guinean translators at the Ukarumpa training center. There will be students from various language groups around the country. Mother-tongue translators are being equipped to multiply the work of Bible translation, so that (according to Wycliffe's Vision 2025), Bible translation will have begun in every language of the world that needs it by 2025!

Praise points: ☉ James finished his Ph.D. in linguistics! ☉ We were able to spend time with Maple! ☉ We have our tickets to PNG! ☉ The time at CanIL was awesome! ☉ Two of James' CanIL students are already in Papua New Guinea, and others are preparing to go to locations around the globe!

Prayer points: ☉ Please pray for the logistics of settling back into life in Papua New Guinea; ☉ Pray for wisdom in teaching linguistic concepts to Papua New Guineans; ☉ Pray for us to continue growing in our relationship with Christ; ☉ Pray for our health & safety; ☉ Pray that we would be an encouragement to Papua New Guineans in their spiritual journeys and desire for God's Word in their heart language.

With gratitude,

James & Lois Hafford



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o **Partnering financially:** specify "preference for the Wycliffe ministry of James & Lois Hafford, Account #301604". *Postal:* //Wycliffe Bible Translators//P.O. Box 628200//Orlando, FL 32862-8200//USA; *Electronic:* <https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/665A85>

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