



Celebrating God's amazing gift!

We hope your Christmas was a time of renewed fun and renewed joy. It has been so for us, both because of the things that happened and because our Lord Jesus who was born that day in Bethlehem will be coming soon to bring justice back to this world. Even now, the best news of 2015 is that more and more people all around the world are finding new life in Jesus.

Most of the people in the world can now hear the Bible on their phones, with “feature phones” common in developing countries and smartphones spreading at more than a billion a year. Even better, an increasing number can watch videos of many biblical passages and more quickly understand the truth in that way. This is the exciting growing edge of worldwide Bible distribution.

Dye's doings in 2015

But as my colleague Tim Hatcher and I pondered what this can mean, we realized there is a problem with the spread of videos. So I have been digging into what happens, and this year I made a major presentation at the worldwide Bible Translation Conference explaining what sometimes goes wrong.

When people in other cultures watch the way American actors portray Jesus (ways I saw as good), they sometimes conclude instead that He was a bad person. Nonverbal “behavioral language” (body language and more) differs in different cultures, but it is what people all over the world trust most when they watch a video to learn about someone’s character. Worse, it is not possible to just explain to people that Jesus was in a different culture so they should make allowances. These sorts of decisions are intuitive, based on things people have learned as small children. They



have internalized a different way of expressing respect, kindness and moral uprightness. When people in other countries see a video portrayal of Jesus, they are unaware of how they are deciding what he is like. Therefore, the only successful answer is to translate the nonverbal language as well as the words. My presentation has been something of a wake-up call, and the discussion continues on the American

Bible Society scholarly web site. You can download the power point file here.

<https://map.bloomfire.com/posts/1081619-bible-videos-truth-or-heresy>

If you are getting this letter in paper and want to see that presentation, type in the above internet address on your browser exactly as it is printed.

This year Sally and I are concentrating our work on making the mission insights we have learned through the years available to younger missionaries. We published 3 articles and made presentations in 3 missiology conferences. All have revolved around the related issues of moral right and wrong, daily interactions, and making sure Bible videos don't accidentally miscommunicate. Our central focus is to bring our insights together and put them out as a book on cross-cultural communication. Praise God that an experienced missiological editor volunteered to edit this book.

We continued teaching at GIAL but with a slightly lighter workload: one course in the Fall, two courses in the Spring plus input into two more.

Our health has been generally good, but we are feeling our age more. The most important change has been increasing osteoarthritis in Sally's left knee. It is now bone on bone and will need replacement early next Spring.

Looking Ahead: In April I will be speaking at another large conference in Thailand on Christian media and Bible distribution.



Sally in GIAL Choir, Christmas 2015

Since getting family together for celebrating two 80th birthdays is not possible, most of our children and grandchildren hope to join us in celebrating our combined 160th birthday party here in Dallas May 29th 2016. We would love to have you join us!

For FAMILY NEWS, photos, links to the articles, and our contact information, ctrl-click here: <http://tinyurl.com/gtho2yc> or type that into your browser.

May your 2016 be richly fulfilling and may you sense God's presence more and more.

Wayne and Sally Dye