



David and Lynn Frank

Spring 2011

As I write this, I am on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, working on a project that has been talked about for years, delayed several times, but is now becoming a reality. We are recording a dramatized reading of the Gospel of John in Gullah. In the picture here, I am acting as “prompter” for someone reading the role of Nicodemus. There are twenty-five speaking parts in all, but the great majority of the reading is for the narrator and the person reading the role of Jesus. I even had a tiny reading part myself. This is a collaborative project, involving the Penn Center and JAARS and many individuals, facilitated by our colleague Eric Kindberg. My father, Vernon Frank, and his colleague Paul Closius, both of whom work in JAARS Vernacular Media Services (VMS), are recording and editing the voices. They brought their equipment and set it up at the Penn Center, and they are recording readers one at a time, editing out the noise and false starts, and will put it together in the proper order. The readers are doing a great job; I can tell it is going to turn out fantastic. We will let you know when there is something for you to listen to.



Recently, the JAARS VMS Department asked Lynn and me to help remaster the video of Acts dubbed in St. Lucian French Creole, in the process of producing a DVD version. The original Creole dubbing of the Acts video was overseen by our colleagues Paul and Cindy Crosbie, while we were still living and working in St. Lucia. As French Creole speakers conveniently located at the JAARS Center, we were happy to work on fine-tuning the Creole soundtrack of the new DVD video of Acts. A set of these DVDs has now been sent to St. Lucia to be distributed there. It is pretty impressive to see Paul, Luke (the narrator), the High Priest, and others, all speaking French Creole.

By the time you get this, I will be in Africa, in Guinea-Bissau, continuing my work as a consultant to the translation projects there. I will be checking on the progress of the Portuguese Creole translation team and helping them with any problems they may have, and helping two of the other indigenous translation teams begin translations into their own languages.

Recently, the Language and Translation library at JAARS has been completely automated, inventoried, shifted around and expanded. A volunteer, who has her master's in library science, came to help Lynn, and over the course of four weeks they completed this process. Lynn is between editing assignments now and looks forward to getting started on her next project.

Our “kids” are all doing well. Mark and Maria are at the University of Illinois, where Mark is in a doctoral program in Far Eastern Studies. Kimberly is finishing up the thesis for her master's degree in political science. Michael is in the Air Force, training to do Pararescue.

Thank you for your prayers and support for our work serving marginalized language groups. We are especially thankful to God that through Christ's death and resurrection we are all welcomed into His family. Happy Easter!

David and Lynn

Wycliffe
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200
1-800-WYCLIFF
www.wycliffe.org

David and Lynn Frank
6908 Legacy Lane
Waxhaw, NC 28173
(704)243-3654

dlfrank@wbt.org
www.thefrankfamily.org
www.seaislandcreole.org
www.gullahbible.com

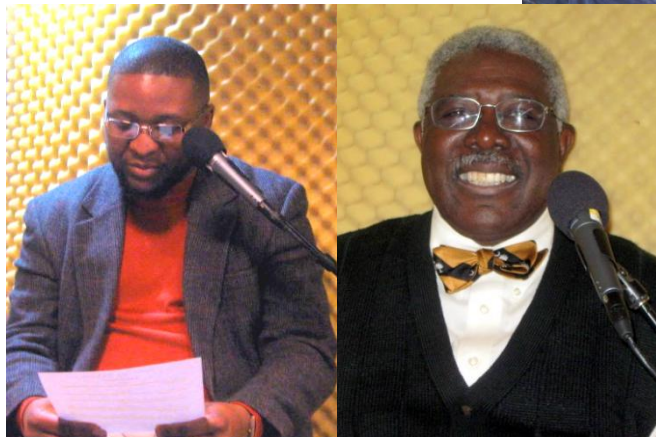
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“for the ministry of David and Lynn Frank”



“I had no idea how wonderful and fulfilling God’s word could be until I began reading those words in my native tongue. It gives me a sense of ownership. God is good and I know that by faith and belief, His words through our Gullah language will be heard and read throughout the world.”

–Regina Ragland

“During and after the recording, I experienced a feeling of pride with ownership and a sense of accomplishment. I felt compelled to complete the reading assignment with dignity and honor because the language represented my heritage; and now I can better understand my elders and the reading of the Nyew Testament.” –Irvin Campbell



“I am so excited to share my experience: It was an honor to be a part of a historical event such as this, the recording of the New Testament in our Gullah language. I felt a sense of pride that words can’t explain.”

–Scott Allen Gibbs

“This is the connection to my heritage. After I read my part, I walked out and was talking with Scott and started crying. I just couldn't stop crying.” –Raul Bradley

Language and Translation Department
Library at the JAARS Center
in Waxhaw, NC, April 2011

