



Global Scholars Canada

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**Bringing Christ's presence and truth into
university classrooms worldwide**



Final Wiebe Update April 2021

Greetings dear praying and giving friends,

Tears have filled my eyes numerous times as I have been praying and contemplating the content of this newsletter. My husband sent our last one a year ago just before Easter 2020!

Rudy had agreed that our contract with GSC would come to an end December 31, 2020 at which time we would retire. In God's plan, as you are all aware, he instead 'retired' to his eternal rest at noon November 11th. He never complained the last 6 years though he suffered many health issues literally from head to foot because of Myelodysplasia! He shared with me once that he was thankful it wasn't me who had the condition! He was given wonderful care in the Oncology Clinic at Scarborough Health Network where he received over 200 units of blood, about 25 platelet transfusions. God was so gracious to us! His last month was spent in our condo dining/living room under the supervision of a Palliative care doctor. On his last morning I was thankfully able to decipher his final request for me to read him Psalm 142:6, 7. Our family sensed that your prayers undergirded Rudy and us as we cared for him during his steady decline.

My family thanks you for all of your support and prayers!



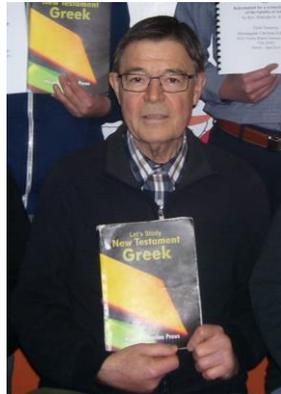
The last family picture taken!
Our 52nd Wedding Anniversary
October 11, 2020

Heaven has been in my thoughts frequently and I have appreciated reading David P. Murray's book. *The Happiness of Heaven*. He encourages us: "Believers should be deeply comforted to know that their death is so precious to God. Our bodies are united to Christ even in death...they will be reconstituted by the act of glorification in a manner wholly beyond our power to imagine...we will be fitted for an unending Sabbath of worship."

At present I'm digesting Rudy's TBS M.A. thesis, *The Nature of the Resurrection Body*. While this physical, natural body is indeed the limited body of our humiliation, yet the nature of the Lord's glorious resurrected fleshly yet spiritual body is the very pattern for our resurrected body! Rudy reminded us in a quote from Hiram Mattison's book, *The Resurrection of the Dead*, that our new body will be able "to answer to all the demands of the soul perfectly and forever". Rudy gave the challenge for our daily walk from 1 John 3:3. Everyone who hopes in Christ's appearing "purifies himself as he is pure". Even so, Come Lord Jesus!

Now I focus my attention to a recap of our ministry in Nigeria with Global Scholars Canada (GSC). Rudy and I spent many months of 10 years on location at the Federal College of Education in Pankshin from 2004 to 2014 and a 3 week closing session in June 2015. Since then, we've continued in Toronto editing/communicating by Email and Skype. Rudy enjoyed his role as a visiting principal lecturer teaching the Prophets, Paul, ethics and doctrine as well as co-writing three textbooks on Christian Religious Studies with fellow staff and ex-pats. He loved the opportunity to teach Biblical languages - Hebrew but mostly Greek! He declared that the icing

on the cake was when he had the privilege of teaching Greek to Bible translators in modules over several years. During that time he worked extensively on the first rewriting of *Let's Study New Testament Greek* together with his USA colleague, Dr. Rob Lillo. In his last years here on earth Rudy was delighted to finish field-testing the Greek manual with some brave Canadian students. The Lord abled him to edit all of the 49 lessons in the manual but he lacked stamina to complete the preface and ending appendices.



The following is an update on the Greek manual from Dr. Lillo:

He is using Rudy's 2nd edition work to do a replacement of Mary Preus's stapled A4 sized grammar. He recently emailed a couple of former Nigerian students (one of them Rudy's!) to give their opinions on what they thought was needed the most. The answer was to offer a short Part 1 version of the grammar that could serve the Lesson needs of the College of Education, University CRS courses, and the Bible institutes. Paul from ACTS agreed that a Part 1 book under 90 pages and covering the first 19 Lessons would accomplish that. That is a big money maker for ACTS and it also serves the largest part of the Greek grammar market. Currently all ACTS grammar texts must conform to the A 4 size and a different English font. The larger size will help us cut down on the number pages and thus, also on the cost of Part 1, but that means that Rob has to change over half of the text of the Grammar to a different font. Fortunately, it is mostly copy, paste, highlight, and change fonts, but many of the charts have to be reorganized to make the best use of the A4 size. Please pray for Dr. Lillo as it is a tedious process of reformatting the manual to ACTS's specifications.

Reflection on the Times of Rev Rudolph Wiebe (Late) in FCE Pankshin, Plateau State, Nigeria
 by Rudy's Colleague Dr Sunday Jacob, Dean of Undergraduate Studies (Part of his email below)

Rev. Rudy Wiebe had 10 fruitful years of services as Principal Lecturer and a Missionary in Federal College of Education Pankshin (FCE), Plateau State, Nigeria. He came into the College with his beloved wife Marlene in 2004 and went back to Canada in July 2015. As a lecturer in the Department of Christian Religious Studies (CRS), he was involved in lecturing different courses. A lot of testimonies abound of his exemplary life both as a Christian and a lecturer. He was a man of high ethical standard, always punctual for his lectures, kept records of the works covered, attendance and engagements. In addition to these, he had very good working relationship with the staff and the students. As a generous person, Rev Wiebe extended to the staff and students private subsidies he enjoyed for books from ACTS Bookshop by providing same to them at no further cost. He further made significant contributions in spearheading the publication of three standard volumes of *Essentials of Christian Religious Studies for Schools and Colleges Vols. I, II and III*. The staff in the Department of CRS and School of Arts and Social Sciences benefited tremendously from his editorial skills as he served as principal editor for the three volumes. In addition Wiebe was involved in several workshops and seminars where he presented papers such as 'Revealing God's Glory Through Servanthood'.

The Wiebes became part of Chapel of Redemption of FCE Pankshin, an interdenominational church whose congregation is mostly students and college staff. Sometimes he preached or assisted in the service. He and his wife also had several prayer sessions, lunch and dinner with families and people around them.

In the areas of health and social responsibilities, Rev Wiebe was not found wanting. Because of his passion for the physically challenged, he collaborated with Beautiful Gate Handicapped Centre coordinated by Chief Ayuba

Gufwan in distributing wheelchairs to those in dire need. Furthermore, he initiated and also 'pushed' the College Management in the fumigation of the staff quarters from time to time. Interestingly too, the family of Rev Wiebe, after hearing a pathetic story of a widow with children whose house was almost collapsing during rainy season, intervened by renovating it for her. HIV/AIDS activities in the College also benefitted from the involvement of Rev Wiebe to the extent of carrying out a study among Colleges of Education students with Irish Nurse Jean Garland. Continue to rest in the bosom of our Lord Jesus until we meet at resurrection day.

If you have not already done so, I invite you to read Peter Schuurman's reflections on Rudy's life at <https://peterschuurman.ca/2020/11/12/rudy-wiebe-a-persistent-friend-for-the-gospel/>.

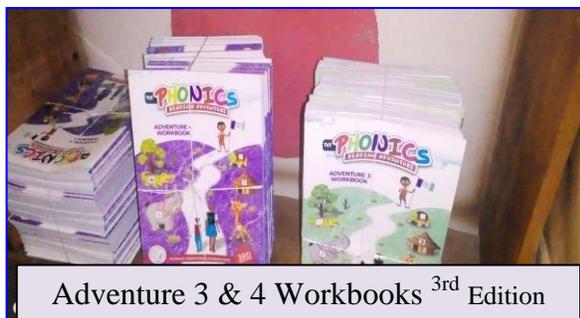
For more specifics on both of our ministries I encourage also you to check out the GSC website. www.globalscholarscanada.ca

As an associate with GSC, I (Marlene) designed and produced in 2014 an English literacy curriculum *The Phonics READING Adventure* together with Hosea Danjuma Gupar and Dr Lillo's wife Adrienne. In Spring and summer of 2020 I did a final edit of all workbooks and teachers' manuals. One of Rudy's last feats was to make these 16 books print-ready and send them to Nigeria. Hosea recently designed very colorful new covers for this 3rd edition. A printer is working on their preparation in time for this September's new school year. In the near future I believe that one of Hosea's staff will update the website www.tpra-africa.com. Hosea and his team are regularly providing trainings for old schools and interested ones. It is all very encouraging to Hosea, his staff, the Lillos and I!

Many of you contributed to the TPRa buyout fund which by October 2020 was complete and in December all TPRa materials were moved into Hosea's shop *Center for Literacy Development (CLDA)*! Hallelujah!



Hosea's Team



Adventure 3 & 4 Workbooks 3rd Edition



Neuroscience of Reading Development Workshop

A Final Greeting from Hosea especially for Rudy:

It's so hard for me to write most especially regarding your last days on earth.

You are a peace maker. You have done so much for Africa and especially for Nigeria. When you came to Nigeria and left all the pleasures and the comfort of your family; it was a clear indication of your love for the Lord Jesus Christ. You taught so many students, have written and published several course materials and have supported many other projects. These that you did are definitely going to be counted in heaven as your jewels. But above all, everything you have done is legacies that would never be forgotten.

It was through you that we birthed The Phonics READING Adventure curriculum. You have given us all the support we needed till this very hour. Indeed, I have seen Christ work powerfully in your ministry. You lived an exemplary life filled with the Holy Spirit. And now, you have passed on the baton, I am challenged by the way you lived; totally focused and dedicated to serving the Master. I am proud to know you - you took me as your son. You provided for us, prayed for us and stood beside us even in challenging times and situations.

Daddy, you have fought the good fight and it's time for you to go and receive your crown of glory as a great warrior. Go and rest on till we come. Isaiah 57:2 says, 'For those who follow godly paths will rest in peace when they die.'

To the entire Wiebe family and donor family, I sincerely appreciate your help, support and sacrifices all through the years daddy and mommy were in Nigeria.

Hosea, for Noro, Zen and Ret;

They are also your grandchildren. They send their love ♥

Hosea's Family



Dr. Jacob's Family



In conclusion, I wish to convey my deep appreciation to our Global Scholars Canada past and present administrative teams for the many hours spent graciously alongside our many endeavors; currently Dr. Peter Schuurman, Anna Slar, Harley Dekker. I acknowledge also the on-site direction and encouragement of our long time director at large, Prof. Dr. Danny McCain, guest lecturer at The University of Jos, Nigeria!

In spite of Rudy's and my weaknesses and failings in our Nigerian ministry, by God's strength, for His glory, and with your financial and prayerful partnership, the Lord has given and will continue to bear fruit for our collective labors! Your individual and church donations for were paramount to making our ministry viable and complete for the various projects: our monthly support, printing of books, Hosea's stipend/computer needs, the TPRA buyout, the Bible translators and/or the wheelchair ministry. Our family is delighted that the GSC Rudy Wiebe Memorial Fund raised over \$12,000 for printing the Greek manual! Rudy would be so thankful to all!

Let us rejoice together at our legacy left behind. To God be the glory, great things He has done! I bless you with the famous and glorious Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:24-26.

With our love in Christ,

Marlene for Rudy Wiebe, Dr. Rob and Adrienne Lillo marlenewiebe@sympatico.ca

