HOWe THINGS ARE...

May 2024 ministry news from Sheryl Nelson

All the things, all at once



We have nineteen (19) CORE IT SYSTEMS used for everything from Processing Payroll to storing archives of 80+ years of language data, stories, dictionaries, and Bibles.



Expectation

Because changes to these systems affect a lot of missionaries, we schedule projects so that we're not changing a bunch of CORE IT SYSTEMS at the same time. **Except...**

Next year, 2025, we need to make big changes (like move to a whole new system) for nine (9) different systems¹. Two (2) of these were planned and seven (7) were unexpected surprises outside of our control.

The bad news is that we do not have resources — staff, money, or time — to make all these changes all at the same time.



Reality

The good news is: what is humanly impossible is not a problem for God. Our first response was mostly panic. As we prayed, we started to be excited about how God will work in this "impossible" situation: *maybe God brings a huge wave of IT missionaries...* so many possibilities.

¹ Email + Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Presentation System, our Archive System, Finance System, HR System, Learning Management System, Donor Management System,, BI (Business Intelligence) / Dashboard System, all the integrations between these systems plus Financial Reimbursement System and the System that facilitates sharing staff

"I feel a little bit like it's Christmas..."

This month we were able to release a new feature for people who work in IT (Technology) around the world. This feature was a hit and it was so fun to make people's day:

from Uganda: "Thank you and your entire team for this much needed functionality."

from Central Asia: "Woohoo! This will be SOooooo helpful. Hats off to everyone who made this happen!!!"

from South Asia: "AWESOME!!! Thank you!" from Vanuatu (South Pacific):
"I never specifically asked for this,
but so often wished we would have
this option. So now I feel a little bit
like it's Christmas. Thanks for
making all of our work easier."

Pray

- for patience and wisdom about work that appears impossible and that we will trust God whatever the outcome.
- for the people God is calling to be IT (or other) missionaries, that God would build their team of financial and prayer partners.
- for those still waiting for the Word of God in their own language, and for the people God is calling to be linguists and PhDs in the Bible translation movement.

Praise God

- for our team being able to help IT missionaries worldwide and also for healing for me! Health, especially after recovering from surgery, is such a wonderful gift.
- for my team of financial and prayer partners. My work anniversary was last month: 24 years of you all giving and praying to make this possible!
- that there are more Bible translation projects in progress than any other time in history.

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