

MaineStreams Translation Publishing Services

P.O. Box 312, Ellsworth ME 04605

tel / text : (207) 450-2969

e-mail : david@mainestreams.com

website : www.mainestreams.com

2023 : Scattered seed, still growing

February 17, 2023

Dear Praying Friends and Supporters of MaineStreams,

This morning, I was reading a prayer letter from Bibles For The World. It was about an outreach to Iranians who were celebrating Noruz (Persian New Year) in Istanbul, Turkey.

This paragraph caught my eye:

“A large assortment of evangelism materials had been prepared – New Testaments in the Farsi language, along with micro-SD cards containing the Jesus Film, sermons and worship music.”

Those micro-SD cards sounded *very much* like the “MicroBibles” we prepared for the Persian language, and many dozens of other languages!

These tools, no bigger than a Forever Postage Stamp, provide an opportunity for people to hear the eternal Good News for the very first time, and grow in their faith.

They are so discreet that Muslims are unafraid to accept one. And *each one has the potential to be recopied a million times* and further distributed to those who need it!

We have lost track of how these seeds are bearing fruit. But sometimes, like today, we see “a blade, then an ear, then the full grain in the ear.” (Mark 4:26-29)

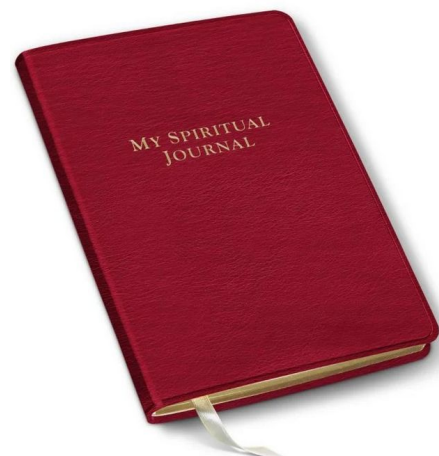


Still Growing

Thanks so much for the patience you have shown as I slowly work to re-build a ministry platform through MaineStreams... to bring God's Word to those who need it, using the linguistics and translation skills He has given me.

As the Apostle Paul did, my goal is to earn my own living expenses. This allows me to use your gifts for ministry purposes.

Last April, after a turbulent time as Activities Director at Seaport Village, God mercifully opened the door to leave, and to start working at Gallery Leather.



I love to put in a good day's work in a place that puts me in touch with those who need Jesus, helps others accomplish their goals and gets the Word of God out.

The Wycliffe Old Testament Translation

In 2013, as I was working to raise the huge budget AGWM had assigned to me, I got a phone call. I was my support raising supervisor.

He said that if I didn't start making progress on my monthly budget and project fund, I would never make it back to Chad.

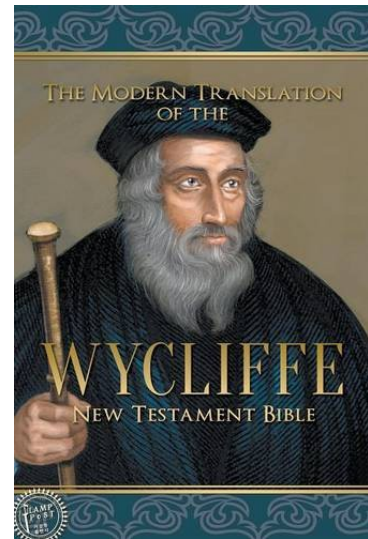
This was the weekend God led me to translate a Bible that was faithful to the Textus Receptus, yet easy to understand, as a means of fundraising. As a result, I began translating Wycliffe's New Testament into Modern English.

In the end, the Modern Wycliffe New Testament was published. I never received a royalty check for the work I did. However, I have been more than repaid many times over by testimonies of how this rich translation blesses friends in their devotional times.

From that time to this, I have persistently felt a longing to work on translating the Old Testament in the same way.

Last summer and autumn, Gallery Leather allowed me to work only four days a week. This allowed me to start work on the Modern Wycliffe Old Testament, beginning with Proverbs. I was also able to set up a funding platform on MaineStreams.com and Patreon.

All I need now is the time to pour my heart and soul into this project.



Delivery Service Ministry

In the meantime, I set up a shopping delivery service through MaineStreams.

This allows my friends from the nursing home to place their orders over the phone. They don't have to pay a fee or mess with a shopping app. Instead, they are free to pay me a tip above the price of the groceries.

Last year, I picked up \$1,082.83 worth of groceries and takeout... and received \$1,438.99. This added \$356.16 to the MaineStreams income, as seen in the report.

A Day trip to Canada

When our family served through Desert Springs Ministries, we set up a Canadian Bank account for receiving donations from our friends on the other side of the border. These funds were used for airfare and the trip to Chad and Sicily.

When COVID hit, we lost track of the account, since it was next to impossible to cross the border. I always kept an eye on the situation, waiting for favorable conditions to go to Canada.

Last year, the doors opened. And during a small lull at work, I took a day off to

attempt to drive across the border into Canada... and made it!

Because the networks are different, my phone went dead when I crossed the border. So it was quite difficult to find the bank without the map on my phone. And when I got there, I had to wait in line for at least an hour. But thankfully, we got to the bank in time to renew the account before it went dormant.

And it felt good to be in another country, if only for a few hours.

God has a plan

God has given me a task to accomplish in His service. However, I'm not going to rush ahead of His blessing to get there. I will wait for Him to open the doors in His way, in His timing.

In the meantime, I am...

- **Saving money for MaineStreams:** When MailChimp started charging fees for services I don't need, I switched the MaineStreams prayer letter system to ButtonDown. This will provide an 80% savings over the coming year. Also, I canceled the Chase credit card and said goodbye to its annual service fee.
- **Working on a dictionary:** At the request of my coworkers among the Omega*, I started working on a dictionary app for this language. It cannot move forward until we get the software to work properly, so please pray about that.
- **Getting ready:** In Europe and Africa, they don't use letter-sized paper. They use A4-sized paper instead. So I purchased a ream of A4 paper so that when time allows, I can design Scripture booklets that can be printed in Africa.
- **Serving where He has planted me:** At Gallery Leather, I am praying for my coworkers, showing concern and sharing the Gospel whenever I have the chance.

Thanks for standing by me in prayer and financially as I trust Him to accomplish His purposes in 2024.

In His Love and Grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Faris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Faris

MaineStreams Christian Media Ministries

pseudonym*

MaineStreams Christian Media Ministries

Annual Report FY 2023

Income:	<u>Amount</u>
Carried over from 2022	\$1,783.35
Interest Income	\$0.25
Net Income, Shopping Ministry	\$356.16
Donations (8 donors)	\$4,114.00
Total Income 2023:	\$6,253.76
Expenses:	
Missions Tithes & Offerings*	\$469.00
Language Work	\$129.68
P.O. Box 312 Rental	\$216.00
Postage/Package Delivery	\$29.00
Office Supplies	\$162.32
Photocopies	\$7.04
Phone for business use	\$201.96
Stripe/Paypal Transaction Fees	\$72.72
Web Services**	\$1,349.73
Mileage Reimbursement – Business Use	\$353.71
Member Disbursement, Shopping Ministry	\$275.19
Total Expenses 2023:	\$3,266.35
Positive Balance, carried over to 2024:	\$2,987.41

** Ten percent of donations to MaineStreams go to mission work and charities. In 2023, these included Alpha Ministries, Asia Harvest, Back to Jerusalem, the Come and See Foundation, OneHope, Uncharted Ministries and the Voice of Christ Media Ministries.*

*** Web services expenses include the hosting of mainstreams.com and tchad.org, as well as a Google Drive and Dropbox for language work. There was also a subscription to NordVPN for secure communications overseas, Smashballoon, a Twitter feed app for the website, Twitter authentication, newsletter services and a work-related subscription to Evernote and Ever Accountable.*

In late 2023, I suspended the Evernote, Smashballoon and Mailchimp services going forward.