



MaineStreams.com

P.O. Box 312, Ellsworth ME 04605

tel / text : (207) 450-2969

e-mail : david@mainestreams.com

website : www.mainestreams.com

2024: Course-Corrections and Conferences

Dear Praying Friends and Supporters of MaineStreams,

Thanks so much for your support in 2024! Let me be honest with you: things did not go as expected last year. However, I learned a lot, and am hopeful that what I learned will help make me more fruitful in ministry in 2025.

A Wycliffe Translation Project Abandoned

Through your donations last year, I continued to spend a day off from work most weeks. This allowed me to produce a rough draft of Proverbs based on the Wycliffe's Bible.

John Wycliffe had access to many of the New Testament manuscripts we also use today. As a result, my translation of Wycliffe's New Testament into modern English was similar enough to what we are used to as believers.

However, as I was translating his version of the Book of Proverbs, I discovered that it has several dozen new Proverbs added into his translation, and many differences.

It's a very interesting story of why this happened, which I won't go into here. I tried to see if there might be a reasonable way to approach this challenge, but found none.

As a result, I felt it wisest to abandon the project.

The Bible speaks very clearly about the danger of adding or taking away from His words (Revelation 22:18-19).

I was disappointed because I knew I would be disappointing others. However, I fear/respect God and believe His Word too much to tinker with it.

From this experience, I learned that I need to stop trying to provide another Bible translation among the hundreds already in English. Instead, maybe the Father could lead me into an opportunity to help bring His Word to people groups who still *don't* have even one version in their own language.

Important Conferences and Contacts, thanks to you!

Your support also allowed me to catch up with pastors and friends at our Assemblies of God Sectional Council and the Faith Bible College International Alumni Breakfast. I was able to be a blessing to some of my friends there. But mostly, I was the one being encouraged, and hearing from God through their testimonies.

I was also able to attend two conferences: the Men's Retreat for my Assemblies of God District in early June, and the Back To Jerusalem Voices of the Persecuted Church conference in late October.

The cost of the Men's Conference was nominal, but provided an opportunity to catch up with my Assemblies of God leaders and some of the churches represented there.

To defray lodging costs at the Men's Conference, I stayed in my tent at the Stony Brook

Campground in Newry, Maine.

I was especially eager to attend the Voices of the Persecuted Church Conference in North Carolina. You may remember that at the time when I had to make decision, I was working on a prayer letter to ask for your help to be able to attend. As I was writing the letter, God provided what I needed through a generous gift.

This confirmed to my heart that this trip was within His will for my life. Then others of you also provided what you could... and the need was fully met!

I was hopeful that the Voices of the Persecuted Church Conference would open opportunities to serve with Back to Jerusalem in the future. But while there, I came to realize that their focus is different than mine. They send out Chinese missionaries who work as small businessmen in closed countries. I am equipped with skills that allow me to be useful in translating the Bible and finding God-given solutions for Bibleless people groups.

However, the time spent in North Carolina was far from useless! I met friends as crazy as I am about missions. I took copious notes as I listened to testimonies of laborers in Pakistan, Iran, China and Turkey. These all stayed faithful to Christ despite intense persecution.

Business as Mission Opportunities

There were many more exciting blessings that came from my time at the Voices of the Persecuted Church Conference. But the most useful part of being there was meeting American Christians who were using the same model as the Chinese Church uses. These new and old friends were producing useful everyday goods, publishing books, opening restaurants, and so much more.

As God blesses the businesses of my American friends, God gives them the opportunity to start Christian businesses in countries closed to traditional missionaries.

What I am hoping to do via MaineStreams is very similar. However, what I am doing needs so much adjusting to be useful to the Kingdom of God.

Perhaps with God's guidance, I will find a way to serve that opens doors of service to bring God's Word to those who don't have access to it.

Please pray with me, that I may be directed by His Holy Spirit and be useful in His service somehow.

Thanks so much for making this course-correcting, exciting year possible!

In His Love and Grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Faris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

David Faris

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