

The City Church, New York

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession – Sunday July 9, 2006

Cam Townsend was born on this day in 1896. Almost five decades later, he founded the Wycliffe Bible Translators – named for the first translator of the entire English Bible. The ministry has put the Bible into more than 600 languages – and counting.

Let us pray.

O gracious and glorious God:

We're grateful that something of Your grace and Your glory shines forth in the life-giving light of the summer sun and in the guiding lights of the starry skies. And though some have thought of sun and stars as gods, we're glad to know they are not gods. We're grateful that something of Your grace and Your glory shines forth even in us – gifted as we are to be bearers of Your image. And though some may think of themselves as gods, we're glad to know we are not gods. We're thankful that we – as well as the sun and all the stars in all the skies – are but some of the signs of Your generous grace and peace. And so we lift our hearts to praise You for the great fact that You, You alone, are God.

We praise You for Your Self-disclosure through all that is and especially through Your written word by which we learn of Jesus. Thank You for the Light of the world, shining on through the darkness that never has and never will extinguish it. You, in Christ, are the Light of the world and the Life of the world. You are the Word who walked among us, and sends us the words of scripture and the Winds of Your Spirit to read them aright.

Today we're reminded of our brother Cam and the linguistics ministry he organized. And we give thanks for him and for his work. We joy with all who are now our sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus, having read and believed Your word of truth in their own minority language. We take Your word for granted, having heard it from as far back as many of us can remember. We have recited it by rote. May we be bold to give voice to Your word among all who may have ears to hear it. May we continue to store Your word in our hearts that we might not sin against You and each other.

Lord, bless us throughout this service of worship. May what we say and do be pleasing to You, as we now pray words our Savior and our Lord taught us to pray to You, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.