

Tribute to Gillian Frances Hansford 19.6.1942 - 7.7.2011



It is with deep sorrow that I announce the death of my dear wife Gillian. Her death was expected, since she had bravely battled with cancer for 13 years, and was in declining health. We joined Wycliffe Bible Translators and SIL in 1971, and after a period of service in Nigeria moved to Ghana in 1976, where we were assigned to the Chumburung language and translation project, with which we were associated from that time forward. She was a full partner in the project, concentrating on developing an orthography and establishing a literacy programme, and on compiling a two-way dictionary. She was also fully involved in all the stages which led to the publication of the New Testament in 1989. Two local men did the translation.

Her attention then turned to Anthropology, and she gained an MA by writing a history of the Chumburung people. She taught Anthropology to SIL students in UK for the next 10 years. She was a great help in typing up my Ph.D thesis.

From 1999 we were both fully and equally involved in supervising six local translators in the translation of the Old Testament and the revision of the NT. The full Chumburung Bible was published in 2010.

Her bibliography includes primers and many reading books in Chumburung, and the Chumburung Dictionary, co-authored with one of the translators, and book reviews in several publications, including JWAL. She wrote four anthropological-linguistic articles on Chumburung for JWAL, the last of which appears in this issue. She acted as Ngessimo Mutaka's proofreader for his edited book "*Building capacity: using TEFL and African languages as development-oriented literacy tools*", published by Langa Research and Publishing Common Initiative Group Initiative Group, Bamenda, printed in the United Kingdom in 2008 by Lightning source UK Ld. She was also asked to write an article for a book about to be published in USA. She was an anonymous reviewer for several articles submitted to JWAL. At the time of her death she was engaged on more researches into Chumburung history, extracting material from the large data base she had collected.

She was dynamic and totally dedicated to God and the Chumburung people, as well as to her husband and children. I and our two children and two grandchildren and the Chumburung team miss her greatly.

Keir Hansford