

## The Benjamin family

What is your day to day life like?

This depends on the day and the time of year. During the school year we are usually up by 6:30, have breakfast and at least two of us are out the door by 7:20 to head to school and the office. We (Matt & Judy) sometimes take turns working in the office. We are blessed to have a flexible schedule when special needs arise. Friday is Judy's shopping and laundry day. On the day that we are both in the office (if there is no after school activities that day) we will both leave in time to pick Jay up and come home. On other days, Judy will pick Jay up, and Matt will come home at 5:00.

Jay is in eighth grade in 2016-2017. He plays soccer, so some days there is after school practice or a game. One evening each week Jay attends a Wycliffe youth group. Another evening he attends a church youth group, and we attend a home group. There is always school homework, clean-up, ministry correspondence and other responsibilities to fill the evenings. We try to make weekends more relaxed but often work on tasks which didn't get completed earlier in the week. One evening each month we attend a local herpetology meeting (study of reptiles, which is one of Jay's interests). In our leisure time, we enjoy reading, swimming or bowling.

Would you like to share any information about your mission's team?

Judy- I work as a compositor (typesetter) for many different types of books that our missionaries are writing. My team has had a lot of people retire the end of last year and the beginning of this year, leaving me as the only typesetter working with books to be printed and working with a lot of new editors. Currently (summer of 2016) I have five books in process and five or six more new books in addition to four reprints waiting to be worked on. New books are always being evaluated for publication and being added to my typesetting work list.

Matt- My team is made up of six cartographers and a database specialist. I am the only one working at our International center in Dallas. The rest work remotely elsewhere in the USA or in Europe. We communicate regularly through internet conference calls. Each of us on the team are responsible for maintaining map data and finished maps for various parts of the world. My responsibility is for research and layout of maps for countries in the Americas and parts of Asia and the Pacific. Most of the data used to update the maps comes through Matt coordinating with our language surveyors in field locations. All these maps show the locations of speakers of various languages. I am also responsible for training new team members in the USA.

How is God moving in your life?

God gives us opportunities daily to trust and rely on Him more. This is seen through challenges and decisions needed in our work and home life and generally in the world situation round us. We are trusting Him to supply all our needs and give wisdom to be good stewards of what He supplies.

Are there any struggles or triumphs you would like to share?

In the summer of 2016 we had to replace our 4 ½ year old washer that wasn't working properly. We are thankful we did receive some "unplanned" funds that covered this expense. But we have a similar situation with one of our cars. It is a 2006 and is needing more and more repairs. We also have some decisions about several house repairs such as replacing original flooring in our 30-year old house and replacing a cracked window and some foggy windows.

Jay has received several special awards and recognitions in recent years. God is blessing him academically and giving him opportunities to be a leader and encourager.

How can we pray for you?

- New financial partners to come along side of us.
- Time management.
- Matt's cartography team is always very busy and has lots of decisions to make.
- For more compositors to join Judy's team and share the load of preparing print books for publishing.
- Wisdom in training Jay and coaching him in his schooling.

Do you have any needs we can meet as a church family?

Our support needs are always fluctuating. Earlier in 2016 Wycliffe reviewed many families' ministry budgets and increased the required budget amount to compensate for "cost of living" raise. While this sounds good, in the case of Wycliffe missionaries, this also requires us to raise more support. Please pray the Lord will bring more people to partner with us financially to help meet this need.

Gift-in-kind (non-cash giving) and other recycling have been supplementing our direct support income. In the first half of 2016 we averaged \$120/month in additional income from these sources, and we are looking to expand this program. Contact us for information about helping to collect and transport items donated in Pottstown and other areas.

What would you like to see from Missions Moments?

People being better educated about what we do and more prayer support.