“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

God works purposefully in the lives of His children! His plan is always perfect and well timed. But it’s not always what we expect.

Britt Burbridge grew up in Lubbock, Texas, where her dad was stationed with the Air Force. From there, she moved to Illinois for college and earned her undergraduate degree in Biology. Not sure what path to pursue following graduation, she decided to join the Air Force. Over the next ten years, Britt alternated between serving in the Air Force and teaching science in a Texas high school. Eventually, she became the school district’s technology coordinator. Through the diversity of her positions, she gained valuable leadership and teaching experience as well as a strong technological background.

Looking back, though, Britt notes the discontentment she experienced during this time of moving from one job to the next. She reflects on her attempt to gain satisfaction in pursuing the right career: “If I could find the right job, I’d be content. But no job was perfect, so I wasn’t content.”

Following her time as a technology coordinator, Britt moved to Alabama to fill a position in corporate training. While there, she ended a long dry spell in her walk with the Lord and surrendered herself to God’s direction, deciding, “Where You want to take me is better than where I took myself.” From then on, Britt experienced joy dependent not on her job, but on her Lord. At this point, she plugged back into church; and her life became all about growing in Him and fellowshipping with other believers.

Then, in June of last year, a Wycliffe recruiter visited Britt’s church to follow up on questions from some of the congregation. Britt decided to sit in on the meeting, listening half-heartedly as the recruiter explained the variety of personnel involved in Bible translation. “We even need people in instructional technology!” This remark about her field of expertise instantly captured Britt’s attention. How could God use this role in missions? The recruiter invited Britt to TOTAL It Up; and, despite her objection that “nobody gets called to missions overnight,” the Lord led Britt to attend the conference. She was convicted that people must have access to the Word in order to know and walk closely with the Lord, and a serious question challenged her heart: “If I can do something to help, why don’t I?” Three weeks later, she applied to Wycliffe and began investigating GIAL.

But by the time Thanksgiving came, her partnership development was still coming together slowly. As a result, she had not given notice on her lease, registered for classes, or made any preparations to move. Then, the Lord revealed to her that she needed to just step out in faith. In obedience, Britt began making arrangements for her move to Dallas; and at that point, the Lord quickly began clearing the way for her! Having once again overcome all obstacles, the Lord brought Britt to GIAL this January, just six months after her initial inquiry.

Now, Britt is studying to serve in language program management development. Reflecting on her previous jobs and current calling, she notes how the Lord has all along been masterfully equipping her for this role in missions. Although His call may have been unexpected, His plan had long been established. And He will continue to clear the way as He leads her in it!
Preserving the Past and Protecting the Future

We are truly fortunate to be living in a community that believes in what we do and supports our mission. Thanks to your invaluable prayers and support, GIAL remains an important institution for education, research, training and inspiration throughout the world.

During the month of April, we tend to think about our finances, our future and the lasting impact we can have on those individuals and institutions that are near and dear to us.

Planning for the future is critical for many reasons. It can:

- Have a lasting impact on future generations
- Provide a sense of security for you and your family
- Help avoid the unnecessary consequences of probate
- Reduce or eliminate estate taxes
- Make specific bequests to your beneficiaries
- Take advantage of the opportunity to leave a tax deductible gift to your favorite ministry or charity

What Legacy Will You Leave?

We all desire to be of significance - to lead happy and fulfilled lives surrounded by family and friends. For many of us, there is a compelling need to leave a legacy by making a difference in the lives of the people we care about and the world in which we live. The search for significance and desire to plan for the future leads many to ponder their legacy. A legacy can be given in many ways:

- As a percentage of your estate
- A specific asset.
- The residue of your estate.
- Through a life insurance policy
- Distribution from an IRA
- Charitable remainder trusts

By making a gift to GIAL through your estate plans, you will create a significant legacy that will live in perpetuity. Planned gifts are not necessarily large gifts and anyone can make a planned gift. Those who do, find it is a meaningful way to continue their support of GIAL’s mission.

Please consider GIAL in your estate planning. For additional information regarding planned gift opportunities, please contact: Judy Pollock, Director of Development at 972-708-7547 or judy_pollock@gial.edu. Thank you again for your prayers and support.