

APPRAISAL OF THE INDIANS

Wycliffe Bible Translators is an organization dedicated to translating and delivering Scripture to people around the world in a language and form they understand best.

When Wycliffe translator Doug Meland and his wife moved into a village of Brazil's Fulnio Indians, he was referred to simply as "the white man."

The term was by no means complimentary, since other white men had exploited them, burned their homes and robbed them of their lands.

But after the Melands learned the Fulnio language and began to help the people with medicine and in other ways, they began calling Doug "the respectable white man."

When the Melands began adapting to the customs of the people, the Fulnios gave them greater acceptance and spoke of Doug as "the white Indian."

Then one day, as Doug was washing the dirty, blood-caked foot of an injured Fulnio boy, he overheard a bystander say to another: "Whoever heard of a white man washing an Indian's foot before? Certainly this man is from God!"

From that day on, whenever Doug would go into an Indian home, it would be announced: "Here comes the man God sent us."

The lesson for us is obvious. As Christians, we are ambassadors for Christ. We are God's representatives "on earth as it is in heaven." We give Jesus a face in the community. Royalty is our identity. Servanthood is our assignment. Intimacy with God is our mission.



And I believe many of our residents view their caregivers as "sent from God."

It was Saint Francis of Assisi who said, "Preach the gospel everywhere you go. Use words only when necessary."

– Beecher Hunter