



A short bio for Jim and Janet Stahl

Jim and Janet are both from Bethlehem, PA. Janet's home church is First Presbyterian Bethlehem, and Jim's is Emmanuel EC, both located on Center St. They graduated the same year, but from different high schools, and made different career paths. They met again in the summer of 1988 back in Bethlehem.

While their families and churches planted faith seeds, Jim's encounter came while attending Camp Sankanac in Spring City, Pennsylvania; whereas Janet was heavily influenced through the witness of two Christian women friends while doing graduate research in Puerto Rico.

After they were married Jim and Janet served in Vanuatu, an island nation in the South Pacific. There they helped train people to do literacy work in the indigenous languages and to train people to do Bible translation in their own languages. While training people from Vanuatu in these areas Jim and Janet became more aware of group learning and the power of storytelling.

In 2007 Jim and Janet started working with The Seed Company, a part of Wycliffe Bible Translators helping language communities without a written Bible translation to tell Bible stories in their languages, hoping that this effort would promote interest in starting written Bible translation programs. In this time, they've developed a method simply called Oral Bible Storytelling and have carried out successful training events in the South Pacific and parts of Asia. Their method is used by TSC and several other partner organizations.

Jim and Janet enjoy researching storytelling, Bible storytelling, and hope to write a book on Bible storytelling as connected with Bible translation.

Jim has a BA in Missiology/Christian Education from United Wesleyan College, an MA in Linguistics from the University of Texas at Arlington. Janet's has a BS in Chemistry from Juniata College and Fachhochschule Munster, Germany, and an MA in Bilingual and Multicultural Education from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont.

Jim enjoys staying active, biking, photography, reading, storytelling, and baking. You can follow Jim's photos on Google+ and on Flickr (yumievriwan is Jim's moniker.) Janet enjoys reading, biking, spending time with friends, staying active, and storytelling.

Jim and Janet are based in Grand Prairie, Texas. If you would like to receive their updates, you can contact them using jim_stahl@tsco.org. If you would like them to present their work and demonstrate Bible storytelling, they would be glad to arrange something.