WHY I BLOG

Posted on April 16, 2008 by Eddie

Category: Computing/Internet

David Ker (the artist formerly known as Lingamish) has tagged me with a meme asking why I blog.

The simple answer is that I don't know. I started off keeping a website as a way to keep in contact with the people who pray for us and support us financially. The name Kouya Chronicle was the name we first gave to our paper newsletters back in the 1980s when we started as translators for the Kouya language in Ivory Coast - and it stuck. The first online version of Kouya Chronicle was basically a photo gallery with an archive of our newsletters. After a while, we added some blog functionality and over a period of time the traditional website vanished and all that was left was the blog - like the smile on a Cheshire cat.

The main reason for the blog is still to stay in contact with those who pray for us, and the sign up list on the right is one of the main reasons we keep it. However, I also enjoy taking the time to write on a variety of subjects and to draw people's attention to things or books, which they might not otherwise have seen.

However, I suspect the real reason that I blog is that I'm stubborn! Judging by most criteria <self pity> this blog is a bit of a failure. I can't remember when anyone last signed up to receive our prayer news and while Lingamish boasts of four comments on every blog post, I don't even get one comment for every four posts. I've written some stuff here of which I'm proud (and a lot of which is inconsequential) and which I think is important in some of the debates about translation and mission but they've not attracted much attention.</self pity>

On reflection, I think that this blog suffers from a couple of faults:

- I just don't have time to write original and well thought through stuff often enough. Much of what I write is just reviews and pointers to more original thinkers.
- My interests are too broad. I write stuff about the church in the UK, mission, Bible translation, Biblical studies, politics... but I don't write enough about any one of them to make it worth following the blog for that alone. Unless you happen to share my rather strange set of interests this blog is hardly likely to be a 'must read'.

That being said, I think that Kouya Chronicle does serve a purpose. This week, Phil a blogger from the UK will be inteviewing an Australian blogger Hamo for a podcast on Christian leadership. I know that it was links on this blog that first drew Phil's attention to Hamo and what he is doing. Also, the international director of one of the largest Christian missionary organisations told his staff to read Kouya Chronicle because it was a good place to expand their thinking - it was a nice plug, but there is little evidence that they took him up on it!

Why do I blog? 'Cause I enjoy it and if anyone reads stuff I write and benefits or is caused to think for a while, then all the better. In the spirit of the original meme, I tag Paul Merrill, Rob Baker, Jessica Lebold and David Gray