

JAARS SPEEDING THE WORD TRANSCRIPT

Speaker
Ann Rodgers

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Interviewer
Arthur Lightbody

Primary Topic(s)
Visiting JAARS

Other Topics
JAARS Day, JAARS Center tour

Location Discussed
JAARS Center, Peru, Suriname

People Group (if named)
Wanca Quechua

Announcer:

Welcome to *Speeding the Word*, coming to you from the JAARS Center in Waxhaw, North Carolina, where JAARS speeds Bible translation for all people. And now our host Arthur Lightbody.

Lightbody:

I am talking today with JAARS volunteer, Ann Rodgers. Welcome back to *Speeding the Word*, Ann.

Ann Rodgers:

Thank you for having me—it is a joy to be here.

Lightbody:

We did have you on several years ago when this program was new. And we want to catch up with you a bit. Many people are finding out the joys of volunteering as we reach retirement years—and people are retiring even earlier and earlier today. You have been a volunteer for a number of years. How long has it been?

Rodgers:

I've been a volunteer at JAARS for 10 years. April 1 was my 10-year anniversary at JAARS.

Lightbody:

If you have just tuned in to *Speeding the Word* for the first time, we help provide Bibles in the languages of the people around the world. JAARS helps with the many technical services we provide. What is your role as a volunteer, Ann?

Rodgers:

My role here at JAARS is manager of the Tour Department. We offer a tour of the campus every weekday morning at 9:30 a.m. We also host four Saturdays a year, what we call JAARS Day. It is similar to an open house. You are welcome to come and see what JAARS does to support Bible translation. We have trucks and airplanes, computer support—all kinds of ways God can use your talent to become involved in getting the Word of God into the heart language of the people who do not have it.

Lightbody:

We will give you more information later, but we want you to feel free to come visit JAARS. I know you have a strong level of commitment, not just to JAARS as an organization and to what we do here, but I have a sense God has called you to a lifetime of service. Do you want to tell us about that, Ann?

Rodgers:

God has been so good to me. He has blessed me in many, many ways. I would like for others to know God, to know His love for them. You do this by service—by serving the Lord. I serve him through [my] church and also being able to volunteer at JAARS. It just makes your life more fulfilled when you've got some place to go and something to do in the morning.

Lightbody:

I know you serve in the community too, because I am in another organization with you. It may not necessarily be a Christian organization, but we can provide service through that group too.

Rodgers:

It can. I am in the Waxhaw-Weddington Rotary Club. It's been a fun group to be with, and it has introduced me to a lot of people in the community. We are able to do a lot of service work. One of the things I am really proud of is the literacy Rotary stands for, the clean water projects and also to wipe out polio.

Lightbody:

With JAARS, you haven't only served here, helping keep our tour program and other programs growing that involve visitors to the campus, greeting them and making them feel welcome, but you've also been able to go overseas and see the work firsthand. Can you tell us about that?

Rodgers:

Oh, those were exciting trips. I've visited several different countries [including the Philippines, Suriname and Peru]. A highlight of my travels was to go to Suriname in South America to a New Testament dedication and also to Peru for the Wanca Quechua New Testament dedication.

To see these people receive the Word of God in the language they speak every day—their heart language—has been exciting. They have parades, their bands and they are singing praises to God. Then to see families huddle around a Bible in their heart language they can understand has been a true blessing.

Lightbody:

When you went to Peru, I understand the altitude was pretty high. How did you handle that?

Rodgers:

It made me appreciate oxygen. We were, at one point, about 12,000 feet above sea level—first time I'd ever become winded brushing my teeth.

Lightbody:

When I went to Peru and was in the high altitude, they planned the first day for us to be pretty relaxed. After a while we felt better. So don't think you can't go on a mission trip because you are a grandmother.

Rodgers:

Absolutely!

Lightbody:

Let's go back to JAARS. Could you go over the kinds of programs we have at JAARS in which visitors can participate.

Rodgers:

We do a tour every weekday morning. It starts at 9:30 a.m. You walk around the center, visit the different departments and see how they support Bible translation. You are taken to the hangar to see the airplanes. You'll see the big [long distance] trucks. You'll see Construction and Maintenance where people are trained to do many things in maintaining centers in places around the world where JAARS is located with Wycliffe. You will also see Vernacular Media where we do dubbing of the *JESUS* film in many languages. Creative Services writes and prints many publications for JAARS. You can also have lunch, if you wish to stay that long, and then visit the Alphabet and Mexico Museums in the afternoon.

Lightbody:

We are really trying to get folks to visit us. We'd like to let you know there are lots of things to do in Charlotte-Waxhaw area, including museums about our Scotch-Irish heritage and much more. We have a special JAARS Day coming up May 17, so

folks, especially those who live close, might want to get in the car and come down. What's happening?

Rodgers:

On May 17 the focus of the day will be the 60th anniversary of JAARS. We will be celebrating God's faithfulness to us to be able to supply technical support to the Wycliffe Bible translators. Be here about 9:45 a.m., and we'll get you started with a program in the auditorium. Following that you will be able to pick and choose what you want to see for the rest of the day. Lunch will be served, airplane rides, helicopter rides, and a new ride called "Mission Adventure" in which you will go through the forest in a 4-wheel drive and fly back to the hangar from a dirt airstrip. You'll feel like you are really in one of the jungle countries way far away from home.

Lightbody:

Yes, we still have some country here. We still have some woods. We have some open fields. Would you please give the phone number, so if people want more information they can call on the phone. If they come from a distance, they can stay in our motel-like facilities.

Rodgers:

The direct line to the tour office is 704-843-6130. We can tell you about the weekday tours, the JAARS Day Saturday tours; or we can set up a special tour for you. If you have any other questions—like Arthur was saying—to stay on the center, we can transfer you to the housing department, or you can email us at: Tours_JAARS@sil.org.

Lightbody:

That's good. Let's pretend I'm a school teacher in a private school. I have a couple of classes of students, and I want to bring 50 students. Can I do that?

Rodgers:

You can do it—just let us know you are coming. In that way we will have tour guides available for you. We had a group of 41 fifth graders last week from two schools. We were excited to introduce those fifth graders to missions and to Bible translation. I know we have some budding translators or maybe airplane pilots that will come out of the group. We'd love to have you.

Lightbody:

We'd like to have volunteers, but we'd also like to see some career missionaries. It has happened. People we know that are part of Wycliffe Bible Translators or other missions—they got exposed by coming and taking one of these tours. Something we may need to tell people is about a permission slip.

Rodgers:

Oh yes, if you want to fly in the airplane you have to fill out the JAARS Voluntary Rights of Release Form. Everybody that flies has to fill it out. If you are under 18 the parent-guardian also has to fill it out. You can find that on the JAARS Web site.

Lightbody:

Thanks, Ann. It has been great having you with us. Have a great day everyone. Stay tuned and listen to the free premium we are offering everyone. This is Arthur Lightbody. I hope you enjoyed listening to today's *Speeding the Word* program. To contact us call 1-800-890-0628 and make your selection from the options given. I'd like to be able to talk to you personally and to hear your comments. When you hear the recording, punch in my direct line: 6048. I'd love to be able to tell you more about Bible translation. If you have a desire to serve the Lord, there might be a place for you in the Bible translation movement. Also, I'd like to send you a great DVD called "Contagious." Please call and ask for it—it is a dramatic story about

something that is contagious, God's Word. JAARS Vernacular Media Services helps spread God's Word orally in many ways. Contagious is a great eight-minute video for home or church. Please visit our Web site, jaars.org. That is www.jaars.org. Better yet, come see us in Waxhaw, North Carolina.

Announcer:

We hope you have enjoyed *Speeding the Word*. We'd love to hear from you. If you are interested in finding out more about JAARS, or Bible translation, give us a call at: 1-800-890-0628, or look us up on the Web at jaars.org.