

Transcript for Commissioning Service:

Pastor, "I want to let you know, we are honored at this worship service to do something a church family does not get to do very often. And that is to commission two missionaries to leave the comfort of their home and their church and to go out and spread the Word in their unique way.

"I want to invite three representatives from our church family to come forward at this time. Nate Goodnow, would you come to represent our governing body, our church counsel? Melanie Hoyman would you come to represent our missions committee? If you'll come stand up here (clears throat) and Steve Ruggiero would you come just to represent the entire congregation?"
(Laughter from congregation)

"What? ... Just Steve being Steve, okay. And at this time Dan and Carolyn Rehder, would you come forward?"

(Applause)

Pastor, "Dan and Carolyn Rehder are members of the Wycliffe Bible Translators and will be moving to Romania on February 18th to begin working in sign language Bible translation. There are an estimated 400 or more sign languages around the world, but none of them, none of them have a full Bible translation. A sign language Bible comes in the form of a video and allows the estimated 70 million Deaf around the world to see the Bible in the language of their hearts. Dan and Carolyn will begin by learning spoken Romanian and Romanian Sign Language. And begin working with a Deaf church in Romania to train in the translation work they have agreed in faith to be career missionaries so they will be working in Bible translation until they retire and they're only 15 years old."

(Laughter from congregation)

"How old are you?"

Dan, "I'm 26"

Pastor, "You had to think about that, 26 and... 27. So, God willing, they have 40 or 50 years ahead of them, of this work. Wycliffe has given me clear instructions today how this commissioning service should go at this point they would like me to give what they call a charge to the congregation. And here is your charge: I charge you to pray for these people I charge you to add them to your prayer list and remember them each day that you pray. I charge you if you feel led to give financially to this couple because this is not cheap and it is not free. And it is on-going year after year after year. And I pray that you will accept that charge. Next, Wycliffe asked me to give a charge to Dan and Carolyn: I charge you to seek God's will and to follow it everyday of your life. I charge you to stay strong when you meet opposition and will meet opposition and already have. I charge you to stay strong when you miss us back here (begins to cry) as we will miss you. And I charge you to work hard, to never let yourself be idle, to rest, yes, one day in seven, to rest several hours a day, yes and recharge your marriage, but work hard. Remember there are people who need what you alone will be providing will you accept that charge?"

(Dan and Carolyn nod their heads)

"At this point Wycliffe asks us as representatives of this church family to lay our hands on Dan and Carolyn and to pray a commissioning prayer. Would you please kneel?"

"Dan and Carolyn we pray for you. We know and believe that God has touched you with faith in him, and in his son Jesus Christ. Of that we have no doubt. We know and believe that God has touched you with a call upon your hearts to help the Deaf around the world and starting in Romania to know the scriptures of him, his story of that we have no doubt. And so with full faith and confidence in our God we set you apart this day to be fulltime missionaries in God's world with a tie back here in Zelienople of love and faith and finances but to be in the world.

"Thank you God for this young couple, who has an old faith, a mature faith in you. Thank you that they are answering this call and we promise as a church family to remember them, and to pray for them, and to write to them, and to email and text them. Dear God, bless Dan and Carolyn Rehder today, we ask that they may leave us and go out into your world and do great work for you. And all God's people said, amen"

Congregation, "Amen"

Pastor, "You may rise. Wycliffe has given us two certificates which the four of us have signed on behalf of this congregation. And we're going to mount one of them here in our lobby and we're going to give this to you. I believe you need to send a copy to them. This is a legal document they tell us, and so the instructions are on the back. I clipped it to you okay?"

"People of God, I present to you missionaries Dan and Carolyn Rehder."

(Applause)

"You did it, you did it. Alright you may be seated"