

Student's job translates into good experience

By Dennis Fernandes

Of the Emerald

While most students who traveled abroad this summer vacationed in Europe or at Expo '86, Carl Shepherd was at a place uncharacteristic of tourists.

Shepherd, a mathematics graduate student at the University, spent his break in the Philippines, where he worked for the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

The institute is part of the worldwide organization, Wycliff Bible Translators, which uses computers to translate the New Testament into foreign languages.

Shepherd's duties were to switch and maintain data bases from an outdated computer model to a more modern one. He also helped log 32 translated New Testament publications. Sixty more translations are in progress, he said.

"What it entailed was re-editing them — not very glamorous stuff," Shepherd said in his parents' Springfield home. "I did write some programs for them."

Shepherd said he and some relatives financed the trip, which cost "around \$2,200." He did not receive any compensation, except for that ever-valuable experience, he said.

"I looked at this as a chance to see what was going on and see if I wanted to make it (linguistics) a career," Shepherd said. "I really wanted to go to Asia, and I was interested in linguistics and translation; this was the only country where Wycliff had a guest program."

According to Shepherd, it can take bilingual workers between eight and 15 years to translate a publication into the native language (there are a reported 150 dialects in the Philippines).

"It's an ongoing event. There's a lot of minority languages in the Philippines. Because of the difficulty in com-

munication, people are very isolated, so we are attempting to place the New Testament in those languages.

What else inspired Shepherd to spend his summer assisting in such a complex undertaking as this, in such an unstable country as the Philippines?

"My Christian convictions, the desire to present the gospel to all tribes and all nations and add availability of the Scripture to those who may never have heard of it before," he said.

Shepherd stayed at the American compound in Manila for several weeks. Then he moved in with a "very hospitable" English-speaking Filipino family for six weeks. In addition, he visited Singapore and Japan.

The recent political unrest in the Philippines, which led to the ouster of longtime president Ferdinand Marcos and the established new leadership of Corazon Aquino, was not very widespread where he lived.

"It was very interesting being right there after the February revolution," he said. "The people I stayed with were very much reformist, and they were happy that the revolution was fairly bloodless and not very violent."

They were very thankful for the change in government and very proud of the revolution, he said.

"They were hoping that a sense of righteousness and goodwill would persist," Shepherd said.

After Shepherd earns his master's degree at the end of spring term, he would like to pursue missionary work and also work with computers and linguistics. Shepherd admits he "feels drawn back to Asia."

"It would be interesting to see how things turned out (in the Philippines)," Shepherd said. "When I was there, it was the sort of honeymoon of the revolution."



Photo by Michael Wilhelm

Carl Shepherd poses with a tapestry he brought back from the Philippines, where he spent the summer translating parts of the New Testament.

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Those freshmen include Angela Parson, Charlotte Richardson, Anh Linh Le and Jennie Morisse as well as Michael Handley, Sarah Cortell, Michelle Hoek, Boden Stephenson, and Kari Wagner.

Also included are Johnathan Lee, Tracy O'Donnell, Jennifer Ross, Nancy Jones, Thomas Kasten, Serena Ross, Kristen Berdan, Mariko Shirazi, Elisabeth Engel, Tamara Cook, John Brinegar and Brian Smits.

Others are Ron Gosser, Kelly Leonard, Kathryn Oltman, Amy Woods, Teresa Bricher, Jodi Cremere, Julie Solomon, Kathy Crowe, Pat Greenwell, Derek Krassin, Bart Walker and Leslie Hoffman.

Carey Abendroth, Kathy Grisel, Dawn Ring, Amy Settemeyer, Lori Insko, Michelle Reinig, Angela Wieback, Shannon Digerness, Kathleen Hicks, Suzanne Child and Jennifer Collins all

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