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I only started volunteering my services as a transcriber recently, having been inspired by a talk given at a NT Conference by Professor David Parker about the work of the Institute for Textual Scholarship and Electronic Editing. What attracted me to find out more about the International Greek New Testament Project was the thought that there is so much untranscribed material out there, so the work of an individual can actually make a contribution, however small, to the ongoing work of scholarship. I also believe firmly that the importance of the discipline of text criticism should not be underestimated, as producing really solid critical editions of the New Testament text is the foundation for sound exegesis.

The transcribing feeds into my “day job” as a Lecturer in Biblical Studies to some extent, as what I see in the manuscripts illustrates scribal practices, or highlights disputed readings, or helps me to think about the way in which early Christians approached the scriptural text. However, even though I am personally very interested in textual transmission and ancient manuscripts, I find there is hardly any opportunity in most University Theology courses these days for either students or teachers to actually engage with such texts and gain the skills required for working with them. So being involved with the work of the IGNTP gives me that added dimension, which I really appreciate; there is nothing like sitting down to look at a new page of text after a day of College meetings or other administrative tasks for soothing the mind and making me think that at least I have done *some* real work!

I would certainly advise anyone thinking about volunteering to give it a try. Although I have always worked a fair amount with NT Greek, I had not previously been familiar with the minuscule hand or manuscripts, but found it very easy to pick up. The guidelines provided for transcribers are so clear, modern technology makes so much possible, and the support from the project team is so prompt and friendly that anyone with a good eye for detail should feel confident they can give it a go.

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