The Word of God -

In their hands, their ears, and upon their hearts

Weber - LBTC Cameroon Prayer Letter
January 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home."

2024 was a year with many prayers answered!

Thank God with us for:

- His Provision through you and others in prayer and financial support for our visits celebrating LBTC's 50 years of ministry, and for our recent trip back to Cameroon. Thank you!
- Cameroon translators and literacy personnel, who continue to work for God's Word in their own languages. Some who have New Testaments (including Kwanja pastors) are asking for help to work for their complete Bible.
- Demand for Audio Scriptures, so many can listen to God's Word! One example: Our son Sammy has sent dozens of solar powered players loaded with Kwanja N.T. Scriptures to Yimbere, to be sold at a subsidized price. They have been snapped up and they want more!
- The privilege of working with LBTC and LBTUS directors and missionaries, together with the Cameroonian Church leadership for God's Word to reach many language groups.

Dear Partners in Prayer,

We traveled again to Cameroon just after celebrating American Thanksgiving with our daughter Sarah, Nate, Iris (3) and Melody (now almost 3 months). On November 29th we flew from Boston to reconnect again with missionaries, national coworkers, translators, friends, family, and others.

We flew through Zurich, Switzerland, where we were met by the Mbonbe family, very dear friends from our years in Cameroon. Monday evening we continued our journey, and landed in Yaoundé, Cameroon late Tuesday morning, Dec. 3rd.

By Friday morning, the LBT vehicle stored there was ready (with a new battery) and we began the long road trip north to Ngaoundere. With road delays we arrived by midnight.

PANA New Testament Dedication

The next morning, we attended the dedication service of the Mbum Pana New Testament, a very meaningful event. God was given the glory, and the value of God's Word was emphasized for us, for now and eternity. There

was much rejoicing with singing and dancing, as the New Testament was presented in a basket (*see below*) to the Lord and then to the Pana people. Their next project is to translate the whole Bible!

Having God's Word in one's own language is very precious!



Rev. Tim and Erin Schulte

We rejoice to see how well Rev. Tim and Erin Schulte, new LBT missionaries, are adjusting to life in Cameroon and learning French since September. They

are a huge answer to prayer for the Subula people, among whom they will begin to live and work later this year.



We rejoice and encourage them in language learning and new experiences in Cameroon.



FAMILY VISIT! (Christmas cookies for snack time)

After traveling many hours over bumpy dirt roads, we loved being with son Sammy, Kelsey and our four active grandchildren (Keturah, Caleb, Timmy and Steven) over Christmas and New Year's holidays. We loved the hugs, and we see the growth and progress they have made since last year.

Kwanjas Are Seeking More Scriptures!



L to R: Pastor Ngnitchefe Pierre, Magbou Gabriel, and Pastor Boula Samuel met with Martin (and Joan) on Saturday, Dec 28th. (Jerome arrived later.)

While in Banyo with son Sammy and family, four Kwanjas met with us, including two of the six Kwanja Pastors, discussing how they can continue translating the Old Testament.

They want a complete Kwanja Bible! We pray that this will bear fruit! The Kwanja New Testaments and lectionary readings are being read some, and many more are listening to the audio recording of the New Testament.

"It is our mission to have the whole Kwanja Bible. If we don't do this, we have failed our calling," Pastor Samuel said with conviction at one point.

As a start, they are organizing among themselves to share the task of translating different Scripture portions. We see their heartfelt desire, their voluntary commitment, the obstacles of distances over bad roads between them, and just the busyness and distractions of life that could hinder them. Prayer is needed for God to direct them in their endeavors.

Upcoming for us, during our time here

We also are connecting with Pastor Bakari, (Director of the Cameroon Lutheran Church's translation/literacy/Scripture Use programs), with Pastor Daniel Touka (in training translation consultant), and with a number of national translators and literacy workers in the weeks ahead. We seek to be encouragers as they continue in the long process of Bible translation.

We will soon travel with the Schultes and with DTA Director Pastor Bakari to visit the Subula area, to meet with their project director, translators, literacy workers, and language committee president. PRAY for good communications with Subula people and for encouraging experiences for the Schultes visit there.

Please pray with us for:

- Continuing health, strength and wisdom to do all God calls us to do.
- National translators, that God will encourage, equip, inspire and enable them as they translate His Word into their own languages.
- Wisdom and encouragement for the literacy workers as they teach their people to read.
- Our effectiveness in encouraging the Cameroonians continuing the work here.
- Wisdom and perseverance for Kwanjas to move forward in translating the Kwanja Old Testament. God's leading for us as to how to be involved, only being in Cameroon for short visits.
- Continuing success for the Schultes in French language learning as they prepare for Subula ministry.

The continuing work in Cameroon

The Kuhn family is missed, since Rev. Mike Kuhn will be training pastors at the Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton. Cameroonian leaders are taking more responsibility for their Church projects.

We will be attending a workshop February 3-7, which introduces new computer software to help teams and their leaders keep track of their goals and progress each month. We will also interact with Rev. David Federwitz, who oversees LBT work in Cameroon. We plan to return to our home in the US in mid-February.

May our Lord continue to bless and guide you in His peace throughout 2025!

In His Love,

Martin & Joan Weber

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