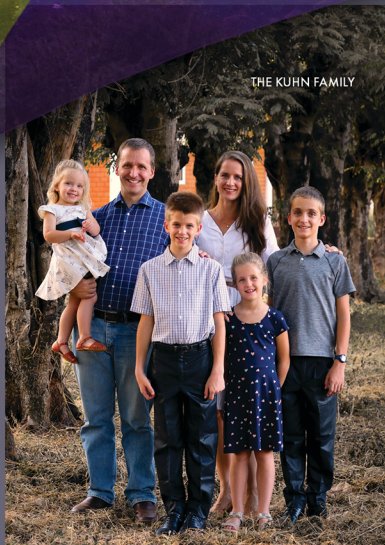


CAMEROON

Connec tion

MARCH 2023

THE KUHN FAMILY



From January 18-27, the SURAM team was in Gadjjwan to work with the Péré people. The Péré are one of 28 language communities that are included in our study since they published Scripture between 2007 and 2017

At the end of each day, the volunteer surveyors return the survey forms to the survey team leaders. Here, Patience is scrutinizing the responses that one of the volunteers brought back



One highlight of each visit is worshipping with the local Christians. The service I attended in the Péré area was in Péré from start to finish except for the OT reading (since it hasn't been translated) and the sermon (since I preached!). Here, the congregation is singing a song from their Péré songbook.



Another highlight of our time with the Péré was an evening around a fire on the night before our departure. They sang Péré songs, told Péré stories, and stumped each other with Péré riddles. These kinds of evenings don't happen as often today, but they have been an important part of transmitting the culture from generation to generation in the past.

A Gbaya woman leading a Gbaya song of praise at the closing celebration after the SURAM visit to their area. Each of our visits concludes with a celebration of their mother tongue Scriptures where people recite passages, perform skits, and sing songs based on their Scriptures.



The Gbaya believers who attended the closing celebration holding up their Gbaya Bibles. Each of our visits concludes with a celebration of their mother tongue Scriptures where people recite passages, perform skits, and sing songs based on their Scriptures.



After the Péré visit was over, the language community sought us out so that they could start work on a Péré Old Testament so that they could have a whole Bible. Here, I am helping Pastor Bakari Boukar to install Paratext 9 on his laptop so that he can work on the translation in his spare time. Pastor Bakari has since been named the new Director of the Department for Translation and Literacy in the Lutheran Church.



Aseh Derick, the SURAM Scripture Use Ministry team leader, enjoys teaching people a variety of ways they can use their vernacular scriptures - memorization, song writing, skits, etc.



Gbaya believers acting out a skit based on Matthew 25 at the closing celebration event that was organized at the end of our visit with them. Each of our visits concludes with a celebration of their mother tongue Scriptures where people recite passages, perform skits, and sing songs based on their Scriptures.



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At the planning meeting, the local leaders also help us recruit volunteers to help with the survey and ministry activities. Here, Ghislain, survey team leader, is teaching Yaya how to conduct surveys with individuals.



The SURAM team members spend a lot of time on motorcycles during our visits. We aim to conduct our survey and ministry work in at least 8 outlying communities in each language area. Here, John (SURAM Team Coordinator) and I are going to a town called Mayo Baleo.



Throughout the day, the SURAM team spends a lot of time together. We thank God for the spirit of camaraderie and collaboration in the team. Here we are enjoying an evening meal together.



The research component of the SURAM project sees us surveying individuals, focus groups, congregational leaders, and translation project staff. Here, Patience, survey team leader, is surveying a women's group in Gadjiwan to see how they are using the Scriptures.



The Péré community is a majority Muslim group, but the Christian population is vibrant and makes great use of their Péré NT and Psalms. Many of their Muslim neighbours are proud of how the Christians are preserving the language and culture.

Please pray for:

Health and safety for the SURAM team members and their families as they visit an additional 18 language communities over the next 7-8 months.

The language communities that we visit, that God would use our time with them to whet their appetites for using their vernacular scriptures even more than they are already doing.

For the research part of the project, that God will allow us to gather reliable data and that He will open our eyes and understanding to discern what we can learn about the ways that He is working in the 28 different contexts included in the SURAM project.

The Péré community as they begin work on a Péré Old Testament, that God will guide the work of the translators and provide for their every need as they begin the work on a volunteer basis.

As you can see, the SURAM project is allowing us to learn a lot about mother tongue Scripture use while also enabling us to bolster its use in the communities we visit. On behalf of myself and the SURAM team, we thank you for praying for us and for contributing to this important project.

Rev. Mike, Kara, Tobias, Gideon, Gloria and Jubilee Kuhn