

CAMEROON

THE KUHN FAMILY



Dear Praying Partners;

The longer I work with LBTC in Cameroon, the more I recognize the importance of mixing a good dose of wisdom with our faith in our God and His promises. Both faith and wisdom are upheld as virtues in Scripture.

On the one hand, we are exhorted to put our worries aside and to trust fully in God for our daily needs (Matthew 6:25-34). Our God is faithful, powerful, and good! We can trust Him to do as He has promised and to provide for us in every way.

Concerning our work in Cameroon, I lean on promises like the one given through the prophet Isaiah (55:10-11):

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Just as the spring rains hold a promise for a fruitful growing season, so too does every proclamation of God's Word hold a promise for spiritual fruitfulness! We move forward in our translation work full of **faith** that God will bring this promised fruit!

On the other hand, we do well when we put our God-given faculties of analysis, reflection, evaluation, and inquiry to work for the good of our neighbours and in the service of our God who endowed us with them. As the proverb above says, it is a good thing to "give thought to our steps" and aim to work in ways that are well-informed. With that in mind, we also move forward in our translation work seeking the Lord's **wisdom** that can guide our work.

Connection

MARCH 2022

"The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps." Prov. 14:15

SURAM Cameroon

It is to this second aim that I want to dedicate most of this letter. Why? Because I have recently gotten involved in an exciting research project that is a joint effort of all the Bible Translation Organizations in Cameroon. The project is the second of its kind and is called **SURAM** (Scripture Use Research and Ministry).

The first iteration focused on the use of mother tongue Scriptures in Papua New Guinea. If you are interested in what they found, you can read the report at www.sil.org/resources/archives/83267 (the first hit that comes up if you Google "SURAM Report").

I am thrilled to be able to report that the second iteration will seek to better understand how and why vernacular Scriptures have a greater impact in some language communities when compared with others **in the context of Cameroon!** I have been invited to be part of the country advisory committee for the project and look forward to seeing what the **SURAM** Cameroon research uncovers so that we can "give thought to the steps" that we take as we partner with local language populations in translation and Scripture use projects.

These are still early days, but here are a few of the hypotheses that SURAM Cameroon is thinking about putting to the test in the next year:

- Where **pastors of local churches have a strategy for using the local language Scriptures** regularly in church services, this increases overall Scripture Engagement.
- When it was evident from an early stage that **members of the local community own the project and are responsible for leading it and defining its success**, with external partners having a facilitating, training and equipping role, there is greater use of the vernacular Scriptures by the community.
- Where **extensive literacy programs** (schools, communities and/or church) have been carried out, leading to a significant number of people becoming **fluent readers in the language** there is more Scripture use.
- If the translation was **part of an appropriate mission strategy in partnership with others**, especially in contexts where the **spiritual climate is hard**, more Scripture use happened.

Please pray for the SURAM Cameroon research project; that God will use it to guide us in our work so that His Word has an even greater impact in Cameroon (and around the world!) as it goes out.

Spotlight on Tikar

One of the languages that is likely to be included in the study is the Tikar language. For my readers who are familiar with the Weber history in the Kwanja area, Tikar is a neighbouring language group, numbering over 100,000, with a strong population in the EELC (our partner church in Cameroon). This project will give us an opportunity to look more closely at how broadly the Tikar New Testament is being used in their context as well as how we might help them increase their use of the same.

Please pray for the research that will happen in the Tikar area in particular; that God will use it to help us to know how LBTC might support the EELC in helping the Tikar language community make greater use of their Scriptures.

Meet our Colleagues!



Name: Kayla Falkenholt
Home Congregation:
Christ Lutheran, Thunder Bay

Please pray for Kayla as she prepares to volunteer with us next year as our first volunteer teacher!

Name: Rev. Abou Touka Daniel
Role: Director of Translation and
Literacy for the Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Cameroon

Meet and Greet!
Friday, May 13th at 11am Eastern.

Contact LBTC office
pastor.r.mohr@lbtc.ca for
connection information.



Sponsoring two confirmands
at Christmas



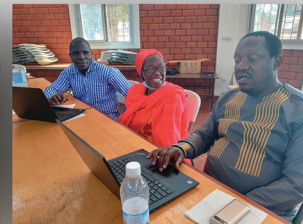
Lexicography workshops going well!



National Bishop Installation



Nizaa Lexicographers



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