

CAMEROON

THE KUHN FAMILY



Dear Praying Partners;

I don't recall when or where it was, but I vividly remember attending an orchestral performance one time and being transfixed by one of the members of the percussion ensemble. He had a handful of instruments around him: a triangle, a block of wood, some tall chimes, cymbals, etc., and was frantically (and masterfully!) jumping from instrument to instrument as the orchestra played their piece.

This image came to my mind as I was thinking of what to write to you because I feel a little like what I imagine that percussion player felt like as he played his role; trying to be aware of what needed to be "played" next as the music unfolds around him. So, in this letter, allow me to give you a brief tour of the different "instruments" I've been working with lately and how each has been contributing to the "music" God is orchestrating in the place He has called us to serve.

SURAM Cameroon Update

In my last letter, I told you about the Scripture Use Research and Ministry project. By way of reminder, this is a large research project that I am getting involved in. It aims to gauge the degree to which 28 Cameroonian language groups are using their vernacular Scriptures, what kind of impact this use is having, and what contextual factors seem to be influencing this use and impact.

The project has been racing ahead since my last letter. We have drafted our research plans and are presently testing the research method in two pilot communities. By the time you get this letter, we will be tweaking our plans before starting 11 months of visits in the remaining 26 communities. My role on the team is to analyze the data we gather in each community and report the findings.

Please pray for the SURAM project, the staff, the ministry component, the participating communities, and the fruits of the research; that God will be over all, and in all, and work through it all to accomplish His purposes.

Connection

SEPTEMBER 2022

Nizaa Translation Work

It was with great joy that I was able to work with my Nizaa colleagues to complete a first draft of a Nizaa Dictionary app for android devices in July! This was the fruit of 6 months of work and resulted in over 3000 Nizaa words being collected, spelling corrected, and defined in our dictionary project. This milestone should position the Nizaa team to more quickly resolve those pesky spelling debates that have, at times, bogged down our translation progress.

The Nizaa team is now back to work on completing our translation of Luke. The next step is preparing Luke 3-11 for revision and consulting checking before the end of 2023.

Please join us in prayer for this translation work in the coming months.



Goings and Comings



The last few months also saw us say a fond farewell to our 2021-22 nanny, Michaela Federwitz, while also giving a warm welcome to our 2022-23 volunteer teach, Kayla Falkenholt! I'm happy to report that the farewell celebrations, travel logistics, legal paperwork, and orientation plans all went off without a hitch. We praise God for the volunteer work of **both** of these ladies who become part of our family during their time here and support Kara and me as we raise and teach our kids.

Please join us in giving thanks to God for Michaela's year with us and in praying for Kayla and Kara as they collaborate to care for Jubilee and teach our three school-aged kids this year.



Doctor of Ministry Studies

Another of my “instruments” is the series of Doctor of Ministry courses I am taking as I progress in that program of study. Early July saw me participate in what the program calls a “Journey” course to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia! The course was designed to have me sit at the feet of 13 Bible Translation, church, and outreach ministry leaders over the course of one week to learn about their challenges and what they are doing to address them. There are many things that are analogous between the Ethiopian and Cameroonian contexts, so I found the interviews and reflection assignments to be enlightening and enriching.

Please join me in thanking God for the ways He is growing me as I study and ask Him to continue to shape and mould me as I continue to study over the next two years

Rev. Mike Kuhn and his Journey Course instructor in front of the Ethiopia branch of SIL International during his stay in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Focus on Dii

This last item is not something I have been working on recently, but – to extend our metaphor! – it may be a new instrument that I will be picking up from time to time in the months to come! The Dii language is spoken by about 100,000 people in an area just north of where we live. One of the Dii speaking clergy, a one-time professor of Hebrew at the Cameroonian Lutheran seminary, has been working with a few other Dii pastors to translate the Old Testament. Recently, members of the Dii community asked the church for help in completing the work on a Dii Bible.

Together with the new Dowayo translation team, a team of Dii editors/revisers will be trained in translation principles and translation software during the first week of October.

Please join me in thanking God for the ways He is growing me as I study and ask Him to continue to shape and mould me as I continue to study over the next two years



The Dii delegation that came to Ngaoundéré to ask for help with producing their Bible



God is at work through the efforts of LBTC in Northern Cameroon. I confess that sometimes the different “instruments” I am asked to play seem to be a little random and disjointed one from the other. but when I pick my head up and reflect on what the ensemble of work has created, I thank the One who is holding the baton and guiding our work as well as all of you who “play instruments” as well as you contribute to and pray for the work we are doing together. May it all result in beautiful “music” that brings glory to God!

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