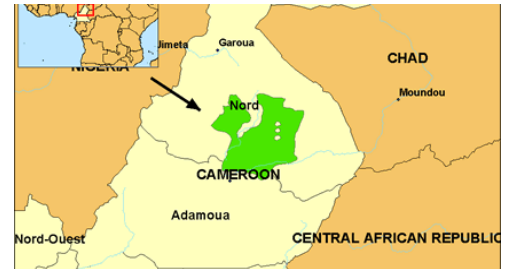




Ministry Spotlight #4

As LBTC celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year it is appropriate to shine the spotlight on some of the ministries we are engaged in. This issue will highlight the translation and ministry work going on among the Dii people. The major part of this language group lives around the community of Mbe in northern Cameroon. There are about 72,000 Dii speakers. 45% are Christian, most of them Lutheran. 15% are Muslim. The rest practise native African religions.



They have a Dii language New Testament, but it is in need of revision. LBTC's current work among these people is focused on finishing translating the Old Testament, revising and updating the New Testament, supporting literacy classes, and encouraging the use of the current Dii Scriptures in worship, evangelism, and daily life.

The following pictures will give you some insight into the work LBTC is doing among the Dii people in co-operation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (EELC) and its Department for Translation and Literacy (DTA).



A few years ago Rev. Samaki Samuel brought good news to Pastor Touka (then DTA director) and Pastor Kuhn. He and other Dii pastors had been translating Old Testament books, each on their own, for several years. As a result of that meeting, the DTA asked LBTC to consider funding work on a full Bible in the Dii language.



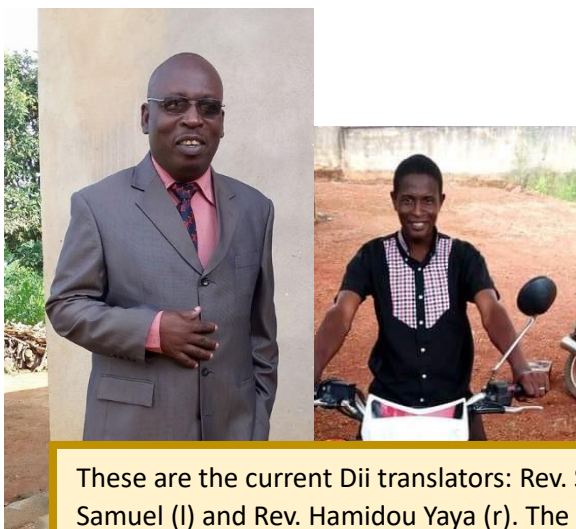
Pictured here is the Dii Literature Centre, located in Mbe, the centre of the Dii population. Tenmbar Jonas (pictured in the foreground, is responsible for the work of the centre.

In the years that LBTC has been working in Cameroon we have been involved peripherally with the Dii language work. The Webers helped with some of the primers used in Dii literacy classes. They also met with Dii leaders to discuss various linguistic issues that arose from time to time.

When LBTC people visited Cameroon, Mbe was often one of the stops made to keep aware of Dii language work. Tenmbar Jonas was always a genial host. He was happy to share about the language work going on among the Dii people.



The mayor of Mbe is very supportive of the Dii translation and literacy work. He has promised to bring hydro lines into the Dii Literature Centre. He is pictured with Pastor Kuhn. They were enjoying watching a Cameroon football (soccer) match together at a café in Mbe.



These are the current Dii translators: Rev. Samaki Samuel (l) and Rev. Hamidou Yaya (r). The DTA hopes to add more translators to the team so that the Dii people will have a full Bible more quickly.



Currently the Literature Centre relies on solar power. The new translation work requires much more hydro. Your support allowed LBTC to help meet the increased need with a new solar panel.



These are some of the Dii volunteers. Some serve as literacy teachers. Others establish Bible listening groups and Bible Study groups in various Dii communities.

Thank you for your prayers and support for the Dii translation work and for all the ways God is empowering LBTC to serve in His kingdom.

Please join in the upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebration, September 27-28 at Bethel Lutheran Church, Sherwood Park, AB.

Please invite Pastor Kuhn or Pastor Mohr to speak to your congregation or organization about LBTC's work.

Please keep praying for the Dii people and for all others to have God's Word in their heart languages.



More powerful laptops and upgraded software were also necessities for the Dii translators. Your support for LBTC also made these gifts possible, along with the training to make the best use of the latest translation programmes.

