

The Word of God - In their hands and upon their hearts

**Weber - LBTC Cameroon Prayer Letter
March 2024**

**Dear Partners in Prayer,
God Answers Prayer!**

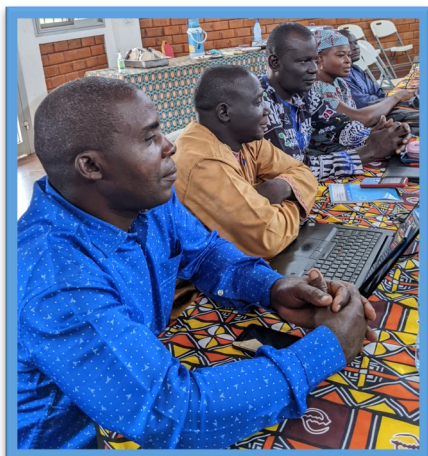
2023 was a year with many prayers answered!

- **God Provided through you and others** both prayer and financial support for our two ministry trips back to Cameroon in 2023. **Thank you!**
- **Cameroon translators were encouraged and better equipped** through the **Translators' Conference** that Martin coordinated.
- **Subula translation continues after a major discouragement.**
- **The Subula literacy courses continue**, as Joan helped the literacy team to complete their primers.
- **People from more language groups** are asking for help to translate and get complete Bibles in their languages!

TRANSLATORS' CONFERENCE

I (Martin) was pretty discouraged last November when it looked like the Translators' Conference that I had been planning and developing for nearly a year would not happen. I came to a place where I surrendered it to God.: "Lord, if this conference really is Your plan at this time, make it happen. If not, I surrender it."

And God did make it happen!



Ten translators from five language groups participated in the Translators Conference for Cameroonian Bible Translators last November. All expressed their appreciation.



LBTC missionary Pastor Mike Kuhn gave an example of using one of the features of ParaText, a specialized translation software tool. Then more experienced

translators mentored other translators in using more features. Significant progress was made.

I also shared several "pitfalls for translators", exposing attitudes and practices that I have found to be detrimental in our decades of experience.

At the end of our week together, they expressed how helpful the conference was, and asked for more such conferences. Some requested a Translation Principles course—which I and my colleague Pastor Touka am more than eager to plan and lead!

The main teaching they took away was **the importance of prayer** – prayer for translation work as well as their personal and family lives.

Testimony of God's Answer to Prayer

Pastor Allen (*below*) related how God enabled the Subula translators to continue to translate the Bible into their language, after devastating news the end of 2022.



"We were devastated! We had just learned that our LBT missionary who had begun training us would not be coming back after furlough.

But we turned our faces to the Lord in prayer. All six of us translators and the four literacy workers earnestly fasted and prayed.

And God answered!

Even though we were told that it was nearly **impossible** for a new missionary to come any time soon to support and train us, after we prayed a new LBT missionary couple was found! Pastor Tim and Erin Schulte came to visit us for a few days last March! They went back to the US, but plan to come later in 2024.

Meanwhile, God has not left us alone. **The Weber couple came to encourage and to be with us for a time. This is also part of God's answer to our prayers.**

We are really thanking God! The Subula translation work has not stopped, but is continuing with the rhythm and intensity as when the missionary was with us. The Lord continues to hold us up, right to this day!"

Subula Literacy Classes are Progressing



Joan helped the Subula literacy team complete their primer books. Last December they finished proofreading and correcting what they had

done in April, added some of their riddles, and had them printed during our last visit. They are now using them in courses in several villages.

MORE WHOLE BIBLES?

Pastor Mohr, LBTC Director, recently helped lead a Pastors' retreat in Cameroon. The seven Kwanja pastors there "corralled" him, asking him to send Martin back to Cameroon for about six months to train them in translation principles to equip them to **translate the rest of the Old Testament**. He replied that Martin was not getting any younger, but we will all pray and do all we can. If training begins in person, it can continue through electronic communication.

Pastor Bakari, the new Director of Translation and Literacy programs in the Cameroon Lutheran Church, visited the Kwanjas and others in their area. **Three more language groups** who have the New Testament in their languages **expressed desire to translate the entire Old Testament** to have complete Bibles.

ARE WE GOING BACK?

YES! We are tentatively planning to travel again to Cameroon from October 2024 until late January 2025. We have been asked to help LBT missionaries Rev. Tim and Erin Schulte get a good start in Cameroon with French language learning and cultural adjustment, as well as to continue encouraging the Subula and other translation teams.

Upcoming Visits:

We plan to travel to the LBT US and LBTC anniversary celebrations, and to visit friends and supporters in BC whom we missed in 2020 because of covid.

We hope to see some of you, as we visit:

May 17th – 20th Kitchener, Ontario for the LBTC 50th anniversary celebration,

May 20th – June 3rd British Columbia, in the lower mainland and the Okanagan areas

July 11th – 16th Missouri LBT US 60th anniversary gathering

Sept. 27th - 30th Edmonton to participate in the LBTC anniversary celebration there .

THANK GOD for what He is doing!

- For 50 years of His blessings through Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada to help bring His Word for many peoples in their own languages.
- For His faithfulness in providing for us through many challenges and travels this last year! And safe return back to the US in January.
- For the national church leaders, translators and literacy teachers who work to get God's Word to their people.

Please pray with us for:

Health and strength to do all God calls us to do.

His schedule for us this year for His glory, including opportunities to see and personally thank many friends and supporters in Canada.

God to encourage, equip and enable national translators to make great progress as they translate His Word in their own languages.

Wisdom and encouragement for the literacy workers teaching their people to read.

God's Word to go forward, that many may hear and understand, and that they may receive the gift of Life in Jesus in Canada, in the US, in Cameroon, and throughout the world!

We look forward to seeing many of you again.
We are very thankful for you and your prayers!
May His Word continue to give you His peace and Resurrection Hope!

In His Love,

Martin & Joan Weber

Martin and Joan Weber

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