

# CAMEROON

# Connec tion

JANUARY 2021

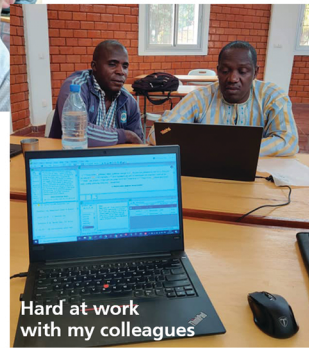


THE KUHN FAMILY



## Orthographic Obstacle in Nizaa

Pastor Touka explaining to colleagues



Hard at work with my colleagues

*Orthography* is a word that means "way of writing". English has been a written language for centuries and has a highly standardized way of being written. We even have dictionaries and spell checkers that help us to know the right and wrong ways to write English words.

*Iph ai stahrt deeveeay ting frum thuh akseptid standrd, iht mayks reed ding verry difuhkelt.*

Ok... I think I made my point! Could you imagine trying to read (or write?) if words could be written differently in different contexts? As we have worked on the Nizaa translation, we have noticed that many Nizaa writing conventions are very fluid.

For example, the Nizaa word for "God" is "Sùù". The two accents mean that it is said with a low tone. However, in our translation, there are times that it is written as "Sùú".

Another example is the verb "said" which, most often is written as "gan-na", but at other times has been written as "gana," "ganna," or even "gan na." Varying ways of writing Nizaa words and phrases (especially as regards their tone) poses a real obstacle to Nizaa people being able to easily read and digest God's Word in their language. So... what to do?

When the Nizaa team came to Ngaoundéré in December, we decided to work on standardizing the orthography so that the words in Nizaa would be more stable in the way we write them. Our goal and prayer is that this work will allow us to make more steady progress (since we won't be debating about how to write things as frequently!) and that it will allow Nizaa readers to access the translated text more readily.

*Please pray for the Nizaa team as we work to standardize the orthography. Pray especially for a meeting we will be having in Galim with Nizaa leaders in late January to make decisions on our recommendations.*



The Bible House

## Dear Praying Partners;

Bible translation is all about removing obstacles.

The obvious obstacle is the language barrier! Some people don't have God's Word in their mother tongue, so we help them by working with them on a translation.

That said, even within the translation task, there are obstacles to overcome. Some are historico-cultural... like the mismatch between the Roman armour discussed in Ephesians 6 and the armour that a Nizaa warrior would have worn, or the mismatch between what calling someone a "fox" represented in Luke 13:32 and what it represents in the languages of Cameroon (or of English for that matter!) Other obstacles are linguistic in nature. For example, could you believe that Nizaa doesn't have a word that is equivalent to the New Testament concept of 'life' (ζωή in Greek).

There are still other obstacles, and today I would like to write to you about the Orthographic one.

## Meet the Samba people

In my last letter, I told you that I would be connecting with language populations other than the Nizaa as part of my expanded responsibilities. On December 1st, I travelled to a remote village called Balkossa to meet with Samba leaders.

LBT missionaries worked with the Samba people in Balkossa for approximately 40 years! Together, they were able to analyze and write down their language, launch a literacy project, translate the New Testament into Samba, and start engaging Samba people in using their translated Scriptures. After the last LBT missionary left in the early 2000s, the Samba leaders continued to work on translating Old Testament lectionary readings and developing liturgies in Samba that they can use in their churches. This work was subsidized by LBT in the States until about five years ago when subsidy funds dried up.

I was very encouraged by my visit to Balkossa and the Samba people are clamouring for a complete Bible, an updated Samba liturgy, and a renewed stock of Scripture listening devices.

*Please pray for the Samba leaders, LBT, and LBTC; that God will guide us as we explore ways of continuing to partner together to reach Samba people with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.*



The Samba leaders who met with me in Balkossa.



An assortment of Samba instruments.

## Cameroon

According to Kuhn Kids

Visiting the Park - by Tobias

Earlier this year, my siblings and I, our nanny, and our friends all went to the park which is not far from our house in Ngaoundere, Cameroon. We were hoping to play at the playground, and we did.

When we were done playing, we crossed a bridge and saw two camels. After we had been looking at them for a while, our friend said to her mom, "Look how big their feet are!"

After that, we saw some monkeys in a cage within a big fenced area. Later on, we were walking around a fountain with benches around it while a different monkey was chasing us.

My siblings and I, our nanny, and our friends all had a good day.



Thank you all, as always, for standing with us in prayer as we work together to overcome and break through obstacles that keep language populations in Cameroon from knowing Jesus and His salvation! He overcame the greatest obstacles of all our sin, our spiritual opponents in this world, and death itself so that we could belong to Him. We pray that He will continue to break down remaining obstacles through our combined sacrifice and humble efforts.

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