

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

**Weber - LBT Cameroon Prayer Letter  
December 31, 2020**

**Dear Partners in Prayer,**

## **A time of transition**

The end of 2020 is a time of closure for a very big part of our lives. This is *our last prayer letter* as members of Lutheran Bible Translators, as we transition to a big change to whatever the Lord has for us in retirement.

**Do you recognize these people?**



It was in May 1982 when we first traveled to Cameroon with baby Nathan. We entered an unknown future. “Snail-mail” communications with “back home.” were very slow. Cameroon became our new home, the place where our three children grew up.

Our work began with learning an unwritten language, analyzing and writing it down, and working with nationals to translate God’s Word into their language. We had many projects through the years, but foremost we worked to make God’s Word more accessible to the people in their languages, especially the Kwanja Sundani, Vute and Kwanja Ndung languages.

## **Leave-taking – a mixed blessing**

Our last weeks back in Cameroon were very busy. The anticipated two months of closure time were compacted into six weeks (from November 2<sup>nd</sup> to mid-December) to “wrap up” leaving our house in Ngaoundéré. We treasure the many special times we had with friends and colleagues. We were sent off with appreciation for what we contributed in Cameroon, and with prayers for God to continue to guide us. We were especially touched by the farewell tears of a few close friends.



The core participants of our weekly Bible study group (*above*) appreciated final times together in the Word and prayer. We enjoyed refreshing times with other good friends and opportunities to pray with several people to bless their lives before leaving. The orphanage put on a precious Cameroon-style kids’ Christmas program for us before we left. These are great memories to treasure!

We both spent many hours going through boxes of papers to discover “treasures” to save, including pictures from our 38 years of memories in Cameroon. I (Joan) saved some of my journals of reflections through the years. In the time we had, I sorted through **9 out of 12 boxes** of papers. (The 3 boxes I did not get through are in storage there until hopefully a future visit to Cameroon.) We burned piles and piles of throw-away papers. Some files we passed on to our colleagues. We shared many books with the orphanage in Ngaoundere and with colleagues.

I also saved a few boxes of linguistic and literacy files that I did not want to throw away, since I had never really completed some of the projects. Will I be able to wrap them up in my retirement? At least I’d like to help Jerome complete the primers for the Ndung Kwanja people. This is really important to Jerome and to about 50 non-schooled adults who want to learn to read the Scriptures in their language!

## **Thank you for your prayers!**

We felt God’s hands holding us up as we were under a lot of stress to finish in a short time. Our LBT colleagues in Cameroon helped us finish moving out of our house. The Derricks family was happy to receive a number of our household things for their vil-

lage home.  
*Pictured:  
Martin  
helped  
Elliot Derricks load  
their car  
full of  
things  
mostly  
from our  
house.*



## The mission in Cameroon continues!

The mission of getting God's Word to more people still continues in Cameroon.



Our colleagues, Rev. Mike and Kara Kuhn, continue with Nizaa translation as well as Mike taking on many responsibilities Martin had in working with the other language projects of the Lutheran Church in Cameroon. They will be moving into "our" house after some renovations.

### PLEASE SUPPORT THE DERRICKS!

Back in April 2015, we attended a 5-hour long meeting in a village farther north, where about 200 people from a language group very earnestly asked for help to translate God's Word into their language. We prayed and waited. God answered. In March 2018 we welcomed Elliot and Serena Derricks to Cameroon with their girls, Lydia and Josephine. It was a joy to get to know them and to mentor them as they adjusted to life in Cameroon. After completing French language study in Ngaoundéré in November 2019, they adopted a son, Chikodi, into their family.



The Derricks moved to their language area in January 2020, and have made great progress in learning the Subula\* language. They have been working to resolve spelling challenges with different dialect pronunciations. They are waiting for the US Embassy to complete citizenship paperwork for Chikodi before beginning furlough in the US.

Thank you for your years of faithful support for us! As we retire, we no longer receive support through LBT. To continue supporting Bible translation ministry in Cameroon, we encourage you to designate your gifts to **LBT for the Derricks family** and/or support them in prayer. Send financial gifts to: **Lutheran Bible Translators**  
PO Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020-0789  
Or online: <http://us.lbt.org/donate>



We returned in time to celebrate birthdays and Christmas with our New Hampshire family. Above, our son Nathan's 39th birthday: Nate and Sarah Larson (L), Hannah, Nathan, Joan

### What are our plans now?

We plan to be back in Iowa for the next several months. We want to put together a "Thank you" PowerPoint presentation to share with individuals and church groups who have supported us so faithfully through the years. ***Let us know if you want us to come your way!***

Some time in the future we plan to move to New Hampshire to be nearer to our family there.

### *"As we are going, make disciples..."*

A couple of decades ago, LBT's Mary Gruell created a kids' mission program, ***"As you are going, make disciples"*** (from Mt 28:19).

As we move on, **PLEASE PRAY:**

- that His Spirit lead us to continue to make **disciples of Jesus** through face-to-face and other communications, and to **passionately share His Word, love and truth** wherever we are!
- For inspiration as we put together a final **"Thank You" PowerPoint** message to give glory to Him, and to share it in the best ways
- that God will **continue to lead us as we adjust to many changes**, just as He has all these years

**May the Lord continue to lead each of us in His ways of blessing, as we spread His Word!**

**A richly blessed New Year to all!**

Love in Jesus,

*Martin & Joan Weber*

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