



ARIANA IN AFRICA

DETAILS, DETAILS...



I walked out of my little apartment one morning to find Kwanja translator Jerome sitting under a tree. I was on my way to work. "Shouldn't he be headed to work, too?" I thought. "What is he doing under that tree?" I stopped by to greet him and see what he was up to.

As I approached, my confusion increased as I heard Jerome murmuring to himself. "Bonjour, Jerome! Comment ça va?" We exchanged greetings, and I noticed the large stack of papers in his hands. I now realized that he was holding the full printout of the final draft of the Kwanja-Ndung lectionary, which we had just completed the day before. With just a few days left before we had to submit the lectionary for final professional printing, I wondered what he was doing just sitting under a tree with the draft in his hands. So, I asked him.

Jerome explained to me that he was reading through the entire lectionary, all 700+ pages, beginning to end. He was reading every single word out loud so that he could make sure each Bible passage would sound accurate, beautiful, and clear to any native speaker of Kwanja-Ndung. He expected to spend many hours doing this, noting every single tiny detail to be fixed before final printing.



Jerome understood very well that our magnificent God is also a God of detail. If He cares about the tiniest details throughout His holy and perfect Word, then we would do our best to honor Him by caring about them too. We prayed frequently that these picky details throughout the lectionary would make His Word more accessible to His people. Praise God for Jerome and the diligence he showed in bringing God's perfect Word to the Kwanja people!

"For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished." Matthew 5:18

GOD'S WORD IN THEIR HANDS

It's hard to believe my time in Cameroon has already come to an end! For the first five months of my missionary internship with Lutheran Bible Translators, I worked with missionaries Martin and Joan Weber, Vuté translator Alfred Oumarou, and Kwanja translator Jerome Yuare to complete lectionaries for the Vuté and Kwanja-Ndung peoples. These lectionaries include all the Bible readings for every church service on a three-year cycle. We pray they will be used in worship, personal devotions, and Bible study groups for years to come.

By the time I arrived last October, the translation work for both lectionary projects was basically complete. My purpose in going to Cameroon was to help with the very detailed work of preparing the lectionaries for publication. Over the course of several months, we spent countless hours checking everything in these huge documents from headers to page numbers, line spacing to punctuation, illustrations to complex reference tables. By the grace of God, we were able to meet our printing deadlines for both lectionaries, just in time for their respective dedication ceremonies!

And what grand celebrations these dedication ceremonies were! The very best part for me was seeing the absolute joy on Alfred's and Jerome's faces as they finally saw the fruit of their hard work—God's Word coming to their own communities in their own heart languages. We all praise God with the Vutés and Kwanjas that His saving Word is now in their hands. We also pray that, through the work of the Holy Spirit, God's Word will continue to permeate their hearts!

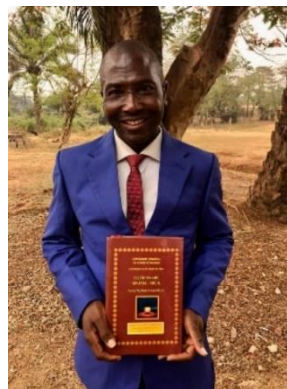
WHAT'S NEXT?

On March 6th, I arrived in Sierra Leone for the second half of my yearlong internship. I've settled in alongside Amy Formella, whom I will be living and working with for the next few months. Amy serves as Translation Advisor for the Mende Bible translation project in the city of Bo. I'm very excited to dig into the translation side of this work!

Thank you all so much for your continued prayers and support for my ministry! God's peace.



Vuté women dance and sing to celebrate the dedication of their new lectionary.



Translator Jerome Yuare proudly presents the new Kwanja lectionary on the day of its dedication.

PRAISE

Praise God for the successful completion of the Vuté and Kwanja-Ndung lectionaries!

Praise God for His presence with me during my transition from Cameroon to Sierra Leone.

PRAYER

Pray that the Holy Spirit will be alive and active among the Vutés and Kwanjas, that their faith will be strengthened as they hear God speaking to them in the language of their hearts.

“Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.”

Revelation 14:6