



As I wrote in my January letter, last November I traveled to Cameroon to work with the **Nizaa New Testament translation team**. Part of that trip was spent in the Nizaa area in the city of Galim as pictured above. The Nizaa used to live up on the mountains where there are caves. They were at such an advantage up there that they withstood several armies that were more powerful including the Fulfulde and the Germans. They knew how to lure the enemy into plants that would make them itch and then they could attack. Now the Nizaa live in various villages and many people speak Fulfulde to the extent that some no longer speak Nizaa. Part of language development in these situations involves determining who is speaking which language and in what contexts. We want to be sensitive and aware of the needs the language community expresses.

Let me introduce you to the two other translation team members who work along with Rev. Ousmanou whom you met in my January letter. **Patouma Sambo** is a teacher in nearby Tignere. She translated Luke and Acts and stays involved as much as she can but is not as active right now. Unfortunately, I did not get to visit long with her or briefly interview her.

**Bah Yougouda Hamadjoda** is a Muslim from the village of Sabongari. He is married and has six children. He was only able to complete his education up to grade 9. At this level there is a national exam which must be passed in order to continue. He is a farmer by profession and a beekeeper. He is also a literacy worker for the Nizaa community.

He first got involved as a classroom teacher for Nizaa literacy 16 years ago. He became a teacher by taking a class in Galim taught by Patouma. He was one of the best in his class. His peers were not getting involved or interested in learning and developing their language. But he committed to the work for two years at \$30 per month. He benefits because he gets to learn so much about Nizaa and culture from the older people he is around. He was sent to the town of Garbiah to be a Nizaa literacy teacher there.

He thanks God that he did not give up the work because he loves the work on the translation. He loves all the training he gets as a translator. He has learned so much about the New Testament and he is still learning, and he won't quit until he learns it all despite his identifying as a Muslim.

When I asked him what he likes best about the work he told me all the advantages he sees. He didn't know what the Bible taught and through translation he is finding out. He now knows much more about the principles of translation. It looks easy or a small thing to translate, but when you learn the principles, you appreciate how big of a job it is. So now he has learned many things. Certain difficult ideas in the Bible must be considered carefully and the conversations have enriched his



**Bah Yougouda Hamadjoda and Patouma Sambo**

## PRAY

**Praise:** for successful trip to Liberia in Jan. Praise for completion of Job in Maan.

**Pray:** for upcoming online checking of Luke, Daniel and other books in March. Pray for the promising candidate for nanny and teacher for Kuhn family. Pray as Nizaa team prepares Luke for more checking.

## Who I am

Becky is YOUR HEART IN ACTION. She serves you as a consultant for translation teams in Liberia and Cameroon, West Africa by using your prayers and support to fulfill your desire to "PUT GOD'S WORD IN THEIR HANDS." Becky rejoices that she is part of your Lutheran Bible Translators team and values this special relationship.

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thinking about what is in the Bible. He has really been pushed to go out to elders in his village and other places to research to find the best way to communicate Biblical ideas in the translation.

Bah also believes it is important for the Nizaa to have the Bible. When people have no idea what is in the Bible, it is like their eyes are closed. Now as he puts it, he has at least one eye open and understands some things that are in the Bible, and he can explain to others a little of what he knows. So, when others will be able to learn to read and write Nizaa, they will be able to read and understand for themselves. He prays that God will give them long enough life to see the dedication of the NT. **Pray that before then, Bah will profess faith in the Christ he is learning about and maybe even bring some others along with him.**

Bah showed us a beehive. He explained that it is made by taking bamboo when it is young. Strips made from it are woven into an oblong basket. Then twine is used to tie grass all around it. The bigger end is stopped up in such a way that the bees know to enter. It is placed high in a tree. Bah usually strips down to harvest his honey because the men that wear clothes end up with bees inside their clothes and that is an awful experience. Imagine! Honey in Cameroon is typically dark reminding me of molasses but sweet as one expects honey to be.



Some Nizaa people depend on corn for food and their livelihood. It is often stored in granaries like the thatch building you see on the left in front of Ma Néné's house. Unfortunately, this one burned down, but her son was able to save most of the corn that was inside.



LBT granted a corn husker and grinder to the Nizaa literacy committee. They are selling its services to gain money for their literacy program. People pay with their corn to use the husker and grinder. Bah showed us the store house for the corn for the literacy work. They will sell it to pay for teacher training. They are saving some of the proceeds for repairs and additional equipment. Each bag of shelled corn is about 200 lbs. By selling 2 or 3 bags, they can conduct a literacy or teacher training workshop.

While the Nizaa harvest their corn, we can remember the harvest Jesus calls to our attention: **"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."** (Luke 10:2 NIV) Thank you for your continued labor with me as we sow seeds of God's word and work His fields for His glory.

*Becky*