



Lutheran Bible
Translators

The Word Endures

The Schultes Story in Scripture

December
2022

Christmas in Cameroon!

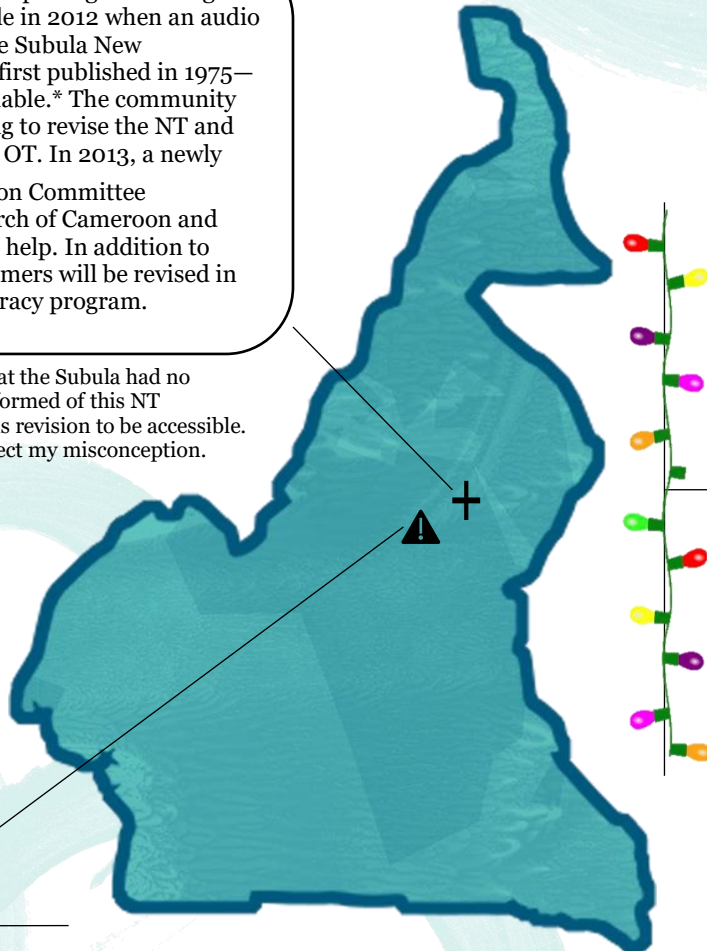
Greetings, friends and fellow members of the family of God! As we celebrate this Advent season, looking forward with eager anticipation towards Christmas and the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Erin, and I wanted to take a minute to share some details about the country of Cameroon! As mentioned in our last letter, this is where we have been assigned. Specifically to serve the Subula language community. Though we won't be departing until we are fully funded and trained we thought it would be fun to share some facts about the country and the Subula people so you could get a sense of what our life would be like if we were celebrating "Christmas in Cameroon" in 2022.



Interest in Scripture grew among the Subula people in 2012 when an audio version of the Subula New Testament—first published in 1975—became available.* The community began seeking to revise the NT and translate the OT. In 2013, a newly

formed Subula Bible Translation Committee approached the Lutheran Church of Cameroon and Lutheran Bible Translators for help. In addition to translation, Subula literacy primers will be revised in anticipation of restarting a literacy program.

*In past presentations, I said that the Subula had no Scriptures. I have since been informed of this NT translation, but it needed serious revision to be accessible. Still, I wanted to be sure to correct my misconception.



Cameroon is a tropical country, meaning it's mainly hot throughout the year. In America, our Christmas season brings wet and cold snow. Conversely, December can be dry and warm in Ngaoundéré, where we will be doing French language training. Cameroon can get cool, even chilly, especially from June to September.

This means unwrapping Christmas presents in shorts and a t-shirt, not a holiday sweater. We'll save those for the 4th of July. The Subula are known for their pottery, so Erin can look forward to a few clay pots for Christmas. I'm sure she'll be thrilled to unwrap those while I shout, "Joyeux Noël!" (French for Merry Christmas).

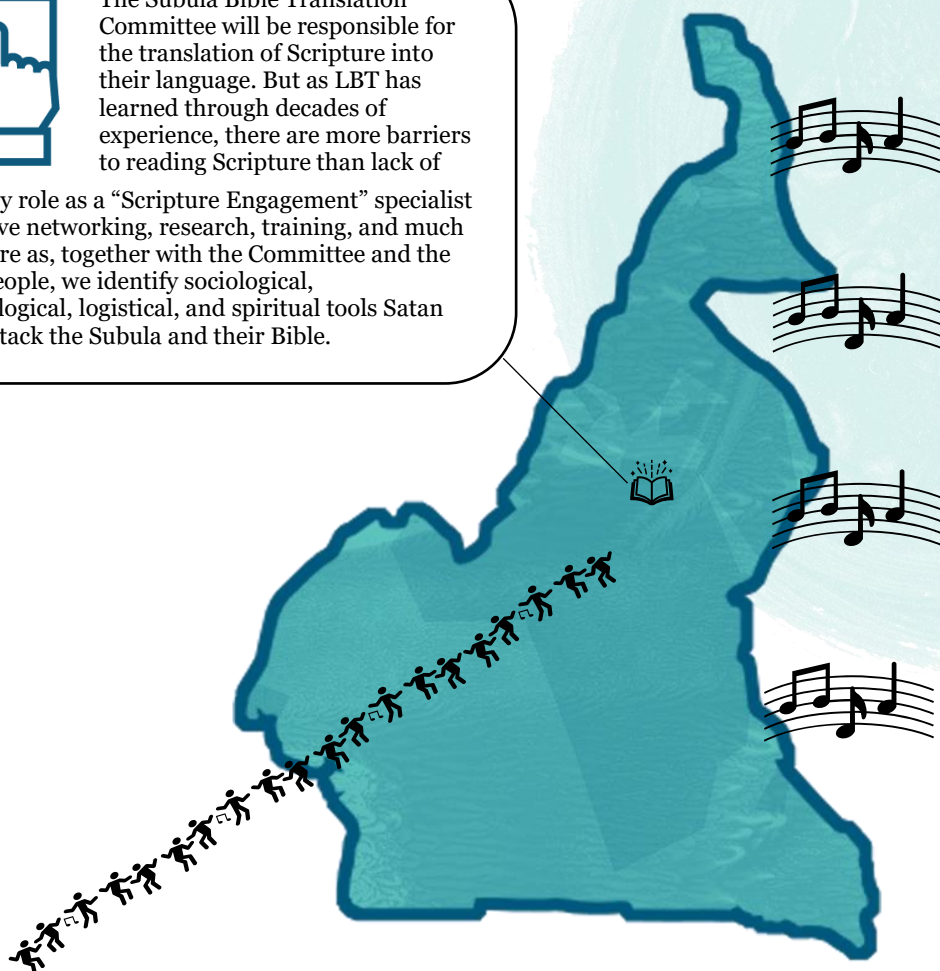


Though Cameroon is a peaceful country, the Subula live on the doorstep of a high-risk area for evangelism and Christian living. What a blessing it is to live in a place where "Happy Holidays" might be the most extreme form of public harassment we face as believers. This Christmas, as we look forward to the Advent of the "Light of the World," let us remember in our prayers those who, like Christ, face the wrath of "Herods" all across the globe.



The Subula Bible Translation Committee will be responsible for the translation of Scripture into their language. But as LBT has learned through decades of experience, there are more barriers to reading Scripture than lack of

access. My role as a “Scripture Engagement” specialist will involve networking, research, training, and much much more as, together with the Committee and the Subula people, we identify sociological, anthropological, logistical, and spiritual tools Satan uses to attack the Subula and their Bible.



The Subula are a primarily oral community. While literate Subula will work on the translation, most community members have learned the faith through listening to its stories. As with all aspects of human existence, this has pros and cons. It presents a unique challenge to share scripture when most of the community doesn't read. On the other hand, listening to a master storyteller like a Cameroonian griot (pictured above) recount a local parable is a uniquely rich experience. Imagine gathering around the fire, stars shimmering like ice across the deep black sky, while Baba Kienou sings to you the story of the three wise men and the star they followed.



Cameroonians don't just leave the singing to the professionals. Every Sunday, each Subula church will find its rafters shaking from all the singing and dancing. In America, more and more churches put on live nativities for Christmas. In Ngaoundéré, the “College Protestant” puts on a massive Christmas program with local choirs and drama troupes participating while the town's mayor presides. Cameroonians are hungry for God's word.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the Subula people and all those who hunger for the full story of the Word who took on flesh for their sake.
- Pray for Erin and me as we work on our final projects for this semester's classes.

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