

THE WORD OF GOD -

In Their Hands - And Upon Their Hearts

Weber - LBT Cameroon Christmas - New Year's Letter 2022-2023

A Blessed Christmas ... & God's Surprises

The wonder of Christmas never grows old,
His love and wisdom will forever be told.
God is not limited to what we can see.
Far beyond the things that seem to be
He works His greater, eternal reality.

Looking back more than 2000 years ago...

God answered prayer, though it seemed too slow.
Zechariah and Elisabeth had asked for a child
Her time had passed, there was no way.
Until God changed all in just one day!

Gabriel appeared! "Zechariah, do not fear,
Your prayer has reached God's ear.
Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,
Whom you are to name "John".

No ordinary child would he be,
But one whose life and destiny
Was to fulfill Isaiah's prophetic word,
To prepare the way for the coming of the Lord.

Mary, a young virgin of Nazareth,
Was engaged to Joseph, a devout man.
Suddenly Gabriel appeared!
In one day, God changed destiny again.

She believed the angel and accepted to be
The mother of the Son of the Most High.
But who would believe her word
That she was to be the mother of the Lord?

God provided - a journey to see Elizabeth.
Even as Mary arrived with her greeting,
John, through the Spirit, leaped at the meeting
And Elizabeth welcomed the mother of her Lord.

Mary returned home after three months away,
Pregnant, what would people think and say?
And how would Joseph receive
Her incredible story, true, yet hard to believe?

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream
To explain things weren't what they would seem.
So he took Mary into his Nazareth home,
Preparing for Jesus the Savior to be born.

But how would the prophecy come true -
Which Micah foretold centuries before?
"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though small,
Out of you will come One to be ruler over all."

Caesar Augustus had come to power,
And now called for a census in that hour.
So Joseph traveled to his ancestral town,
To register with Mary in Bethlehem.
It was while there, Jesus was born!

His bed was a manger, it was a humble birth,
But then angels suddenly appeared in the sky
And gloriously announced His arrival to earth
To shepherds watching sheep in the fields nearby.

"Have no fear, news of great joy is here!
A Savior is born who is Christ the Lord!
To God be the Highest Glory for this birth,
Who brings peace and favor to men on earth."

As the angels left, they hurried to find Him.
They saw, believed and spread the word in awe.
Jesus, the Savior of the world is here!
They could not keep inside what they saw!

Our God who orchestrated the Christmas story,
Still works His plan and purposes on earth.
He comes to us with His power and glory
And makes us new through the Spirit's rebirth!

***May the Lord fill us all with TRUST
as we enter the New Year,
and with courage to share our hope
in a very confused world!***

Dear friends and partners in ministry,



Are you surprised to receive an LBT prayer letter from us this Christmas season? Well, we are sort of surprised too!

Yes, we retired from missionary work with LBT two years ago. This

past year we settled in New Hampshire and have been adjusting to our new place near two of our three children's families. Cameroon has started to feel like another world far away.

Late November, LBT's West Africa Director Pastor David Federwitz and Cameroon missionary Pastor Mike Kuhn began communications with us. **They want us to come back to help mentor and train Cameroonian translators!**

Since then, things have been shaping up very quickly. We have just been accepted as "adjunct missionaries" with LBT. We are preparing to travel to Cameroon from mid-February until the end of April, for our first trip.

You may remember that the Subula people in Cameroon passionately want God's Word translated into their language. We were privileged to welcome and mentor the Derricks family when they arrived in Cameroon in 2018. They made great progress and got both translation and literacy work well underway before their furlough back home to share with supporters about their work. However, unexpectedly, they were not able to continue with LBT and return to Cameroon. We feel their loss and the loss of the Subula people.

Thankfully a new couple is in training who plan to help the Subula team continue, but it will likely take a couple of years for them to prepare for this. Meanwhile, the very motivated Subula team members are continuing to work. LBT encouraged us to return to Cameroon to help mentor and assist them, while the new LBT couple finishes their training and preparations. We will also give encouragement, training, and counsel as needed in other projects.

Yes, we are getting older. As "adjunct missionaries" we will be allowed to work at our own pace.

A HUGE THANK YOU!

You have received this letter because you participated with us in prayer and financial support through our past years of service in Cameroon to reach the Kwanjas and others with God's Word in their languages. Or you are among family and friends who continue to show us love and personal support. THANK YOU! We thank the Lord for His faithfulness through the years. And also for ***your faithfulness.*** Thank you for continuing to pray for us!

Thank God with us:

- Martin's new passport came in just 11 days!
- Our friends at church are saying "go for it!"
- A generous donor provided plane tickets
- Many blessed times with our New Hampshire "kids" and grandkids

PRAY with us:

- That **God will continue to sustain us in health, with wisdom and energy for the situations we will face, working mostly with Cameroonians we haven't worked with before.**
- That **God will provide for all the details to work out, including visas.**
- For renewed prayer and financial support (see details below)

*We wish you
a very Christ-filled season
And many blessings with God-given
surprises this New Year!*

*In Christ's Love,
Martin & Joan Weber*

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Creating a much greater eternal reality.**

To contact us:

By Email: Weber.kwanja@gmail.com
Martin.Weber@lbt.org
Joan.Weber@lbt.org

By Mail: (when in US): Martin & Joan Weber
16 Aspen Lane
Merrimack, NH 03054

For contributions:
(Please designate for Weber-Cameroon ministry)

Lutheran Bible Translators
PO Box 789
Concordia, MO 64020-0789

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