

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

Weber - LBT Cameroon Prayer Letter

May 2023

May 5, 2023

Dear friends and partners in prayer,

You may be wondering: *Where are the Webers? What are they doing?* We just got back to the US last week from a 2 ½ month trip to Cameroon. **THANK YOU to all who have supported and prayed for us!**

What did we see there? **Bible Translation is happening!**

What do you get when -

- A language group wants their own Bible so strongly that they welcomed LBT missionaries like they would welcome and honor a visit from the President!

- A well-respected Bible scholar personally sacrifices hundreds of hours to translate and help others translate into his mother tongue, so that his language group will get their entire Bible.

- A smaller language group proves that they merit a full Bible by massively using their translated New Testament and Psalms.

- Other language groups who are using their translated Scriptures want full Bibles. Rev Mike Kuhn's SURAM survey work is helping them learn how THEY can support their own Bible translation movement.

- Paramount chiefs who, although they are politically of a dominating world religion, are in full support of Bible translation projects in their languages.

You get -

Exciting Bible translation projects!

Yes, translation is happening!

- **The Subula people** warmly welcomed new missionaries who visited for a few days. **Their translation is moving full steam ahead** – a team of six translators, including two Pastors, are working full time.
- **Great progress for the Dii people** led by their Bible scholar who is working for their complete Bible.
- **Local language committees are being organized** in several other groups to get their complete Bibles (they have New Testaments, lectionaries – and want MORE!)

Thank the Lord for what He is doing!

LBTC missionary Pastor Mike Kuhn, (below with the EELC bishop) continues working with the Lutheran Church of Cameroon, to encourage and equip these translations projects.



What is our future role as adjunct missionaries?

As we plan our next trip (Oct to mid-Jan), I (Martin) plan to prepare and invite the active national Bible translators to a "Professional Translators Conference", where THEY will be the main speakers! Those who are more experienced will have the opportunity to demonstrate to the others their mastery of translation principles. They will share their experience working in Paratext, the computer program which connects them with many of the resources they need to produce and pre-publish their translation.



“For such a time as this”

We are amazed at God’s timing and His provision for our recent visit to Cameroon from Feb. 12th – April 27th. It was His timing to encourage the Subula people.

Since we attended the large Subula assembly in 2015, their earnest cry for help to translate the Bible in their language really touched us. In 2018 we gladly welcomed LBT missionaries Elliot and Serena Derricks. They made great progress in language learning, then began translation and literacy with the Subula people.

After their furlough, they were not able to return to Cameroon. We felt the loss and prayed for them and for the Subula people. When Rev. David Federwitz, our LBT field director, invited us to come back as “adjunct missionaries” to encourage the Subula people, we quickly sensed it was God’s calling.

In late February we traveled to the Subula translation center. Six translators were there with their computers translating the Scriptures into their two language dialects. During our two weeks there, we sorted through the things the Derricks family had left behind, and sent pictures and keepsakes back to Serena.

We took in the excitement of a brief visit from Pastor Tim and Erin Schulte, new LBT missionaries who plan to work with the Subula people after they complete training and preparations late next year.

After we met the four Subula literacy workers, I (Joan) felt a growing excitement. They needed help to complete the primers they had begun with Serena Derricks. With the Derricks unable to return, they were discouraged about how to continue. I messaged Serena, who really encouraged me to help them complete the books and sent me more information by email to continue the project.

Two weeks later, the Subula literacy workers traveled to work with us in Ngaoundéré, where I could get their lessons and hand-drawn illustrations entered into the computer publishing program used for their primers. They came so eager to work together, it was a joy to be with them. Their motivation:

“We want our people to have God’s Word in our language. And to be able to read it!”

The results? Two books in each dialect for them to proofread, before final printing when we return later

this year. As well as plans to create a story book from their own stories- another project for our next visit.

Yes, we plan to return in October for about 3 ½ months, to continue to encourage Subula literacy work and Bible translators of various languages.



Meanwhile, we are back to grandparenting, and settling back into life

in our New Hampshire home. We pray for God’s work in our nation among us, as well as overseas.

Thank you for helping to make it possible, with your prayers and gifts. God’s blessings!

In His Peace and Love.

Martin and Joan Weber

Martin & Joan Weber

THANK GOD for:

- His calling, provision, and timing for us and our partners in Cameroon
- For safety and blessings in travel and health
- For progress in completing Subula primer for literacy classes
- For His continuing work in Cameroon for Bible translation and literacy to reach the peoples

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