

***The Word of God -
In their hands
and upon their hearts***
Weber - LBT Cameroon Prayer Letter
September 2023

CALLED BACK TO CAMEROON!

Dear Partners in Prayer,

How quickly our time back in the US has passed, including several trips **connecting with family members**. We truly enjoy our six grandchildren, from almost 2 to 9 years old. We are also thankful for our “church family” we are getting to know in New Hampshire.

Now we are excited to **travel again to Cameroon** from **October 1st through January 12th**, continuing what we began earlier this year.

During our 2 ½ months in Cameroon last February through April, we couldn’t help but see God’s hand with us. **By His grace:**

- We witnessed the **transition of leadership** in the EELC (the Lutheran Church of Cameroon). Pastor Boukar Bakari became the new director of their Translation and Literacy Department. Martin prayed for and encouraged Pastor Daniel Touka, (with whom we had worked closely for several years) as he moves into training as the first EELC Translation Consultant .
- We sent keepsakes back to the Derricks family, after sorting through their things. Unable to return to LBT ministry with the Subula people, they were greatly missed.
- We visited and encouraged the Subula translators in their village workplace. (*below*)



- We met **Pastor Tim and Erin Schulte** (pictured below), when they came for a few days to see where they will be working with LBT in Cameroon. They are preparing to come next year to work with the Subula people. The Subula welcomed them very enthusiastically during their brief visit. Along with the translation and literacy workers, **the Subula people really want all of God’s Word in their language.**



• **Help for the Subula Literacy team!**

When we first met the four Subula literacy workers last February, they expressed their urgent need to complete their reading lesson booklets to teach reading their language to their people. (They had begun these books with Serena Derricks, but she could not return.) Two weeks later, they came to Ngaoundere to work with me (Joan).



We completed trial copies of their books in their two dialects, to test with others before printing hundreds of copies. I look forward to returning to help them get these printed so they can begin classes early next year. I look forward also to helping them to get a storybook in their language to have something to read!

Celebration and new Vision: The Lutheran Church in Cameroon is **celebrating their 100th anniversary** this October. They welcome us “old timers” to join them in thanking God for the growth of His Church there. Begun through the work of several early faithful missionaries, it has expanded, now with many trained Cameroonian pastors, evangelists, and lay pastors to spread God’s Word to several parts of Cameroon.



Martin connected with the Dii Translation project when we were last in Cameroon.

TRANSLATOR TRAINING – A PARADIGM SHIFT

Missionaries used to direct and train local Bible translators to translate the Scriptures into their own languages. But now, with more education, national churches are assigning their trained pastors as Bible translators for their own languages. Not one but **two** pastors were assigned to the Subula Bible translation project, along with four other well-educated Subula translators. They work with a specialized, very powerful translation software tool called Para-Text, which helps them translate God’s Word more accurately and consistently.

When we came to Cameroon last February, Pastor Touka asked me (Martin) to organize and lead a translation seminar. I agreed, and began to check out which translation teams could

come when, and especially what their respective training needs were. I quickly saw that the timing would be better this fall. We believe it is best for the translators themselves, who are working in their own language projects, share what they have learned with other translators whose skills are less developed. This method will not only help those they teach, but also reinforces their capacity as “teachers”.

Skills for Bible translators include doing exegetical studies of the Scriptures before translating each part, so that the translation will be accurate to the original languages. Another skill is learning to use audio media apps to record drafted Scripture portions for the public to listen to on their phones, so they can give them feedback on the clarity and naturalness of their translation. Some translators present will be able to share skills in these and other key areas.

I will also bring out ten “translation pitfalls” which I have identified over 40 years of Bible translation experience, along with the corresponding “best practices” which avoid the pitfalls.

Prayer and financial support:

We look forward to seeing God provide for us again, as He has in the past, providing through your prayers and your contributions. **Thank you for really coming through to send us earlier this year!**

We need more financial support for this trip, as well as your prayer support. (See address to left.) May God’s peace and blessings be with each of you!

In His Peace and Love.

Martin and Joan Weber

Martin & Joan Weber

THANK GOD for:

Ongoing work in Cameroon for Bible translation and literacy to reach the peoples for Jesus!

Please pray with us for:

- **Wisdom and vision** so we can be of help and encourage the work in Cameroon at this time.
- **Health and strength** for the journeys ahead
- **Visas and all preparations completed for us to leave on time.**
- **God’s Word to go forward** in the languages of the peoples, that they can hear and understand and receive His gift of Life in Jesus!

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