

# *THE WORD OF GOD -* ***In Their Hands - And Upon Their Hearts***

***Weber - LBT Cameroon Christmas letter 2024***

## **CHRISTMAS - And Seasons of Life**

**A**fter creation, mankind fell into sin.  
**D**ivine promises were then soon given.  
**V**ery hopeful of the promised Seed to come,  
**E**ven Isaiah prophesied the birth of a Son.  
**N**ew covenant promises given to overcome sin,  
**T**o all mankind a Savior would be given.

**C**hrist was born when the time was right,  
**H**is birth was announced to shepherds that night.  
**R**ejoicing, they found God's Son as a tiny babe,  
**I**mmmanuel, God with us, who came to save.  
**S**igns in the sky gave a message to those afar,  
**T**o guide wise men who followed the star.  
**M**eeting Jesus, they were in awe  
**A**nd worshiped Him, the King they saw.  
**S**o we also embrace the One who fulfills all.

**G**rowing in favor with God and man,  
**R**eaching the age of twelve, along He went  
**O**n to Jerusalem for the Temple event.  
**W**asn't Jesus with the group to return?  
**T**arrying behind in the Temple courts,  
**H**e was found in His Father's House.

**M**inistry began, when Jesus came to John.  
**I**n being baptized, He fulfilled what was right.  
**N**ow the Father spoke to commend His Son.  
**I**n the power of the Spirit, His ministry had begun.  
**S**tarting with forty days to fast and pray,  
**T**empted in the wilderness, He showed the way,  
**R**esisting the devil thru God's Word in that hour.  
**Y**ielded to God, He spoke and healed in His power.

**P**erfectly Jesus lived His earthly race,  
**A**nd then was punished in our place,  
**S**o we could be forgiven by God's grace.  
**S**in was atoned for by His death,  
**I**t is finished, He said before His last breath.  
**O**ff the cross, His lifeless body was buried,  
**N**ight was coming, so no one tarried.

**E**aster dawned, women hurried to the tomb.  
**A**live? Away with doubt and gloom!  
**S**oon Jesus appeared, having conquered death,  
**T**o His own, He inspired them with His breath.  
**E**ating, drinking, showing His scars, it was true.  
**R**esurrection Life means we will live too!

**P**assing it on, through **Pentecost power**,  
**E**very believer is called in this day and hour!  
**N**ations and peoples from every place,  
**T**ribes and tongues need to know God's grace!  
**E**veryone far and near,  
**C**an they hear of Jesus' love so dear?  
**O**f God's great plan for our salvation?  
***Spirit, breathe into us your life and power***  
***To use us, Your people, in this hour!***

**R**eturn to us soon, Lord Jesus Christ!  
**E**agerly we wait for your coming in Glory  
**T**o enter into the rest of the story!  
**U**nited in Your Heavenly Kingdom,  
**R**ejoicing at the CHRIST-MAS feast in Heaven,  
**N**ew LIFE we'll live, free from all pain and sin!

## Dear Partners in Prayer and Ministry,

Just as there are seasons in the Church Year, we go through seasons in our lives.

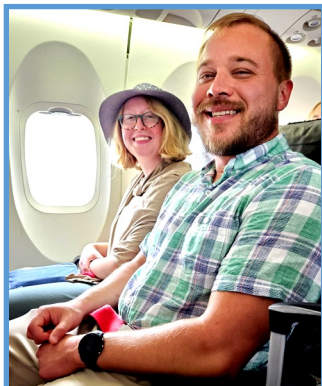
**Advent and Christmas:** To us a child is born! We anticipated, now rejoice at the birth of Melody Ray Larson, born to our daughter Sarah Joy and Nathan Larson on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, our 7<sup>th</sup> grandchild. We enjoy also her big sister Iris, now 3 years old.



Newborn  
Melody

**Growth and Ministry:** This year we are blessed with serving our children and grandchildren near us in New Hampshire. We will visit son Sammy, Kelsey and their four children in Cameroon for Christmas.

The ministry of LBT in Cameroon continues. In September, Pastor Tim and Erin Schulte (*right*) arrived and are making good progress in building relationships and learning French, the common language to work with the different languages in Cameroon.



**Passion:** We joined missionaries and staff of Lutheran Bible Translators in July at a retreat in Missouri to celebrate 60 years since LBT began, and to look forward to future ministry directions. We also celebrated 50 years of what God has done through LBT of Canada, joining them in Ontario in May, and then in Alberta in September.

**Resurrection:** We miss Joan's older sister Ruth Ward who passed away in June, on to Resurrection Life in Heaven. One day we will join all the saints there.

**Pentecost: Passing it on! We plan to return to Cameroon just after Thanksgiving, staying through mid-February:**

- To encourage national translators, the directors overseeing them in the Cameroon Lutheran Church, and the Schultes, who are getting started well.
- To help coordinate another Translators' Conference for several language teams who are translating the Scriptures into their own languages.

**JESUS' RETURN:** We look forward to His coming! Meanwhile, we want many more to come to the Lord before it is too late, in America, Canada, Cameroon, and throughout the world! May His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven!

**THANK YOU for joining us in mission with your prayers and support!**

## Please PRAY with us for:

- Continuing safety, health and strength as we engage in another LBT Cameroon ministry trip.
- God's wisdom as He equips and uses us to help and encourage others who continue the work.
- Safe travels: We plan to leave the US Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, to return Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Rev. Tim and Erin Schulte, who arrived in September. Pray for continuing good adjustment to life in Cameroon and good progress in their French studies.
- Us to be an encouragement and blessing to the Schultes, and others we encounter.
- The planning and preparation of the second Translators Conference early next year. Pray for wisdom for us to best help national translators share with one another.
- The Subula translators and literacy workers, that we may help and encourage them in literacy and translation.
- Blessings on our family times for Christmas with our son Sammy's family in Cameroon.

*A Blessed Christmas  
& God's blessings and peace  
throughout the seasons  
of this New Year!  
In Christ's Love,  
Martin & Joan Weber*



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