



Cameroon Report

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Volume 35, Number 1

15th March 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my last report, I told about how the rains kept going until November 20th, the latest ever. Well this March, it sprinkled on the 5th and 6th, and poured on the 7th and 8th, which is the earliest advent of the rains since we moved here in 1981! However, it can also stop for six weeks, after people have planted, as we have seen. So every year is different. I planted my sweet corn on March 9th.

Our biggest new news is not about the strikes and civil disturbances here; those lasted about half a week before the military calmed things down. Our biggest news is also not about some change or big result in one of our eight programs. Most of those continue to function as normal and haven't had any spectacular results or problems. No, the biggest news is financial. In the last year, the dollar exchange rate has dropped 18%. That means we get \$82 for every \$100 you sent a year ago. Added to that are the increases in prices. Gasoline-has increased 15%, soap 40%, red palm oil 65% and cement 55%. So we are needing your special prayers. This is a year for us to come and make reports far and wide and raise funds for the next tour, but we don't even have our tickets to get to the U.S. in July right now!

As I wrote last time, this is a "refresher" year for my co-workers: I take each one of them with me on one of my four days a week out preaching. They each preach at their own place, with another evangelist as an assistant. We are hoping to learn different ways, attitudes, and methods that will make each of them more productive. One of my places, Takijah Market, was on Fridays, when there is a weekly market; the other 6 days of the week there are about 35 people in that area. However, we could not get even a few people to leave their market business or buying and come across the road to hear the preaching. So after 5 weeks we changed that preaching to Duiykuy, at the request of one of our graduates, Kiru Simon. We have preached 8 times in 17 weeks, which is very poor. The Catholics and the Presbyterians have warned their members off, and only a couple of people send their Bible

Lessons in through others, especially children. We are going to see if personal studies can work any.

My other three places are going very well, at Tcha' (where we have a congregation), Bamtov, and Baasee. We have a lot of people taking lessons and very rarely cannot preach, mostly because of serious farming days. Brother Jean-Pierre had a baptism at Saan in January, and Brother Bernard meets with the Ngendzen congregation. Brother Pierre (Bamkika'ay), Brother Jeremiah (Dzeng), and Brother Zacharia (Melim) keep on plugging at those preaching points and have some regulars who keep coming. I am happy to have had time with each of them, and the program of an evangelist assisting me one day and another evangelist another day has helped, especially if someone is out of town.

In addition, I teach and administer the Bible School five days a week. I have re-written the Pentateuch course, which was hard on all of us, and have gone through with Bible Word Studies well. In Church Music, I have been teaching both 2nd termers and 4th termers, so we have to switch off days for different lessons. However, all of our students have done well this term and none have left.

On Saturdays, I spend about 7 1/2 hours out of town in the Mbam valley. I have been teaching my extension Leadership Training Course, which has lessons on the Church, and on Problems in the Church. We have at least 20 every week, and have had about 55 different people to drop in at least once. This is very tiring and shuttling people around takes about 5 hours of driving, which is expensive. One of the fall-outs of our lack of finances is that the Toyota Hilux (transmission) and the Chevrolet (clutch) are both broken down for the foreseeable future, until we get some more money. Otherwise, we are safe, in good health, and the work is going GREAT! Remember us in prayer, as we do all of you.

In His Service,

Paul

JOTS from JANET

Dear family and friends,

As begun in the last newsletter, my odyssey of sorting Bible materials continues. Instead of ending up with just one month of reprieve, I had more than three months to get the materials out of the room which was used for the children's Sunday School room. The reason was that the congregation did not have enough money to finance the plastering and cementing of the room at that time. Dry season came, and every time I went there, I would spend a good fifteen minutes to dust off all of the piles of paper. I am talking about dirt dust, not house dust as in lint! I started going through the individual booklets to see if there was something that I could work on, like stickers, things that needed taped, stapled or glued. There is no way that anyone in a congregation would be able to do what is necessary on some of these teaching aids. I put together different sacks holding the booklets that were the same. Rosine, who helped me before, was on school break, so she spent a lot of hours putting together some of these. I had to go over to her house and give her a few basic instructions concerning this. I have also have brought work home with me. It is just a fraction of what needs to be done. I had hoped to give out more sacks to congregations, like I did in December, to those who come to the Northwest Lectureship. It was suppose to have been the end of February, but was postponed due to taxi strikes and unrest here. So I have about three more weeks to get together more. But I now have only one week (last chance) to clear out that Sunday School room because the Bible school will be on break, and the construction will be done then. I had hoped to put the remaining materials I wanted to keep on some newly made shelves, but we did not have the money to get the wood to make them with. So a lot of them will be put back in boxes, separated by plastic bags, to be resorted again later.

In early December I started an in-depth study on Prayer. The weekly class was for the women at the small congregation in my neighborhood, which I had been attending a lot because of my back, and for any visitors. I wanted to teach this class because I also needed a more confident belief in prayer. Already, I have seen the wonders that God can perform! I believe that the study helped one of our sisters through her recent loss of her husband. I will finish this class this month, and perhaps start to teach it at another congregation in town. I used a condensed version of teaching this for a lesson I taught out in the village of Lang Oku where we spent two nights. I also had planned to teach the condensed lesson at the women's course in Bamenda. I had my bag packed and ready to leave on the trip, but the women to ride with me did not show up.

In Christian love,

Janet M Kee