



Cameroon Report

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Dear Brethren,

What a busy year it has been, and how quickly time has passed, though filled to the brim with activities. At the end of last year we were completely engrossed with our dry season programs, including Moral Education in high schools, the Kumbo Christian Bible School, Bible Sharing, and Public Bible Lectures, particularly at Mbo'nsu. These were on top of the normal activities, like the Bible Lesson Office, Sunday Visits to congregations, the translation projects, and special occasions, like the National Annual Bible Lectureship, which was at Ekona Mbengue, with over 500 in attendance and about a dozen baptisms. We took almost 50 people from here and all worked hard in evangelism.

During the height of dry season, especially around New Year's, I visited places where I spent the night, or had a long day's journey to go and come, like Mayo Binka, Nkali Din, and Lang Oku. At Ndzevru' I spent two days with Brother Walters Vernyuy, a graduate, making sundried blocks for the church building for which they are planning. During the February school break, I visited 9 congregations in the Mbembe language area (about 5+ hours away) and saw several graduates. At Mbande, I was sick most of 3 days, could not eat, but Brother Fai was of great help, and we accomplished much.

All through dry season I was going to Mbo'nsu twice a week, with a total of 5 helpers, and spent four days and three nights there every week. Brother Jean-Pierre baptized the first two converts in January and our first worship was on January 31st, after the hottest night of the year (the temperature actually went UP 5 degrees during the darkness)! We have had a total of 8 baptisms and restored one Christian. Since July we have rotated our schedules so that usually an evangelist goes on Saturday to hold class and worship on Sundays, plus following up on prospects. We recently baptized Tатаh Geraldine. We hope to have some more baptisms this weekend, and eventually two congregations.

Bible School went well, also, during the dry season.

I taught Monday, Thursday, and Friday mornings, since I was in Mbo'nsu Monday afternoons until Wednesday, and Friday afternoons and Saturday. We also continued to visit a great variety of the congregations in this two-division-wide area. Almost all of our students did well, and we had 13 to graduate in the March ceremony, 3 of whom got Third-Year Diplomas, the result of 4 summers of intensive work. From those in Bible School then, only 1 returned to finish and 1 came back to fulfill quarters he owes. So we now have 12 brand-new students with them, including 3 in the French-speaking section. Right now we are struggling to keep them from being discouraged, which always happens at the very beginning, but everyone is trying very hard.

I visited Lang Oku in March and saw white Harmattan, the first since 1974, which was over by the time Ryan and Laura came to visit in April (which Janet will tell more about). Brother Jeremiah Akamah, after working with us since 1982, retired near the end of May. This means I had to take over as Principal again (my 5th time since 1976), and have been doing that job also since our Advanced Courses started in June. We had 4 of the best, most serious students for that, so it was a joy. In May, we had gone to Bamenda for a two-day National "Preachers' Forum", which will be hosted here as the "Leadership Forum" by Nkavikeng next May. Right before the Advanced Courses, Janet and I spent 8 days in Buea, where I taught my "Church Leadership: With and Without Elders" course, with 67 in attendance! Right after the Advanced Courses (August), we went to Limbe, Buea and Douala, to recruit, visit Mbalangi (who host the Lectureship in 2011), and last shopping for the year.

Janet and I will be in the States for 5 weeks after Thanksgiving. Then we will be back for one and a half more years before reporting-leave in 2012-2013. So please keep us in your prayers, as we do you, especially when we give prayers of thanks.

In His service,

Paul

JOTS from JANET

Dear Friends,

We thank God continually for your love, concern, and support in our work for the Lord in Cameroon. Although it is hard to keep up with correspondence with each of you, we do relish hearing from you individually about what is going on in each of your lives. We pray that all has been well and that those in the Faith are working toward the goal that we shall obtain in life eternal. At times, in all of our lives there are struggles, physically and spiritually. But God, who has our best interests and futures in His hands, does not give us more than we can bear. And with prayer and supplication, through Jesus Christ our Lord, there is always a road that will lead us on to joy, trust, and thankfulness to Him who gave us Life. That each of you would have this kind of road, is our prayer.

A great joy which I have had this year was that our son, Ryan, with his wife, Laura, came for a visit in April for three weeks. Little did I know when he left ten years ago, that it would be such a long time until he came back to visit. So with anxiety and excitement, I prepared for their coming. Being a mother, as you other mothers can relate to, I wanted everything to be just right. I cleaned and I scrubbed and I painted, etc. etc. Two weeks before their arrival, a HUGE dust storm came down from the Sahara desert, which covered most of west and central Africa (so the internet said). It was a fine white powder that settled on everything, even inside the houses. So a lot of cleaning that I had done had to be redone. As I wrote Laura, some things just were a certain way because that is how it is in Africa (C'est l'Afrique!) Among which was, the electricity and water going on and off. I do have to admit though, that I think both acted up even worse while they were here. Most nights we were left in the dark, and without running water to take a shower. That's where LOTS of candles and buckets of water from the rain catchment tank came in handy. But it was frustrating for all of us. I feel like a lot of things I had wanted to do with them could and did not get accomplished because that time was spent in doing the little extra things to make up for the inconveniences. That was at the last two weeks of their trip because the first week we went directly from the airport up to the northern part of the country to a game reserve and then to the southern part again to the ocean. We wanted Laura to see as much of the country as possible. On their way going out of the country we took them toward the east to the capital. There, Ryan also got to see some of his childhood friends who were working or studying there. Of course, the time passed by TOO fast, and when they did leave, I felt the "empty nest syndrome" more than I did the first time! Hopefully they will come back with their children some day. Oops, my space is finished, so I will continue the rest of the year next time!

In Christian love,

