



Cameroon Report

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By the time you get this, Janet and I will be in Memphis (at the number above), for almost all this month. We will have spent six hours in freezing cold weather walking around Paris and have gotten to Memphis late and tired, but with many activities on the 1st. We have many optometric, dental, medical, and physical appointments, plus shipping a crate of Bibles and biblical reference books, plus a lot of car parts for the Chevrolet. We fly back to Cameroon on January 4th, to resume preaching, and teaching in the Bible School. Thankfully we only travel once, to Alabama to Ryan and Laura's.

We just attended the National Annual Bible Lectureship, which was hosted at Bertoua, in the East region, this year. There were representatives from 65 congregations, with 190 in worship on Sunday morning, both more than I expected. Bertoua is 13 hours hard driving from Nso', so we went from can to can't on Friday. It is 5 hours east of Yaounde, the capital, with only one other congregation east of it. We took 15 from Nso', mostly French-speakers, including Brother Nyembe Philip, the new convert from Mbo'nso. There were 4 baptisms and the city was saturated with house-to-house work.

Just before we left for Bertoua, Brother Go'la Joshua Dufe finally died, after struggling for more than a year with liver cancer. He was comforting his visitors to the last, since he was ready to go! Joshua was a hard-working deacon (one of two) at Nkavikeng. The burial was a HUGE affair, with representatives from a dozen congregations added to the family, relatives, well-wishers, etc. We spent about 5 hours there, so when the other two cars left on Thursday as planned, Janet and I delayed our departure to Bertoua until Friday, since we were also getting ready to fly out Monday night, the 29th of November. All in all, that worked out well for us, although next time we will take two days to Bertoua!

Since I will be out a total of 6 weeks, right in the middle of public preaching time (the first time I have ever done this break in December), Oliver and I were going twice a week to preach at Semndzen, his home village.

Brother Kilalon Oliver Wirngo is a Bible School graduate, with a Third-Year Diploma as well, and the other deacon at Nkavikeng. His wife is Mary Yiven, and they have four children. Oliver's dream has been for his village to have a congregation. Our going to Semndzen twice a week has caused a great response; in fact, the rejection by Muslims at the nearby Takov has only fueled their "two-handed reception" of what we are teaching. We have 52 people, so far, taking the Bible Lessons, and last Monday we preached on Baptism, to a crowd of about 60 adults, plus children. During the time I am out, Oliver and Brother Kiru Simon Selamu (another Third-Year Diploma holder in that area) will be doing the preaching twice a week and keeping up (hopefully) with the lessons. So pray that before I even get back, they have some baptisms and the congregation is started there.

Although I have written e-mails about the persecution at Takov, I think the story bears repeating in this newsletter: First, the reception to our giving out Bibles and starting the preaching was very, very positive. The first Sunday afternoon, we had over 40 adults, with about 15 of them being Moslems. We were gratified, but we had laid the ground work by visiting the Quarter Head (a Moslem) and the Liman, the mosque leader. They both received us well, so we did not anticipate any active resistance from them. Second, we went back to Takov, as planned, that Tuesday afternoon, the Muslim quarter where we laid groundwork and had a great reception. When we had finished going around the village streets with the loudspeaker, we stopped in our spot and started to get ready, When Oliver and Simon brought out two benches from an old woman's house, two or three people told them they could not preach there. We started to discuss with them, and tell them the steps we had taken to get approval.

They did not want to listen, but started shouting. We were told that one of them, called "Captain," was the only one who could approve and that we could not preach in the third quarter. They completely disregarded the Liman and the Quarter Head, Shufaay Shimang, and said we must leave. They lied by saying that everyone in third quarter was 100% Muslim. One young man had smoked Indian

hemp (very strong marijuana) and was shouting, threatening to fight, and saying they were "Ready for war." Oliver, Simon, and Joan-Mary tried to talk to them, but were shouted down. Surprisingly, I was the only one calm and using a quiet voice. When we agreed to leave, for then, Simon and Oliver went to take the benches back to the place from which they came. The "Captain" (my age) ran across the road, seized the benches from their hands and threw them into the road, saying we must go with all our cargo. I calmly asked the man, who was shouting, what had made him so vexed. He said, "You too will get vexed." I said, "No, I won't." We calmed them down again, and I tried to joke with a few, especially the young man who had been "throwing kerosine on the fire" by shouting and threatening. We hung around for over an hour, as I slowly packed and talked to people. Oliver and Simon went to see the Liman, the Mosque leader, who sent me cola nuts. He said that small group (5 or 6 people) had invaded his house and bullied him. He could do nothing (Pontius Pilate stuff, according to Oliver). We at last left and reported to the Quarter Head's wife (he was in the farm) about what had happened. Many people, especially Muslim women, greeted us and wished us well as we left.

Third, on Thursday I hand-delivered a report to the Senior Divisional Officer, advising him about the problem, in case something got worse. That afternoon we went to Semndzen (next quarter) so we went up to turn in Takov and gave a copy of the letter to the Quarter Head (still not at home). For days we prayed about the hearts of the people of Takov, since we knew there was division, we hoped they would come on their worship day, Friday, and solve their own problem.

Fourth, we went back Sunday afternoon. We stopped to see the Quarter Head, who had come especially to be there when we came. He was angry with them, about overruling him, about trying to order us off a public road, and about claiming religious rights over the village. We only used the loudspeaker to go up and down on the main road. When we put the Chevrolet in the gutter in front of the cooperative building, and the three benches we had brought with us in the ditch on the other side of the road, some children came to sit. Men came with sticks and whipped them and stacked our benches. After standing the easel and blackboard against the car, I went back across the street and put out the benches again. When that "Captain" said we should not preach, I merely said over my shoulder, "If someone does not want to come, let him stay away, no problem." He said there was a problem.

Then an El Hadji Daouda, a council member, came and started talking calmly with Oliver at the front of the car. About 50 men came around to hear. The El Hadji (means he's been to Mecca) calmed them down, and told them not to carry away the benches. I finally talked to him

a little bit. He was reasonable, but still told the lie that everyone was Muslim there and did not want us. (Afterward a man with a Jesus' picture badge came and asked for his Bible, the fact remains that no one ever gave back a Bible in Takov.) The Liman (undoubtedly forced to come) stayed 30 seconds and said that he wanted peace and that we should leave. So we finally shook the dust off our feet and left there peacefully.

Our prayers were answered, that no violence was carried through and no one fought, or that no one threw stones at the car! We also know seeds are in many houses, where many women and children have positive feelings towards us and the Bibles. Just continue to pray that one day they will call us back to Takov to preach the Gospel. (Let me know if you want to get my e-mail updates.)

In addition to preaching at Semndzen, Oliver is also taking care of my twice-weekly Moral Education classes at O.I.C. That is an adult retraining center, for young people who have not done well enough academically to get higher education or a good-paying job. Right now they teach Restaurant/Hotel Catering Auto Mechanics, and Auto Body Repair, hoping to add Carpentry and Plumbing in the future. They have about 55 students now and about half of them are taking Bible Lessons from us. I teach a worksheet each Wednesday and Friday on the Plan of Redemption. Oliver will continue the classes and take care of the Bible Lessons. Some are even asking about being correctly baptized.

We were gratified that the first two people on the Mbo'nso list of prayer requests I made earlier, Geraldine Tatah and Nyembe Philip, have been baptized. On November 14th, the second congregation in the Mbo'nso area, at the Market area, started regular worship. We have volunteers and evangelists signed up until mid January, to go in pairs, to be able to work with the two congregations. Brothers Lawrence and Humphreys are already doing well to lead worship and take care of all arrangements for their respective congregations. Please continue to pray for all of the young Christians there.

Recently I have been involved with some other "peripheral" activities, indirectly connected with our work. First, you will remember that I started the Small Poultry Farmers' Association, Bui (SpoFA) in 1998, to set up eight families in a small business, so the men would not leave this area looking for work. Three of the men are now elders, one is a deacon, and the other four are the leaders of their respective congregations. Due to the bird flu scare in 2006, we were dormant for 3-1/2 years. However, since we can now get chicks, and Brother Fai has a machine, the knowledge, and the ingredients, we can now mix feed locally. So we have rejuvenated the organization, and have had two short meetings so far. In February we plan a big educational meeting since we have over 30 farmers who

have chickens now.

Second, I have become more directly involved in the Lamnso' Translation efforts. We already pay the rents of the Centre, sponsor the food and transportation for four translators and five reviewers, and contribute at special times to the Old Testament project. By the Fall of 2011 they have scheduled to revise the entire New Testament (1990) --in 3 months only! So I have set up a group involving as many people (and denominations) as possible, to come four times in 8 months to give "suggestions" for places needing revision in the New Testament, So by the time the actual translators get to that revision, we will have from 40 to 60 "suggested alternatives" and the exegesis behind them, to put in front of them. Our first meeting was the largest ever held in the Centre -- 52 persons, and the next meeting is to be on January 12th, a week after we get back I and the 4 translators each have a passage from the Synoptics.

Third, I have done a lot of community work this year, particularly on roads. Whenever I can, I give work on Saturdays to students, to help them have some extra transport money. We have filled a lot of potholes, particularly the road up from the hospital, and even repaired potholes in paved roads with concrete on three days. (The Mayor calls me "the pastor of roads.") At Mbo'nso, we built one bridge that had collapsed between the market and Ntobanto, where we were preaching. Later we organized the community to come out for two days to dismantle and rebuild a wooden highway bridge on the way to the high school, from the steel girders up. In October I spent four nights there and I led community work again, to build a coffer-dam to keep flood water from covering the highway to the West region. We have a meeting scheduled down there on January 15th, to organize all the quarters for a monthly clean-up and road repair day, plus encourage transparency and accountability in any project there.

This year has been full of occasions and activities. Last February I had several out-of-town trips, including molding sun-dried blocks at Ndzevru'. In March we graduated 13 from the Bible School, and we have had 16 students in School this Fall. Three went home early (grades) and two have just failed the first term and have been dismissed. However, we still have two Francophones and nine English-speaking students, and more may join them in January. In late March we had extensive "white harmattan" for the first time since 1974, even into countries south of us. Ryan and Laura visited in March and April, for four weeks, and we got to take them to the North to see the animals (except lions and real buffalo [not Bison]). In May we went to Bamenda for the National "Preacher's" Forum, which will be hosted next May in Kumbo, as the National "Leadership" Conference.

Jeremiah Akamah retired May 27th, which left me as Principal of the Bible School again. In June, Janet and I spent 7 days in Buea, South West region, and I taught 67 people on "Church Leadership: With and Without Elders," including 60 pages of notes, plus worksheets and tests. Janet gave out eyeglasses to 29 of them. From mid-June to mid-August I taught in the nine-week Advanced Courses in Kumbo Christian Bible School.

I taught The Intertestamental Period and The History of Judah. In mid-August we again visited the South West, to recruit students and to visit Mbalangi, who will be hosting the National Annual Bible Lectureship next November. The last two weeks of August I played in the basketball tournament we won last year; we took second. By September I was back at regular Bible School, and off to the races!

Right now my co-workers, Tsiffo Pierre, Magnam Maben Jean-Pierre, and Ania Zacharia Ndum, are all working hard to do their three-days-a-week Public Bible Lectures. Some places are going on well, while others are having persecution, especially from the Catholics, our permanent opponents.

These three evangelists, with a dozen other volunteers, keep everything going well when Janet and I are out of the country, or even out of Nso'. Please keep them and their wives and children in your prayers.

Like us, these three are not natives of Nso', so they are working among a people who are not of their blood, for the cause of Christ. All that we have done here this past year and half would not have been possible without you and your prayers. Thank you all for your part in the spread of the Lord's Kingdom.

In His service,

Paul

JOTS from JANET

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone has had a nice Fall and is preparing for the onset of Winter. For me, I am looking forward to the change in climate, and especially a change in the situations with the water and the electricity. I am so tired of the electricity going off and staying off for several hours, even days. I hope to have a five-week reprieve from those inconveniences. Hundreds of ants every where is about to "get my goat" as well. As I wrote my mom recently, I said "I sure hope I get a few extra stars in my crown." That is what it is all about, isn't it? ...doing the Lord's work because He first loved us, and we should love Him, and serve Him, no matter the situations and persecutions we might face in this life. We continually ask for your prayers as we face some of these "minor" difficulties, that our light will still shine among men here and give God the glory for all He has done for us. Praise be to His Name.


Two new sisters I want to tell you about: Helen and Patricia. Both women were in serious health problems, because of HIV. When comparing a picture of Helen in August to one I took of her last week, I could see marvelous transformation. Instead of looking like "death warmed over" the shallowness in her face was gone, the bright smile and sparkle in her eyes had replaced the fear and the hopelessness which she had been facing. With the proper HIV drugs, she has gained more than 10 pounds, and is on her way for a healthier life, as well as her three-year-old who was also diagnosed with the illness. So she wouldn't go back to her village far away to die, I helped her to find a room-to-let and set her up in business to support herself here. Please pray for her that she may succeed in providing for herself (she is a widow), and that her newfound life in Christ will bless her life more and more. Patricia also almost died from other problems with HIV and needed some surgery. Upon having a study with her about the Baptism that puts one Into the body of Christ, she gladly received the Way of Salvation. I felt sorry for these women a bit, though, when they were both being baptized in such a cold water stream, with them being sickly. Alas, we do not have warm water baptismal containers in this country. Maybe we should provide such for extremely ill patients???

I was noticing that many of our sisters were getting to be too much over-weight. Being borderline diabetic myself, I did not want my beloved sisters to have even worse debilitation, so I started a monthly health class. (Here being fat is a sign of wealth). I took all of their blood

pressures, blood sugars, figured their BMI, taught about breast cancer, the right kind of exercise, and ways to try to protect yourself from maladies by eating correctly. They will really have trouble letting go of the red palm oil which they love to put in most everything!

We should all try to live a long life in service to our God.

In Christian love,



The *Cameroon Report* is published by W. Paul Kee. Paul and Janet are missionaries in Nso' Bui Division, Cameroon, West Africa. This electronic edited version is presented by the Collinsville Church of Christ. Address correspondence to the Collinsville Church of Christ, 1400 Troy Road, Collinsville, IL 62234-5146 or call us. Our phone number is 618-667-6708.