



The Word of God

In their hands, and Upon their Hearts
Weber-Kwanja prayer letter November 2011

Dear Partners with us in ministry to the Kwanjas,

While Kwanjas in Yimbere are celebrating Thanksgiving to God for their harvests, we reflect also on God's many blessings to us. We do not plant corn and peanuts as our neighbors do, but the seeds of God's Word in the language of the Kwanja people. Most of our work here has been in "preparing the seed": translating the Kwanja New Testament, recording it for Faith Comes by Hearing Proclaimers, translating Old Testament Sunday reading portions, preparing Old Testament stories for MegaVoice players, etc. And we are preparing tools for it to be planted. This includes **literacy courses and materials**, so people can read the printed word.

We thank God that:

- **11 literacy courses** were completed in **8 villages** this year. **2** more courses are underway.
- **Over one hundred Kwanjas** of various ages took courses this year to learn to read and write Kwànjâ. .
- **26 New Testaments** were sold!

TRANSITIONS AHEAD:

We are preparing for a big transition in our lives and in the Kwanja ministry. We plan to travel in the US and Canada for furlough in 2012. When we return to Cameroon in January 2013, we plan to move to Ngaoundéré to work in Scripture engagement on a broader basis with the national Lutheran Church, and to help other teams that are working in translation and literacy.



*Planning together as a team: (L to R)
 Nganko Emmanuel, Nguing Venant, Yuare Jerome,
 Martin, Djadon Emmanuel and Joan*

Kwanja ministry will continue after we leave.

In 2012 and beyond, the Kwanja team plans to translate liturgies, to work on a new Kwanja songbook, to follow-up with listening groups of Kwanja Scriptures and to continue teacher training and literacy courses.

I, Joan, have been especially concerned that literacy will continue after we leave. God is answering prayer!

Thank God that: - the Kwanja language committee is beginning to take responsibility for literacy work to continue. Kwanjas from several villages recently met together for this purpose.

- Nguing Venant and Boura Adamou, who just finished 3 years of teacher training are committed to work with the project for at least one year, to see literacy continue.

Thank God with us:

- **Elections passed peacefully in Cameroon.**

The **78 year-old President**, who has served for nearly 30 years, was re-elected for another 7-year term.

- **At 91 years old**, Joan's Mother, Frieda Schroeder, went peacefully Home on Oct.14th to be with Jesus. We remember her faith, her love for God and her service to others. We are grateful for the many years she supported us in ministry here. Our children, Nathan and Sarah, joined Joan's family at her funeral in Iowa.

- **Our son, Sammy and his wife Kelsey** continue ministry with International Teams, working near us in Cameroon. Sammy and Bruno have trained national missionaries, and worked with national churches to send them to a nearby unreached people group. They continue to encourage them as they share the Gospel through their lives and witness.

Thank God for "the seeds" that He has provided :

- The Kwanja New Testament
- Audio Kwanja New Testament on Proclaimers (although we are still awaiting their arrival)
- Audio Old Testament Bible stories on MegaVoice players

SOIL CONDITIONS:

As farmers know, having seeds and tools with which to plant them is not enough. The soil conditions need to be good for planting (not too hard, not frozen, not too dry). The ground needs to be plowed up, obstacles in the field need to be removed, weeds kept under control, etc.

As God's Word becomes more available to the Kwanjas, we are seeing more barriers and distractions that keep people from hearing and receiving it in their lives. Although the MegaVoice players were received with a lot of enthusiasm, several of the listening groups that began have lost momentum and are no longer meeting together. **PRAY that God will continue to speak to the Kwanjas through the MegaVoice Old Testament stories and prepare them to hear the New Testament through the Proclaimers! Pray that the Proclaimers will arrive in God's timing!**

The Kwanjas are planning a 5th Anniversary celebration of the New Testament dedication in December. **PRAY that this event will help to prepare the soil of Kwanja hearts, that they will RECEIVE, BELIEVE and SHARE HIS WORD! That they will continue to buy and read the Kwanja New Testament, to listen to God's Word, obey it and let God work in them.**

CHECKING by LONG DISTANCE:

Nganko Emmanuel and Yuare Jerome continue translation of Old Testament passages that are used in the church lectionary readings. Martin reviewed these, and together they revised them. The next step is to check them with a translation consultant. We will be traveling to Ngaoundéré where we can get a better internet connection, so that Rev. Jonathan Burmeister (in Chicago) can consultant check these Scriptures with Martin and the translation team via Skype.

Please PRAY for:

- **Good internet connections** during this time (Nov. 14 -25).
- **Good health, concentration and wisdom** for our team and for Jonathan, so that God's Word will speak accurately, beautifully and clearly in Kwanja. (The "ABC's" of good translation!)

PASSING ON THE TORCH

Since we will be leaving our long-term assignment here in Yimbéré, there are a lot of things to get in order before we go. Time is running out; some projects will not be completed before we leave. We are preparing our Kwanja co-workers to carry on after us. We are organizing and backing up data, and training them to do so. Joan has been training Adamou, a new literacy person who has just joined us. He adds a lot more ability to our team! Joan will work on getting the dictionary more ready while in Ngaoundéré, but there is still a lot of picky work before it can be printed out.

Please PRAY for:

- **Good progress on the Kwanja dictionary**
- **Strength and wisdom for us, as we strive to finish as much as possible before leaving.**

Our house also needs a lot of organizing after years of accumulation: things to leave behind for others who will use the house, things to give away, things to throw away, and things to pack up to take with us to Ngaoundéré when we return to Cameroon in one year. This is a demanding time for us, so we are thankful for the generous offer of friends, Robert and Pauline Huth, to come from B.C. in December to help us for a few weeks!

PRAY for God's protection and blessing on the Huths as they travel to come help us in December!

FURLOUGH SCHEDULING

When we return to the US and Canada in January 2012, we look forward to renewing relationships with you, our partners with us in ministry to the Kwanjas. We will be speaking at churches and with groups in the US and Canada.

We plan to be speaking in Iowa and the Mid-West US from Feb. 29th – April 22nd, and Nov. 18th - Dec 18th.

We plan to be available in Canada to speak:

- in Ontario from April 24th – early June
- in Saskatchewan as we travel westward in June
- in the Okanagan area in July, including the LWMLC convention in Kelowna B.C. July 5-8
- in Western Canada in August – mid-November.

Please contact Jane Ford at LBT-C to schedule us to speak in your area in Canada.

jane@lbtcc.ca Or call at LBT-C office: 519 742 3361

Thank you so much for partnering with us in ministry, through your prayers and financial support. Thank you for providing seeds of God's Word for the Kwanjas!

"Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Cor. 2: 10, 11 NIV

Love,

Joan & Martin

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