



Dear partners in ministry to the Kwanja people,

What would you like to see happening in your community five years from now? Just one week after the Kwanja New Testament dedication on Dec. 30, 2006, Kwanja church workers were asked what they would like to see happen among their people in the next five years. They set this goal: **"Every Kwanja, wherever they live, reading Kwanja, and their lives being transformed by the Word of God."** Is it happening?

On returning from 5 ½ months of furlough in Canada, this is what is now happening here:

- Djadon and Venant, Kwanja literacy workers, had traveled by motorcycle to every Kwanja village, even those far in the bush, to promote literacy in Kwanja among Kwanjas, and to feel out their needs for literacy courses.
- After discussing the needs with Joan, they all saw a strong need for basic primer courses for adult pre-literates. In many of the smaller villages, they don't have schools or enough education to benefit from transitional literacy courses (learning to read Kwanja from reading French). They also saw a need for an intermediate course which strengthens reading skills, and lays the groundwork for reading clubs. As they looked at the need to try to reach more Kwanja villages to teach illiterates to read in Kwanja or to improve reading skills of beginning readers, they felt overwhelmed with the need for more teachers. "PRAY the LORD of the Harvest to send laborers into the harvest". There are still too few capable teachers trained and willing to go to these different villages.
- Last month, with Alexi, they planned and taught a week-long teacher training course. 32 Kwanjas participated to learn or review how to teach transitional courses in reading and writing Kwanja. This training included teaching the new intermediate level that they developed to increase reading skills of beginning readers. During the training course, the teachers daily read and discussed the first chapters of the Kwanja Gospel of Matthew together. They were visibly moved by what they read, including the two Muslim teachers.
- Courses are going on now in 8 villages, and more are planned for later this fall. They are now teaching the new intermediate reading course in a couple of villages. (Guess what they are starting to read? You got it – the Kwanja New Testament!)
- The first week in September, they are planning another 3-day workshop to train some teachers to use and test the pre-primer. This will be followed up later with weekend sessions to learn to use the primer which follows this. We want to introduce and test these in 2 schools this fall, so Kwanja kids can begin school in their own language before transitioning to French. This will also be used with pre-literate adults who want to learn to read.
- A small but growing number of Kwanjas are reading their Bibles and growing in the Word.
- The Kwanja translators are faithfully doing a good, solid job of drafting Old Testament readings to check with Martin and revise, for use in all Kwanja churches.

- The chief of our village (possibly the best educated village chief in our province!) is a young man who attends church regularly, often asks for prayer publicly, and really wants to see the Word of God lived out in Kwanja lives.
- Several younger Kwanjas are preparing to serve God as pastors, evangelists, and teachers, and are growing in grace and in their desire to live the Word and help others to do so also.
- Missa Alexi, the new President of the Kwanja Development Committee, wants to make the Kwanja language movement one of the main focuses of development.

PRAY the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the harvest. One of our biggest needs is human resources, capable Kwanja people to train as teachers, willing to go to other villages to teach literacy classes for weeks or months.



Alexi teaching tone with a traditional instrument

And we are thankful for those God has given us and continues to give us for the challenges of literacy. For instance, Missa Alexi. Several years ago, when he was a student at the University in Yaoundé, he visited Pastor Samuel who was then getting his Master's, and he saw some Kwanja Scripture booklets. He was excited to see booklets in his own language, and started reading them. This sparked his interest in Kwanja literacy. Pastor Samuel recommended him to us, one thing led to another, and he began to work with us. Alexi got his teaching certificate, but was assigned to teach in a village some distance away, so he worked with us during his summer breaks. He helped us develop the transitional materials and taught them in classes. Then he expanded this by teaching four other Kwanjas to teach these materials.

Through the years this has been growing, until this year he taught 32 Kwanjas in the training workshop. The government supervisors, who had assigned Alexi to teach in rural schools, also noticed that he was a gifted teacher, and placed him at the head of their elementary teacher training program in Banyo, a city a couple hours away.

Alexi has more and more responsibilities, so is less available to work with us in literacy, but we are grateful that he joined us during his summer break again this year to help with teacher training and supervision of new teachers. He is a great Kwanja teacher trainer. We are praying that God will prepare other gifted Kwanjas to become future leaders and trainers for Kwanja literacy.

Yes, God is at work in "Kwanjaland"! Much remains to be done, much remains to be "visioned" and prayed for, and God's direction and intervention are still critically needed in many areas. But it's starting to happen! Your prayers and your gifts are a very big part of these processes. Thank you for what you have already done, so that **Kwanja people can have the Word of God, in the Kwanja language, in their hands and upon their hearts.**" Thank you for keeping in step with the Lord of the Harvest as you keep on praying and supporting! As I write this, a weekly prayer group of Kwanjas is gathering to pray for these things also – and that God's Kingdom among the Kwanjas will become a present reality.

Thank you and may God bless you! .

Love,

Martin & Joan Weber

PRAYER FOCUS:

- Kwanja chiefs are accorded honor outwardly (they are called "your majesty"), but often have limited support and cooperation from villagers. PRAY for the chief of Yimbéré, and of every Kwanja village, that they will know God's will, insist on it, and find the support they need to make it happen.
- More Kwanja ownership of literacy! Kwanja villagers need to understand the importance of literacy, so they will invite teachers, attend courses, and support the teachers who have sacrificially left their fieldwork to teach other Kwanjas.
- God's Spirit moving for Kwanjas to want to read His Word and to know Him.

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