

Joan:

**Literacy** this year seems to have taken one step forward and two steps back. A Kwanja co-worker left to further his education as a teacher. We lack good Kwanja leadership. Local interest in literacy courses is lower this year. Sometimes things don't seem to be advancing at all, but we continue to pray.

**PRAY with us that God will bring His Word, written and orally, to the hearts of the Kwanja people.**

Martin:

**Translation** of Old Testament Sunday readings for Kwanja churches has gone well this year. **Teaching** opportunities to share our passion for The Word continue to open up. **Oral Scripture** is our growing edge.

**PRAY with us that everywhere and every way we translate and teach the Word, it will be translated into people's lives!**

We don't shop and wrap a lot of presents here, but God gives us many opportunities to share His gifts at Christmas.

THANK YOU for continuing with us and supporting the Kwanja ministry through your contributions to LBT, and your prayers before God's throne of grace. May He continue to enrich your lives through His Word, may you continue to know Jesus as Savior for now and forever! A blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Love,

*Joan & Martin*

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"Do not be afraid.  
I bring you good news  
of great joy  
that will be for all the people.  
Today in the town of David  
a Saviour  
has been born to you;  
He is Christ the Lord."

Lk 2:10b-11



*Wishing you -  
A Joyful Christmas  
and  
a Blessed New Year  
Abiding in  
JESUS our SAVIOUR*

*Love from the Webers*

# *The Word of God— In Their Hands and Upon Their Hearts*

## *Weber-Kwanja prayer letter Christmas 2008*

Take a walk through your neighborhood,  
Listen to what people say to you,  
Sometimes thankful, sometimes struggling...  
Sometimes you don't know what to say or do.

But aren't you glad that there is a Saviour,  
Not just for now but for all times,  
Not just for you, but for all the world,  
For all who receive Him and become His  
own?

As I reflect on Christmas coming,  
And remember what neighbors said recently,  
I am so grateful for Jesus' coming,  
And all the difference that makes for them  
and for me.

Take a walk with me through our Kwanja village of Yimbere and hear of some of the opportunities we have to share Jesus and Christmas with them.

Madeleine, a widow with 5 school-age children:  
"If only I had a mattress. Sleeping only on a mat on the dirt floor, I don't sleep so well. If I had a real bed, then I would sleep well, and I would feel better. I had grass mattresses for my children and me, but bed bugs in them kept biting us, so I finally burned them."

Severine (mother of 6 children):  
"My husband is sick, I have no money for school for my kids, and no new clothes to wear and nothing to give for the church offering."

Jesus, the King of Kings, was born in a stable, was wrapped in ordinary cloth and was laid in a manger.

"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:6,7

Veronique (widow and grandmother):  
"If only I had a long rope and a bucket, then I could draw water myself from the well. The village pedal pump is no longer working, so it is hard to get clean water. So I don't have much water, and I have to pay some kids to draw water for me. But I am thankful, because I have enough food to eat. God really loves me."

He came as the Source of Living Water:

Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away." John 6: 35, 37

Ladi (mother of 5):  
"I don't have anything to eat for the celebration, no fish, no meat, nothing (besides the daily fare of corn couscous and dried okra). I have no money to buy anything now."

Robert: "Thank you for praying for me. I had given up, I was living as an alcoholic. As you see, I'm no longer drinking. Now I have the strength again to work my fields. I have come back to my wife and to God."

Pauline (widowed, still mourning the death of her 9-year old daughter, with one son in high school.):  
"I was sick and discouraged, but since you prayed for me and gave me medicine, I am feeling so much better. I am eating better and looking better as well!" Thank you and thanks to God!

John: "Thank you so much for saving our 5-year-old girl's life. I was afraid that she would die, like her older sister did last year with a similar sickness. She was vomiting everything we gave her for more than a week, and we had no more money for medicine. Thank you for helping us!

"I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things... Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Phil.3: 6,14