

# THE WORD OF GOD

- *IN THEIR  
HANDS...*

*Dear partners in  
prayer...*



- *AND UPON  
THEIR  
HEARTS...*

*Weber-Kwanja  
Prayer Letter*

*Feb. - March  
2008*

## **Adapting again**

Winter weather, stores with too much stuff, busy Western culture - have challenged us in readapting the last couple of months. Still our thoughts are often drawn back to the Kwanja world, where God's Word is making a difference in people's lives, one by one. One example is Pauline, a lady from our village.

## **About Pauline**

Supervising Kwanja literacy courses has been an important part of my (Joan's) work. At the end of the courses, I work with the teachers in testing and evaluating how well the participants can read and write. Many read slowly as they are learning. But Pauline's reading stood out. I felt a surge of joy as I heard Pauline read a section from Scripture very clearly with great expression. She is certainly one of the best Kwanja readers! She took the courses 3 times to build up her reading, so she can read her Kwanja New Testament well.

Pauline has had her share of sorrows. Her husband, a military officer, died about 5 years ago. Last year, she grieved again the loss of her older brother, Vincent, who had been also advancing in the military ranks. "Who is there to help me now?" she wailed at the time of the funeral. Vincent was the one who had helped her to build her own house to live in back in her village after her husband died, and helped her in her needs. She was already taking care of her own children, Pierre, an invalid brother, and Rose, an older sister who was recovering from a stroke. A few months later, her elderly mother died. As we were writing this letter, we heard from the village that Pierre died recently also. Through her sorrows, Pauline put her faith in God. "Who else can help me and comfort me in my grief?" she said.

Cornelia, who worked short-term in our village with the Prom-Alpha team, was looking for a couple of women who could help her gather and teach young girls. She found in Pauline a Christian friend, eager to grow in God's Word and ready to share it with young girls. Cornelia left last August, but Pauline is courageously continuing to meet with and teach the girls from God's Word. Pauline realizes that this may help save lives as it prepares girls to value themselves and avoid the common behaviors that put them at risk for AIDS. To Pauline, death is very real, and

has made her life much more difficult. But she finds hope in God's Word, and is finding meaning in sharing this with others, telling of our God who gives life beyond death.

## **PRAY for Pauline**

PRAY that God will encourage her and enable her to continue with this ministry to the young girls in our village, that they will grow in faith and not need to live in fear of death. (When asked, several girls responded that death was their greatest fear!) PRAY that God will protect, strengthen, and provide for Pauline's needs.



Pauline, Julienne, and Esther – Kwanja women who read and share God's Word

## **Death is such a "reality check"**

as it interrupts life itself. It does not respect youth or age, but takes both. It interrupts work schedules and all other plans for those close to the one who died. Kwanjas drop everything during the 3-day period of mourning after the death of someone close. And they continue to miss and grieve the loss for several months afterwards.

## **The Really Good News**

Easter would not be joyful news without Good Friday. The Good News is that Jesus died to redeem us from our sins, He rose, and He conquered death once and for all!

Heb. 2: 8,9,14 says: " 'You crowned Him with glory and honor and put everything under His feet.' In putting everything under Him, God left nothing that is not subject to Him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to Him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God, He might taste death for everyone. ... that

by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is the devil - and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."

**PRAISE GOD** for the spread of this Good News! On Dec. 2nd, we saw the New Testament being dedicated in the Vute language as we shared the important occasion with our LBT colleagues, Jim and Pam Maxey in Yoko, Cameroon. It was the culmination of decades of work among the Vute by SIL, Catholic priests, and finally the Maxeys. The Vute New Testament is now also in the hands of the Vute people!

**PRAY that Jesus' Resurrection** and eternal life that He gives to all who believe may become more "real" than the fear of death, to the Vute people now, and to the Kwanjas as they learn to read, understand and use God's Word!

#### **Where are we now?**

We are now in British Columbia, Canada, where the daffodils and early flowers are ready to bloom for spring, and we are reminded of the new life following the winter cold!

We left Yaounde, Cameroon on December 13th and had three lovely days in Switzerland with Cornelia and her family, then traveled on to Iowa where we celebrated a snowy white Christmas with Joan's family and our children. After we celebrated New Year's with our children at Nathan's place in Chicago, we flew on to Canada.

#### **PRAISE GOD for His provision**

for us in so many ways! Shannon Tressel, a Christian friend, loaned us her van to use while living in British Columbia. We had less than a week left before flying to British Columbia when she found an apartment available for us. God provided Shannon and some other "angels" to prepare the place before we came, loaning things, as well as washing and moving in things we had stored in a sea container since 2001! We were greatly encouraged also as our home church, Zion Lutheran, and others welcomed us back warmly for our stay here.

#### **What have we been doing?**

Once we got a bit settled, we worked hard to get presentations ready and bookings confirmed for speaking. Since then, we have been sharing the story of God's provision of the Kwanja New Testament with churches and church groups. Martin traveled for 3 weeks to speak in Calgary, Edmonton, and in the Okanagan. He especially enjoyed seeing the responsiveness of school children and their teachers to the challenge of reaching all peoples with God's Word in their heart languages!

#### **How is our health?**

Thank you for praying! We are grateful for some "settled down" time between speaking events. Continue to PRAY for us for God's solution concerning Joan's filaria. We are following up on some helpful "leads", but have no solutions yet.

PRAY for our computers to get "up and running" again. Joan's hard drive died, and she has missed her computer, waiting for a new one. PRAISE GOD for support coming in for a new computer!

#### **What are our "kids" doing?**

- Nathan continues with his independent travel business, for missionaries and others. He is working toward having a successful business or two to support him in his longer term goal of mission work through business in closed countries.

- Sammy, while finishing his last semester at school, is now a member of International Teams, already hard at it seeking team members, prayer and financial support, to begin a new I-Teams field in Cameroon. (More next letter about this.)

- Sarah is a sophomore at Northwestern College, studying hard to become an elementary/middle school teacher

#### **How long will we be here? Then where?**

We will be leaving here already on April 3rd, to visit our LBT supporters in Saskatchewan (April 3rd - 11th) and in Ontario (April 11th - May 12th). Then we plan to travel to Chicago for Sammy's college graduation (May 17th), and prepare to return to Cameroon by June 1st, for another term in Cameroon to continue encouraging literacy, using the New Testaments Scriptures, and translating parts of the Old Testament.

#### **What is happening in Cameroon?**

Our co-workers are still working in the village, preparing some literacy materials in our absence, as well as translating more of the Old Testament readings for Sunday services. They are near the end of dry season, when most are busy preparing their fields to plant when the rains return around Easter time.

**PRAISE GOD** with us for providing the support we continue to need. We are in awe of His provision, as we are reminded that many are praying for us and for the Kwanjas, and many are responding with financial support for this work to continue. THANK YOU for your part in it! PRAY for us, that God will enable us through His love, strength, and wisdom to equip the Kwanjas to do Kwanja ministry!

**Happy Easter!** May the living Lord renew and refresh you with His life!

Love,  
Joan & Martin Weber

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#### **For contributions:**

**(Please designate for Weber-Kwanja ministry)**

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