

God's Word at Work

2010 UPDATE FROM LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS OF CANADA

Role Change for LBTC Executive Director

By Rev David Maffett

"So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." Gal 6:10

Last winter I had the opportunity to travel with Dr. James Maxey, the Director of Program Ministries at LBT. We visited our LBT/LBTC missionaries in Cameroon, Martin and Joan Weber as well as a number of partner organizations with which we work. At the end of our visit, Dr. Maxey asked me if I would consider supervising all of LBT's work in Cameroon for Program Ministries. Seeing an opportunity for LBTC to be more directly involved with the overall work of LBT, I agreed to consider it. We subsequently put together a Memo of Understanding for a one year trial that was approved by the LBTC Board of Directors.

This opportunity to serve involves two responsibilities: supervision of LBT/LBTC personnel and liaison with LBT partners. In the first, I work with missionaries to establish their goals and objectives, their yearly budgets and reporting. I insure that the missionaries have the materials and support they need from LBT staff. Currently this includes two families, the Webers longtime servants in Cameroon and the Fays who are in France learning French in preparation for assignment in Cameroon next year.

The second area of liaison with LBT partners involves several things. All of our work is for the Ev. Lutheran Church in Cameroon (ELCC) and is managed through their Department of Translation and Literacy (DTL). As a result of completed translation projects, LBT continues to support two language projects, Samba and Vuté. The New Testaments have been dedicated, but language teams continued to work at literacy training, Scripture use and some translation.



More directly involved now with Cameroonian partners, Rev David Maffett meets here with former Program Director Dr James Maxey and Dr Besong Aroga, Translation Consultant - Bible Society of Cameroon.

Those projects report directly to the DTL and the latter to the Cameroon Supervisor.

With LBT support, the ELCC also has a young man in training for Bible translation, Aubert Kpengapse. When he finishes his degree in 2011 the DTL will place him in a translation project which LBT will support much like the above language projects.

Finally, LBT works in close cooperation with other organizations like SIL Cameroon, the Bible Society of Cameroon and the Cameroon Association for Bible Translation and Literacy (CABTAL). As LBT's representative, I will provide liaison for effective partnership. All of that means that I'll need to make yearly trips to Cameroon to visit, encourage and evaluate our work.

This opportunity provides a several benefits to LBTC. First, it enhances the relationship between LBT and LBTC. We have always placed, supported and supervised Canadian missionaries on the field through Program Ministries. ... *continued on page 48*

Language Learning: A Lesson in Humility



Kory attending school with his classmates. In the picture to the left, Kory is second from the right. Above Kory is on the far right.

When we were speaking at churches in the United States and told people we were going to be in language school in France, they usually said, "Oh! That will be so easy! You'll be fluent in no time since you'll be living there!"

Well, we have been living here for about 3 months and let us assure you that by no stretch of the imagination is language learning "easy".

There is a boulangerie (bakery) just around the corner from our home. We order our bread from the same ladies a few times a week and we often wonder what they must think of us. On one occasion, Kory got so caught up in trying to pronounce the word "deux" (two) not like the word "doux" (soft) or "du" or "de" (of/from) while ordering baguette that he said it several times in a row without saying what he was ordering (pointing accomplished the task)!



During a recent class and celebration honouring the formation of the European Union, classmates and their families attended a multi-ethnic meal with flags identifying the source of each national dish.

We spend about 20 hours a week in formal classes. In addition to class, we try to study on our own through reading books, drilling vocabulary and grammar, listening to the Bible online, and talking to one another in French.

Most intimidating yet most beneficial regarding language learning involves getting out and testing our language skills in the French life and

culture all around us. This sometimes involves making mistakes, getting funny looks, and feeling like a child again.

Another time, the store owner told Cara thank you for her order and instead of thanking her back for her service, Cara told her "You're welcome" and walked out. We practice so often "Thank you" and the response "You're welcome" that she forgot there are other responses that are sometimes more appropriate!

Overall, we are getting a new perspective on what it is like to not be able to understand or be understood in another language, reaffirming how important it is to have God's Word in our heart language.

Update from Kory and Cara Fay who are learning French by immersion in Chambéry, France to prepare for service among the Nizaa people of Cameroon late in 2010.



Kory, Cara, Sam, and Lucy. Sam is 2 and Lucy is 6 months. They are missionaries with LBT and under David Maffett's leadership, the Fay family will begin their first assignment in Cameroon, West Africa at the end of 2010.

A Process of Patience:

Recording the Kwanja New Testament

Shortly after the printed version of the Kwanja New Testament was dedicated, Stage 2 to record it was planned in order to distribute the New Testament more fully.

Initially, Martin and Joan Weber, LBTC translators were to be assisted by LBT technicians Dan and Kay Finley to orchestrate this project. However due to an injury, Dan was unable to come to Cameroon in September to start the work.

In mid-October 2009, the recording began with the help of another recording team. Here are excerpts from Martin and Joan Weber's updates as the recording progressed.

October 14:

We started recording the Kwanja New Testament! Hallelujah! Issac and Alex, Ghanaians from Accra are here from Theovision - the African partner of Hosanna Ministries and a parallel to Faith Comes by Hearing in the USA. They were just finishing a recording in Douala, Cameroon when they were asked to substitute for the Finleys.

I built the recording studio using mostly thin foam mattresses and a funny-looking structure to house the generator. It

was lined with old egg flats to keep it quieter.

We are proud of our Kwanja readers. Many worked hard to improve their reading. What we hear being read is the best Kwanja we've ever heard! We have already noticed a difference in reading of Scriptures in church services and pray this will be only the beginning!

Jerome, our two Emmanuels (who work with us full time) and Bruno (our son Sammy's friend) are native speakers who know written Kwanja and are able to detect the smallest errors in the reading.

One of the four controllers and Joan or I have worked in the preparation room in another house we have rented for this time to have a good place to prepare the readers to read as well as possible in the studio. It is a lodging too for visiting readers.

Venant, the reader for *Paul* and for whom we asked for prayer that he be released from teachers' college to be able to read, has had a really hard time getting permission! But he is here, has read half of Romans and plans to stay a week or so to finish Paul's parts.

Joseph, a young Kwanja with only two years of formal schooling, is reading for *Simon Peter* and is a good one! He has probably practiced far more hours than anyone. That worked well with his job as a night watchman! The Kwanja *Jesus* is Felix, the lay pastor in Yimbéré. He reads well when he prepares in advance.

October 26:

Bruno made the comment to us, "I feel like I'm a part of an historic event. It's a real privilege to be involved in this work!" It **is** an important event, recording the Kwanja New Testament for the very first time! It is exciting but it also has its ups and downs. Some days our readers are tired and can't concentrate. Then recording takes much longer.

Venant finished the rest of Paul's words in Acts, after having finished reading Philemon on Friday. He began the week really tense and divided because he wanted to return to Banyo for an important meeting where he might be elected president of the student association. This would give him special privileges as well as responsibilities. However he also feared he would miss tests and his grades might slip. We witnessed God working in him as he "let go" of these concerns to concentrate more on reading. As he recorded Paul's words, Venant realized himself the power in them. May they speak also to many Kwanjas in the future!

Pastor Boula Samuel who read the voice of *God* found time to come to our village to prepare to read. His schedule is busy but we thank God for his precious time as Samuel has a deep, authoritative voice that worked very well.



In preparation to record the Kwanja New Testament, Joan Weber does a voice test with a Kwanja reading from Scripture.

Felix had a bad week - the back wall of his mud brick house fell over and he had ... *continued next page*

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to spend time and energy repairing it. Yirmi Emmanuel who read the book of Hebrews spent hours in preparation only to panic and make a lot of mistakes during the recording. We pray that he will be at peace in order to finish. I find myself cheering on each reader and praying for those who are struggling.

October 29:

Several challenges have arisen that hamper progress. Yesterday it started raining at 11:30 am, stopping the recording for a few hours. We only finished 3 recording sessions instead of 5. It is raining more than usual this month even though it is nearing the end of rainy season. One advantage of rain though is that the air is cooler and more comfortable!

Medical problems are also hindering us. Colds, eye problems and even the effects of alcoholism are affecting the readers' abilities. Amadou has been hindered because of his cold and coughing. He persisted but found it difficult to understand what he read - Revelation. He is discouraged and wants to go home. I think that Revelation has been somewhat overwhelming to him. We pray God's Word will speak to Amadou's heart.

Travel has been encumbered with our readers manoeuvring their motorcycles through heavy rains and waist-high water to cross rivers. Several have had breakdowns delaying them.

Yirmi Emmanuel is still dealing with "panic" when he reads. The last 2 chapters went a little better. Pray that he will continue reading with God's peace.

November 4:

PRAISE GOD for Amadou who is feeling better. He finished Monday afternoon. He read very well and left in good spirits! God really changed things!

The best news is that we have ***finished all the recording!*** Now we will listen through all the books of the New Testament noting mistakes and correcting them with one final session. We are looking forward to celebrating with all the readers. Our Ghanaian technicians are eager to return home. Please continue to pray for God's protection and blessing over this project, that He will use it in the future to bear fruit in the lives of Kwanjas!

*Update from Martin and Joan Weber,
LBTC translators, Yimbéré, Cameroon*

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Now we are an integral part of that ministry serving both Canadian and American missionaries. Second, that integral connection to the work makes us better able to understand and promote the overall goal of Bible Translation here in Canada. And third, through this work God may present us with yet more opportunities to share his Word with those who do not have it in their heart language.

This is a great opportunity for all of us. I invite you to continue with us in this service to God's people or to join us if you haven't already done so. Pray for LBTC and LBT, for our missionaries and support staff, for our work in Cameroon, and especially that God would give me wisdom and discernment.

Annual Meeting and Translation Encounter 2010

Guest Speakers: Eshinee & Rob Veith



The Veiths are returning from Botswana for their first furlough in 2010. Eshinee is an LBT translator of the Shiyeyi language and is Canadian. Rob from the Seattle area is a vernacular media specialist assisting the Lutheran Church of Botswana.

Please plan to join us with your friends for dinner and entertainment on Saturday April 24 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Kitchener.

**Annual Meeting begins at 5:15 pm
Dinner at 6:00 pm**

Entertainment during and following the meal with the help of K-W area EDLYA and Youth groups

Reservations are required by April 15
Please contact Lutheran Bible Translators
of Canada at 519-742-3361 or
by email info@lbtc.ca