

March 10, 2008

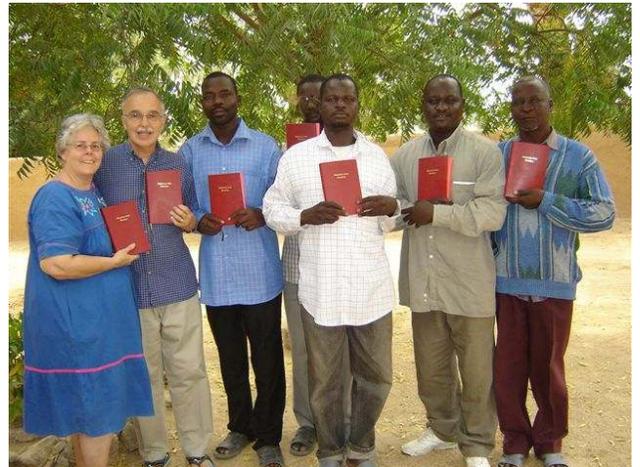
Dear friends and family,

Thank you so much for your prayers and concern related to the situation in Cameroon. I apologize for the lack of information, but it's been a rather hectic several weeks here. It was also sometimes difficult to know what the real situation was. Although the violence in Yaoundé was rather brief, constant rumors and unrest in many of the rural areas for about another week contributed to the overall uncertainty.

We are thankful to the Lord that in a sense the unlikely has occurred here...that the violence has stopped and the country has returned to normal. As you know this has been quite rare in many parts of Africa recently. However, it is also true that many of the underlying social and political issues remain, and it is likely that these will get triggered again in the future. The important thing now is to make the most of the time available and entrust the future to the Lord. Please pray for a continued open door for work in Cameroon. Chad is also slowly stabilizing, and missionaries are starting to return there as well.

One of the exciting events of last month was attending my first Bible dedication here. Twenty nine years after the work first began, translators Ken and Judy Hollingsworth, Jim Pohlig and others dedicated the Mofu-Gudar New Testament in mid-February in the far north of Cameroon (near Maroua). Due to a sudden cancellation of all regional airline flights from Yaoundé, our aviation department was significantly involved in the transportation of dedication participants. This is almost a 500 mile flight from Yaoundé (3 ¾ hour flight one-way). The trip by train and then "bush taxi" is about 20 hours.

I flew several different groups involved in this dedication (including the Hollingsworths) and actually stayed in Maroua for the dedication itself



Ken and Judy Hollingsworth with the translation team



Hundreds of people following along in their own copy of the Mofu NT. What a sight!

which was an enormous privilege. Although there was quite a bit of African ceremony involved, the most beautiful moment for me was during the first public reading of Scripture from the Mofu NT. I looked around, and this is what I saw:

The literacy rate among the Mofu people is estimated to be at least 10%. That may sound terrible to you, but in a predominantly Muslim region where the literacy rate among women is roughly 0%, this is really exceptional. This lady is a beautiful example.



A 29-year labor of love

This is one additional photo that really touches me every time I see it. Each person was invited to hold up their Bible during the prayer of dedication and this gentleman was standing next to me.

I have created Mofu dedication photo album on my website. Please feel free to visit it at: www.petersonfamily.info/robert/gallery2.

Thank you so much for your prayers. I am doing well in spite of a very busy season in life. Please pray for my preparation each week for my weekly discipleship groups along with the ability to bridge our cultural differences.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and support. May the Lord bless you.

In Him,
Robert Peterson

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