

# ***The Word of God - In their hands - and upon their hearts***

**Weber - LBT Cameroon Prayer Letter**

**June 2019**

## ***They want the Word. How could we NOT help them?***



### **Dear partners in spreading God's Word,**

We are sensing an urgency to finish "the race" as we work with our Cameroon co-workers to get Scriptures, which have taken years of translation work, ready for publication before the end of this year. For languages which already have their New Testaments, publishing their lectionaries means printing the series of Old Testament and Psalms readings according to the 3-year cycle for the church services.

### ***Our goal is to complete, publish and dedicate Vute and Ndung lectionaries by the end of this year.***

**Dowayo:** Pastor Betrosse has recently completed the first draft translation of the rest of the Dowayo lectionary passages, but it is still far from ready for publication. Having received other church responsibilities, he is no longer translating full-time. Martin and Pastor Touka plan to train Dowayo revisers to check through the translated passages to give input for revisions.

**Another request:** Mouh Marc, now in his seventies, was the main translator for the Mambila New Testament. Now he has been translating (without pay) in simple notebooks the Old Testament lessons to accompany the readings from their published New Testament and Psalms. With our experience in lectionary production, we have agreed to give limited support to this SIL/Wycliffe Bible Translators project, so they can check and publish it. Then Mambila Christians will hear ALL of their Sunday readings in their heart language!

**Vute:** Rev. Paul Tshell is the director and one of the professors teaching at a Lutheran Bible School in northern Cameroon. He says: ***"I really want these Old Testament readings available for my people. Although my ministry of teaching lay pastors at the Bible school keeps me very busy, I have been spending as much time as possible during longer school breaks to work with Alfred, the Vute translator, to exegetically check the Scriptures of the Vute Lectionary, so it can soon be ready to publish!"***

Pastor Paul excels at making the Scriptures plain to lay pastors-in-training who have limited formal education. But he also wants his own people, the Vutes, to hear God speak to them more in their language.

Alfred recently finished translating the rest of the passages for their lectionary and checked these with his committee of revisers. Pastor Paul is now working with Alfred this school break to finish exegetically checking the rest of these passages. Then Alfred with Joan will be checking for inconsistencies in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, quote marks, etc., using computer Paratext tools, before we print a preliminary copy of their entire lectionary. Pastor Paul, Alfred and others will then read through hundreds of pages to make corrections as needed. In September, by God's grace we plan to begin the final layout and preparations for printing!

**However, as Scripture translations near publication, we recognize our need all the more for prayer support and protection from the enemy, Satan.**

***Please continue to pray for God's protection for us all and our computers!***

### **PRAISE and THANK GOD!**

- **The Vute lectionary work is nearing completion!**
- **Alfred has completed the translation into Vute!**
- **Pastor Paul's commitment is making this possible for his Vute people!**
- **Pastor Betrosse completed the rough draft lectionary translations in Dowayo.**
- **Mouh Marc is translating Mambila O.T. readings**
- **Joan and Jerome are making progress establishing Ndung dialect spelling principles**



*Jerome and Joan make progress writing Ndung*

**Kwanja: “Unless we change and start listening to God in His Word, we Kwanjas will become history!”**

Jerome Yuare saw this “writing on the wall” decades ago. He has worked as a Kwanja translator since 1991 – for 28 years! After the Kwanja New Testament was dedicated in 2006, Emmanuel began translating the Old Testament Scriptures for the Sunday services. Jerome began simultaneously translating the Old Testament readings into his dialect as well.

**Now he wants one important thing for his people – a lectionary** for those, like himself, whose heart language is Kwanja Ndung. Ndung is a dialect of the Kwanja language, but it is almost like a second language with significant differences from the Sundani dialect, the dialect in which we published the New Testament. Many who do not understand the Sundani dialect very well want to hear God’s Word more clearly in Ndung.

Jerome, preparing to publish in his dialect, has written many pages of questions for Joan about the spelling of words and grammatical rules for spelling his dialect. Joan has had to back up from preparing the lectionary to studying the Ndung dialect more carefully, since it is quite different from the one she learned. It has more complicated vowel changes, and much speaker variation in vowel quality. Jerome and Joan are working through the **list of about 5,000 words** used in the translated

Scriptures to develop consistent spelling rules, especially for the vowels and tones which carry much meaning.

**Our goal is to complete, publish, and dedicate their lectionary by the end of 2019! We need prayer!**

**Please pray:**

- **For breakthroughs for Joan and Jerome to resolve orthography issues in the Kwanja Ndung dialect, to find consistent spelling rules that can be more easily taught.**
- **That God’s Word will bear fruit, that the peoples may know God more and more through His Word, His plan, His judgments on sin, and His great grace and salvation through Jesus Christ.**
- **For God to watch over this work, overcoming every obstacle, to bring the lectionaries to completion.**
- **For God’s wisdom, strength and health for Martin and Joan to see this through!**

**Thank you for partnering with us in God’s mission!** We would not be here without you. We are grateful for the ongoing prayer and financial support through you and others. Thank you! **May God bless you!!**

**Please, continue with us** through this next stretch! We are into our last year in Cameroon, but the work has not become lighter. We rely on God’s guidance and strength to complete the work we have begun, leaving Scriptures for more people.

**Love from Martin & Joan Weber**

*Martin & Joan Weber*

**You or your church can help fund printing of God’s Word designated for the Vute or Kwanja lectionaries.**

*Please send gifts to:*

**Lutheran Bible Translators Mission Project:  
‘BIBLE PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION’ or:**

<https://lbt.org/project/bibleprintingdistribution/>

**Publishing 100 copies of the three books of the Vute lectionary series will cost an estimated \$7,000 total, averaging about \$2,400 each book (100 copies), needed by Sept. The Ndung lectionary will also cost about \$7,000, by Nov. 1.**

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