

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

*Weber - LBT Cameroon prayer letter
April 2016*

Dear Partners in Prayer,

He did it! God provided again!

Thank you for joining us in prayer! It seemed like we were trying to accomplish "the impossible". But God provided, so that we did get the first copies of the Kwanja Lectionary Series C book out, just in time for the planned dedication during our LBT Canada Director's visit.

At 6:30 am, just minutes before I (Joan) was picked up to travel to the Kwanja area, the printer delivered the first five bound copies of the book we had been working diligently to finish. It was ready just in time for the dedication ceremony. Thanks be to God! (The rest of these Series C Lectionary books are still being printed.)

The Kwanja lectionary books were publicly dedicated Saturday, March 12th, in Yimbéré, with joy and celebration! Kwanja pastors, other Cameroonian Lutheran pastors, church leaders and local Christians joined together to celebrate this important event. Nearly ten years ago they dedicated the Kwanja New Testament. Now, with the Old Testament lectionary readings, the Kwanjas will also have many Old Testament selections in print. This includes many Psalms to read as prayers and for worship.

THANK GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE!

Thank God for the publication of the first Kwanja Lectionary book, Series C, and for the dedication ceremony for the Kwanja lectionary series.



Rev. James Keller, LBT Canada Director, gave the main message of the dedication ceremony: ***"We need to build our lives on the foundation of Christ and His Word."*** They honored him with an African robe.

During his 2-week visit to Cameroon, Rev. Keller and Martin met with various Church and Bible Society partners. He gained many new memories and experiences in Cameroon.

Among those celebrating were older

Kwanjas who never had learned to read. They were saying: ***"We really want to HEAR God's Word in our language!"*** As the book was passed around, several took it and kissed it. They were saying: ***"This is precious to us."***



Regional Bishop Keme Bernard (left) and District Pastor Fato François show the first copies of the Kwanja lectionary.



Wìrà Mì Ywá' bìrà ba:

**« ... wìrà má mì nyìngí mì
wìráá bəri Mí,**

wu kfwóó nyìngí Mí sí yér yér.

... nyìngí Mí má minà tì wù-rè!

**Nyìngí Mí má hèé tí minà tì lùn
mì tálí búráándí-rè...»**

(Jer. 23: 28b, 29b)



**« ... let the one
who has My Word
speak it faithfully. ...
Is not my word
like fire,"
declares the Lord,
"and like a hammer
that breaks a rock
in pieces?"**

***Jeremiah 23:28b, 29b
(NIV)***

Why so much fuss over a book?

The imagery on the back side of the Lectionary cover (shown above) comes from Jeremiah 23: 28b, 29b (at left in English). God's Word spoken faithfully, has power to break the hard places in our hearts, and to burn away the junk in our lives, so that His will prevails. He is God, and His Word is powerful!

May it speak to the Kwanja people!

This is ours!

The Kwanja pastors got very involved. They came to share their advice and to encourage us when we were working out formatting issues for their Lectionary book. They were saying: ***"This is ours."***

(Pictured, left to right: Pastor Pierre, Nganko Emmanuel, Joan, Jerome, and Pastor Boula Samuel)



Is the Kwanja lectionary work finished?

The Kwanja lectionary books are the printed Kwanja Old Testament readings for all the services of the church year, completing the readings already found in their Kwanja New Testaments. **We completed the first of six Kwanja lectionary books.** There will be one for each of the three church year cycles of readings, times two, to serve both the Protestant and the Catholic Churches.

Originally, we planned to combine the Lutheran and Catholic lectionary readings into one book, with readings in their two different dialects. This would have encouraged unity between the dialect groups, since the two churches share many of the same readings.

However, we had to divide the work into two books to finish the Lutheran Year C lectionary readings in time. It is in itself a book of 284 pages. The Catholic lectionary typesetting will take more time, because the Catholics have their particular ways of writing their references and of splitting up the verses in each Psalm between congregational responses. We will continue working through April (and into May as needed) to help Jerome finish the second book, the Catholic Series C Lectionary readings. Afterwards, we will help him to continue the work for Series A and B books.

We will finish checking the rest of the translated passages needed to complete the Lutheran Series A and B Old Testament Lectionaries, and then continue the process to prepare these for printing. This will take less time than our first book, since we will follow the same model. Matthew Lee, the Paratext expert with SIL (Wycliffe) in Yaoundé, helped us tremendously with setting up the model that works with Paratext.

Once again, **our time is pressured** to finish this work before we leave in June for "home ministry" in the US and Canada. We need to finish what we can, and leave "in place" people, materials and clear instructions

For contributions:

(Please designate for Weber-Cameroon ministry)

L B T of Canada	Lutheran Bible Translators
137 Queen St. S	PO Box 789
Kitchener, ON	Concordia, MO 64020-0789
Canada N2G 1W2	U.S.A.

for other lectionary projects. Then the Dowayo, Vute and other languages can more easily publish their lectionaries, after they have translated all their selections.

TIME BACK "HOME"

We plan to return to the US this June to visit our families, friends, LBT office staff, prayer partners, and supporting churches. We look forward to speaking in the Midwest (so far Iowa, Nebraska, Indiana, Ohio) from September through November, and to spend time in New Hampshire with son Nathan and family through December. ***We welcome your invitations to share with you during church services, church group meetings, special meetings or to visit you while in the US.***

Then in January 2017 we plan visits and speaking in Canada, starting in BC, and finishing in Ontario in May. Then, God-willing, we plan one more term in Cameroon to continue our "2020 Vision".

PLEASE, contact us (email is best) to schedule a time for us to speak at your congregation, church group, or to visit you while we are in the US.

**Until May 1st, send mail to: Martin & Joan Weber
BP 111, c/o ELCA mission**

Ngaoundéré, Cameroon, W. Africa

Cameroon cell phones: + 237-677 796 691 Martin

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Email at anytime: weber.kwanja@gmail.com

God holds us up through your prayers, sustains the work through your gifts (designated for us through LBT), and encourages us through you. **THANK YOU!**

Love in Jesus,

Martin & Joan

PLEASE continue to pray with us, that God will:

- **daily renew us**, giving us His strength, wisdom and all we need to fulfill His purposes
- **sustain Joan** through filaria treatment in April
- help us to **enable others** to continue this work, when we leave Cameroon for furlough in June
- **Enable us to finish the Catholic Lectionary Series C, and the Lutheran Series A in April-May**, leaving guidelines in place for the rest to continue.