

# GOOD NEWS *for* GALIM



Rev. Mike and Kara Kuhn  
Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada

AUGUST 2016

**Dear praying partners,**

This is an exciting time for our family. Six years ago, Kara and I decided to apply with LBTC to become Bible Translation missionaries. Six years! In that time, we have been working and preparing for what will finally begin in earnest in September – putting pen to paper on translating God's Word for a people group who do not yet have His Word in their heart language! It has taken a lot of work to get to this point: establishing a partnership base, being trained in linguistic analysis, language learning, and moving (to name just a few of the bigger things!). So many of you have stood by us in prayer every step of the way and we thank our great God for you. ***Please give thanks to God for all He has done to prepare us for the translation task before us, and ask Him to use our humble efforts to reach Nizaa people with His Word. (September)***

## ORALITY AND TRANSLATION



Luther at Warburg

What do you envision when you think of someone "translating the Bible"? Perhaps you think of Luther by himself at Wartburg, pouring over Greek and Hebrew Scriptures while scratching out sheets of paper? Or maybe you picture us in Galim with a table full of books and laptops, reading, discussing, and typing as we work? These are images that have typically come to my mind when I think of Bible Translation work. But what if I told you that the training we have been pursuing over these past five months in Yaounde has introduced us to a technique that avoids reading and writing in the initial stages of translation? What would that look like?

Here is the process we have been learning about and practising. First, our Nizaa translators spend time listening to another person read the text aloud in a language they can easily understand. The goal at this point is to envision what is happening in the text in as much detail as possible. After hearing the text a few times, they will practice reciting the chronology of the text, listing the principle actors and what they did, at times acting out the scene with each other, and otherwise working to internalize and memorize the message of the text as much as possible. Then they proceed to take turns relaying the text to each other in Nizaa until they agree that one of them has mastered a good and fluid telling of the story. Next, they record the translator as he (or she) speaks the text. Finally, the team is ready to begin writing the text now that they have an oral Nizaa version that they can transcribe.



Rev. Ousmanou reading the text while the other participants act it out.

It has taken a lot of hard work to learn and get used to using this method, but we can definitely appreciate the advantages already! First, the method fits the Nizaa culture better than using a print-driven approach. Like so many African cultures, Nizaa people are used to using orally communicated stories, songs, and riddles to transmit their history, values, and life-lessons from generation to generation. Another distinct advantage is that the method lends itself to producing very natural translations. Print-based approaches often result in very wooden translations because the translators feel like they have to translate each word on the page in front of them instead of the meaning the words convey. By focusing on the meaning of the text from the start, the translator is able to produce first drafts that are consistently beautiful and fluid Nizaa. The next step is to correct the draft to ensure that it faithfully communicates everything that the original languages aimed to communicate. Making a natural text more faithful is often an easier exercise than trying to make a woodenly faithful translation more natural.



...cont'd

## ANSWERED PRAYERS

In our last letter, we asked you to pray for Ousmanou and Patouma so that they would be able to work on the translation project. Both were living and working in other towns when I last wrote to you. I am delighted to be able to report that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon has posted Ousmanou Dieudonné to our project! As I write this letter to you (in late July) he and his family are packing their belongings so that they can move out to Galim in the next couple of weeks.



The news about Patouma is also very encouraging. Despite the fact that we were not able to find a way for her to move to Galim to work with us, she will be working on the project on a contractual basis. She is able to connect to the internet where she lives, so we will be able to see each other's work on an online draft and collaborate as the project goes for-ward. ***Please join us in thanking God for providing national workers for the Nizaa NT translation project and pray that He will bless, guide, unify and inspire all of us as we work together. (November)***



### ***We have a grade-schooler!***

This fall Tobias will be working on homeschool grade one. We are so fortunate to have access to a library in the capital with physical and human resources that will help us on our homeschooling journey, as well as being supervised via correspondence by a school board in Alberta. A few times a year, the students can participate in Joint Learning Sessions with other homeschooling expatriate families stationed around Cameroon. ***Please pray for Tobias as he enters grade one and for Kara as she teaches him; that they will be able to make good and steady progress together this year. (October)***

With the homeschooling journey taking off this fall, we asked for some help to watch the little ones while Kara teaches the older ones. We are excited to welcome a volunteer nanny from Alberta, Mackenzie Kure, who will give us a hand. She has only been with us in Cameroon for about 2 weeks but has already endeared herself to our kids! ***Please join us in thanking God for Mackenzie's safe arrival and ask Him to use this year to grow and shape her as His servant and to bless us all with a harmonious relationship with each other. (August)***



May God bless and keep you  
all, The Cameroon Kuhns