



The WAM Report

From Wendy And Mike Buchanan
Serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in accounting and member care

March 2008



On December 28th, we called our trusted taxi man, Emmanuel and drove to the train station. After a 16-hour train ride in a sleeper car and a 10-hour bus ride (**no one** slept on **that** bus), we arrived at Maroua. We were met by our friends the Shyrocks, who had driven south from their village near the Chadian border where they are beginning to learn the Logone language. We spent a week enjoying meals together and visiting a wildlife preserve where we saw two groups of giraffes, gazelle, warthog and a baby elephant up close and personal all by itself while it fed on the leaves of nearby bushes. We kept our distance, not knowing when the mother might appear to protect its baby! What a treat that was! We also spent New Years Day with translators who are finishing up a translation project with the Mofu people. In fact, today, as we write, they are having the New Testament dedication celebrations! What a joy to get to meet some of the Mofu people and see a glimpse of their life. Pray with us that lives will be changed as they read and understand the scriptures in their own language.

Ten days up in Northern Cameroon



Mofu girl—curiously watched as we climbed a rocky hill near her village



All together in the sleeper car.

What is Mambila?
It's Wendy's latest

Mambila, Mambila, Mambila!!!

project here in Cameroon! Okay... but what is Mambila!? It is a language and a people group here that received a New Testament in their language for the first time in 2002. Now Wendy is having the privilege of typing into the computer some of the Cameroonian Bible translator's handwritten copy of the Psalms translated into the Mambila language for the first time. Mambila is a tonal language. This means the pitch of the vowels changes the meaning of the words spoken. So these tones have to be noted with accent marks above the vowels. This makes typing sloooooow going! The following is what some of Psalms 111 looks like:

Mè Càñ Ndeèr seén nde né mé temé mò ká lè mene.

Prayer and praise

We praise God for:

- Wendy's back pain is minimal.
- A safe trip to Northern Cameroon.
- Many kind Cameroonians we've gotten to know.

Please pray for:

- perseverance for Wendy with the slow going in typing the Mambila Psalms.
- for bouts of homesickness for David and Elizabeth to be few and wisdom in dealing with it
- Health—especially against malaria.
- God to daily have His way in our lives.

How to climb a mountain

Do you know how to eat an entire elephant? You do it one bite at a time. That little joke kept popping into my head as I took part in the high school running club's climb up Mt. Cameroon. We started at 3,280 feet above sea level and climbed to 13,451 feet. The mountain seemed to go up forever; at times it was like climbing a steep staircase. I really didn't know how I would be able to climb the entire mountain, but then I realized, I would do it **one step at a time**. As long as I kept my eyes on the path and took it one step at a time, I was OK. If I had looked up at the looming mountain too often, I would have despaired. The other thing that helped is that the climb had various stages which you had to reach. So instead of focusing on climbing the entire mountain, you could focus on climbing to the first rest area (hut 1a), then the second rest area (hut 1b), then the third rest area (where we slept) and finally the summit. Life with its many stages is like that; we need to focus on the stage we are in and not dwell too much on the stages further along in life. In other words, take it one step at a time—depending on the Lord!



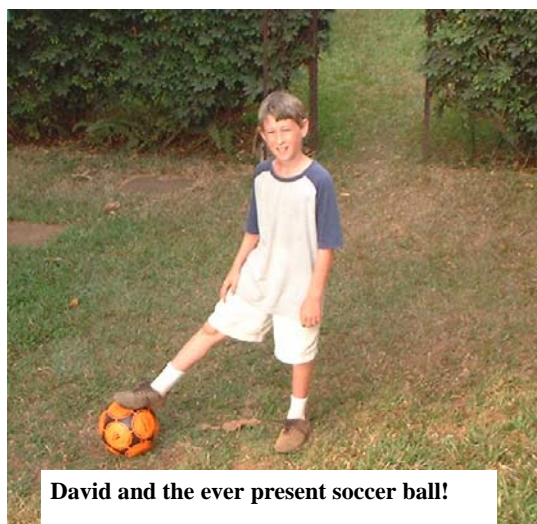
Mt. Cameroon seen from the base.

ANTS, ANTS, ANTS !!!!

We must be living on a huge ant mound hundreds of years old! The ants are everywhere in the house and killing them is a losing battle! Even Terro ant poison doesn't make a dent in the population. Thankfully they are not the stinging sort of ants. They are mostly just annoying. My kitchen has never been so clean, and yet, if a crumb unknowingly is left on the counter or drops to the floor, the scout ants call in swarms of reinforcements within minutes. Yes, we are growing weary of ants, ants, everywhere! Ants float in the dishwater after rinsing out the kitchen rag and ants leave piles of dirt wherever they come in the house through cracks in the tile floors. They even chew their way through caulking around the kitchen sink!

Did you know that...

- ... Over 40 Wycliffe missionaries were evacuated from Chad to Cameroon due to the war there.
- ... As part of the housing team here Wendy was working non-stop for a couple days in order to prepare apartments and houses for the Chad missionary refugees who arrived on very short notice!
- ... David has discovered a great love for the game of soccer.
- ... We have our tickets to return to the U.S June 15th.
- ... We plan to be in Iowa in June '08 for a couple of weeks before returning to JAARS in NC.



David and the ever present soccer ball!

Mike & Wendy Buchanan
SIL—BP 1299
Yaoundé Cameroon

Wendy_Buchanan@sil.org
www.wamplus.org

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Wycliffe
BIBLE TRANSLATORS
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200
www.wycliffe.org