



# The WAM Report

From Wendy And Mike Buchanan

Serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in computing and public relations

August 2008

## Mike as Teacher?!

In April, I was given the opportunity to visit the Congolese national Bible translation organization in the northwest of Congo. This organization is run by Congolese, with some advisory assistance from expatriate missionaries. They have about 58 members with thousands of volunteers throughout the country. They are working in 3 major literacy programs and 5 Bible translation projects affecting over 1.6 million speakers of these languages. During my visit, I helped the accountant prepare to use a new accounting software program. I also taught the translators how to use the software program for entering Scripture texts on their computers.

It was such an amazing testimony of God's grace to see these committed brothers and sisters in Christ carrying on with limited electricity for their computers and limited office resources.



## Back home in Waxhaw, NC

On June 15th we left Yaounde, Cameroon and flew to Zurich, then New York, and finally arrived at Washington D.C where Mike's dad picked us up. The following week we had a great time visiting family and friends in Iowa, including getting to help with a vacation Bible school. Now we are back home in Waxhaw, North Carolina. I have taken a new role as an analyst in the software development department. I am also going to be administering an internet site which is used for training in linguistics, literacy, management, and computing. Plus, I will continue with the bookkeeping responsibilities for the Central African Group.

Wendy will be home-schooling David (7th grade )and Elizabeth (4th) and also resuming work as a tour guide at the JAARS Alphabet Museum.



### Prayer and Praise

We praise God for the:

- Wonderful year in Cameroon, and for all of you who helped make it possible.
- Safe trip back to the States and all our travels to visit family and friends.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom and understanding for Mike in his new roles in the computer department.
- The need for a 3rd/4th grade teacher for this year in Cameroon.
- Continued financial support to meet the increased cost of living here in the U.S.A.
- Our Cameroonian brothers and sisters in Christ who have financial needs daily to provide for their children. (Noted on second page.)

## What was it like living in Africa?

Every one of my senses told me, Wendy, that I wasn't in America anymore:

**Sight**—I am 'the white skin' in a sea of black skin colorfully clothed, or starkly contrasted and clothed in rags. Life is lived outdoors, on the front step of the house, or gathered on the sides of the roads, people walking fill the sides of the streets. Men and women are everywhere lining the streets with their baskets or buckets balanced on their heads, or pushing carts full of what they were hoping to sell that day. Returning to the U.S. and seeing the empty streets the thought crosses my mind, "Where is everyone?"

**Sounds**—Horns honking fill the air, stray dogs barking and fighting in the neighborhoods, chickens cackle and roosters crow as they peck out a meal along the roads. I wonder, "who do these chickens belong to and what keeps them from being eaten?" African rhythms from radios turned up loudly float out the windows and flavor the air. It makes me dance a bit as I pass by.

**Smells**— Because of the 2,000 ft. elevation there are fresh cool mountain breezes that fill the house. Cars with exhaust systems that would never pass inspection in the U.S. fill the streets of the capital city. Elizabeth often has to bury her face in her shirt to best endure the drive downtown. Smells of fresh baked bread welcomes me as I climb the steps at the large bakery downtown. I either have to buy bread daily or take up all my small freezer space with bread for the week – with no preservatives the French bread will be stale after one day.



This past year for me, Wendy, was mostly about *relationships with the Cameroonians*. There were many opportunities to put to into action the verse "To whom much is given, much is required," as many needs were presented to us almost daily. I'd like to introduce you to a few of the people the Lord brought across my path:

One woman sold her cooked goods from door to door. She asked my advice on what else she might cook to sell. I suggested corn chips, since that is one thing I was missing. They weren't the same as home, but we still bought and ate them as did many other missionaries. She is working to save money to buy land to farm as her own. I wish I could have given her more money to help with buying her land. This land would help to insure that her family would not go hungry.

Our relief guard at the gate that encircled the mission compound had worked five years as a guard and wanted a better career. Mike tutored him in computer use several times before we had to leave. I wish we had a computer we could have given him so he could continue learning.

My house-helper was a joy to know. We enjoyed having coffee together and reading the Bible together and praying. She has a teachable heart and had trusted Christ for salvation. The translation of the scriptures in her mother tongue Aghem has begun, but is not finished. I wish we could have found a job for her before we left. She hoped to start selling cooked fish.

MJ works for the mission in one of the offices. She is a talented woman who spoke French and English fluently. Her heartache is her handicapped son who is eight years old. There are few opportunities for the handicapped in Africa. Her hope is to be able to move to England where her son can received the help he needs. I wish I had the money for their VISAS and plane tickets to England.

These are just a few of the needs that we were aware of while in Cameroon. If you would like to be a part of continuing to help our new brothers and sisters in Christ in Cameroon, please let us know and we will tell you how and will send you updates on them if you would like that too. God bless you.

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