

# THE <sup>Wendy</sup>W.A.M<sup>Mike</sup> REPORT

Vol.3 NO.4 Fall 1995

## If it's September, this *must* be Congo!

Yes, after much traveling around since we left Switzerland in June, we are safely in Brazzaville Congo getting accustomed to our new surroundings. Brazzaville is a large city (population 800,000) with paved roads (some potholes), electricity and running water, most of the time. Most of the Congolese living in Brazzaville speak French.

We've noticed differences from what we saw in Burkina Faso. In Burkina Faso you never saw a lady wearing pants but here it is quite common. Needless to say, Wendy is very happy! The soil is not red, but very sandy instead. The temperature is cooler too, for now anyway. By the time you read this letter we will have moved once again and be settling into the capital city of Bangui in the Central African Republic, the country just north of Congo. We will be there for 6 months to learn from an experienced surveyor how to do linguistic surveys. All this traveling might sound fun but it is quite tiring having to adjust to new houses, new markets, weather changes, cultural differences, and making friends. We covet your prayers for adjusting to all the new situations we will continue to experience during our first taste of actual survey work.

You may be asking, "What does survey work actually entail?" For one thing it means praying for lots of guidance. To do a survey well and obtain good results you need help from Africans who can assist in asking the survey questions. This is necessary because we won't be able to learn all the languages we survey; instead we will use French to communicate through our African colleagues. We also need to have the cooperation of village leaders in order to interview a balanced cross-section of the population. All of these factors are very important in having a clear picture of the language situations. Your prayers concerning these details will help us much. Please pray also that the Lord would provide meetings with teachers, leaders, and pastors who understand what sort of information we are looking for and who have a true picture of their local language situations. As always safety in travel is a big concern. When the land cruiser breaks down out in the middle of the back country we can't call AAA!!

New ADDRESS (again!!)(October-March '96)

Michael & Wendy Buchanan

S.I.L.

BP 1990

Bangui

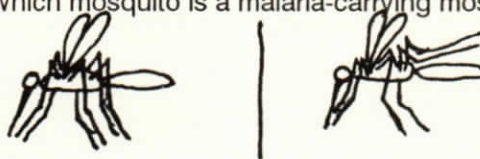
Central African Republic

INTERNET:Michael.Buchanan@iccs.sil.org

## Wanted Cabinet Makers!!!

Recently, the Congo group bought a new center to accommodate our growing membership. The buildings however are in great need of major renovations. We have been blessed to have several construction workers from the States helping us and we now need a cabinet maker to come for a couple months as soon as possible!! The ability to speak French is not required, you pay only for your plane ticket, room and noon meals will be provided. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in this chance to help in the ministry of Bible translation as well as experience a new culture, please write to our director, Steve Anderson: SIL; BP 1067; Brazzaville-RP; CONGO

Which mosquito is a malaria-carrying mosquito?



Since arriving in Africa I, Wendy, have asked myself several times why did God create mosquitoes? Was it only to complete the food chain and give the bats something to eat? They are such tiny things, but they sure can make a big change in your life. Because of them we now take anti-malarial medication everyday; because of them we sleep under a mosquito net everynight, making sure it is tucked in well at every corner; because of them we have a supply of anti-mosquito creams (none of which seem to work); because of them I have little scars on my legs from scratching their bites too much.

Did you know that the mosquitos that make a buzzing sound are not the ones that carry malaria? It's only the silent females that carry malaria. You can also tell which ones have the malaria by the way they stand when biting you. The mosquito on the right is a malaria carrier. We were told this during our orientation course in Burkina Faso. The information is interesting but I don't take the time to check the stance of the mosquito before smashing it!!!

**NOTE:** The E-mail address to the left is **now correct**. Sorry to those of you who tried it before and got your letters returned.



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Bible Translators

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## Three Weeks in Our Little Round Mud Hut



There was just enough room for our cots, buckets for water and suitcase.



Young women pound corn into flour to make "toh". A white paste-like food they eat everyday with a sauce.

During 3 weeks of our orientation to Africa we experienced life in a village up-close and personal. Everything was new to us. Especially the language. Only a handful spoke a little French. We were quite the attraction. The people loved to laugh when they heard us trying to greet them in their language. We were the first white people to live with them and they showed their friendship towards us in many ways including digging a pit toilet just for us!

Our differences often made us feel as if we were from Mars. But the Lord reminded us that the Bible was written to these villagers also, so we must be more alike than different. That is so amazing to us especially after experiencing another culture first hand. Our God is an awesome God. We have a new admiration and respect for God's Word. Praise God for showing us this truth. So up-close and personal!

*Your Partners in  
Bible Translation,  
Michael & Wendy*