

THE ^{Wendy}W.A.M^{Mike} ^{PLUS} REPORT

Vol. 4 No. 2 Spring 1996

More Adventures of Survey!

I just got back from the **last survey of our internship** here in the Central African Republic. It was the longest yet, 19 days! We travelled over 1000 miles, visited 12 villages and surveyed 7 languages. We praise God for how he watched over us and our vehicle. Thanks so much for praying!! We all stayed in good health till the end of the trip. One of our members came down with malaria the day after getting back, and the other two were also sick with stomach pains. Thankfully all have now recovered.

We had no wild animal encounters on this trip, not like the one before when we went down to the river to bathe and men were skinning an 8 foot crocodile they had just killed. We didn't go too far into the water after that!! That night we were treated to a meal of crocodile, very tasty! On this last trip I got to eat elephant meat; however, culinary expert that I am, I would have guessed it was beef.

Something really exciting was meeting a gentleman who had a manuscript of the Gospel of John which he had translated, of his own initiative, into his mother tongue of Yakoma. This is the first portion of the Bible in Yakoma, a major language here in CAR. **Pray** that the villagers would react positively to this translation.

Of course my favorite part of each day was 7 o'clock in the morning when I would have radio contact with Wendy, or at least try to. The first week we were unable to talk because of bad reception, and that makes the days longer for us both.

To tell of His excellent mercies

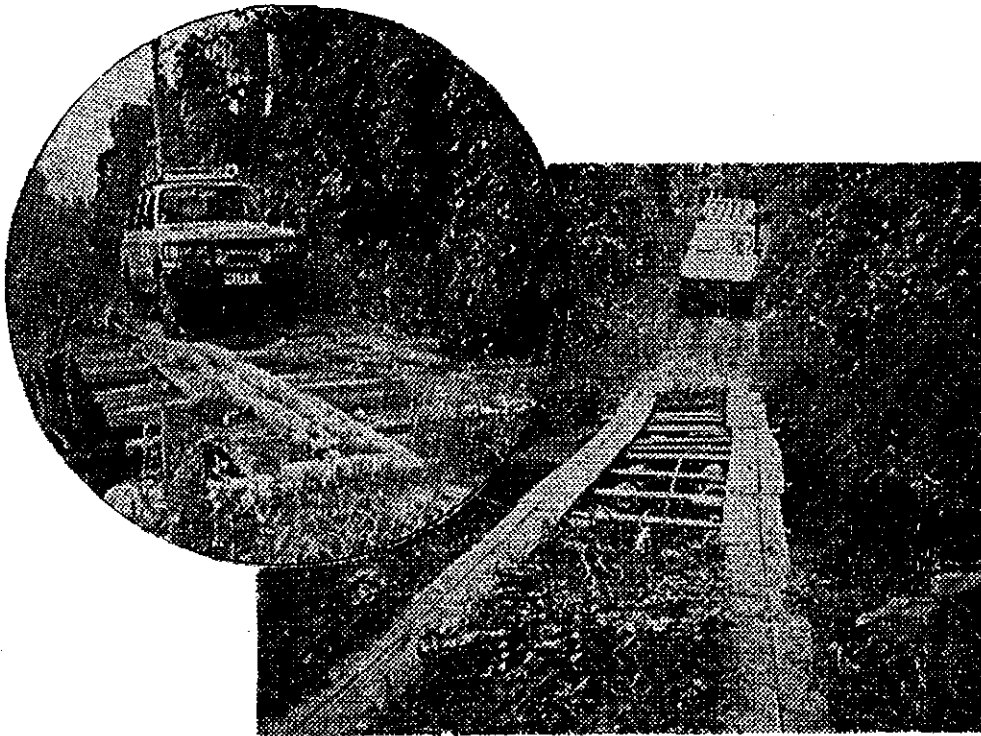
Since the beginning of this pregnancy, we knew that Wendy would need a special shot because of her negative blood type and Michael's being positive. We had assumed that we could get this from Paris through a French-operated laboratory here, as our doctor had suggested. Later we discovered that France had stopped manufacturing this serum. We then began inquiring how we might get it from the US. It would have to be hand-carried, and kept on ice. With the help of some other mission contacts here we found a couple willing to do this for us. On March 14th it arrived with Lois and Dick, a retired couple from Minneapolis who came to do some short-term work in Zaire with the Covenant mission. What a relief it was to see this precious cargo. It was precisely the week that Wendy needed to receive the shot. Our God is amazing!! And we thank you who have been praying for us concerning God's provision for our needs during this pregnancy. You'll find more details concerning the pregnancy in our **Praises** and **Prayer Needs** on the back.



Radio- the next best thing to being there.

Culture Corner

Did you ever wonder where we got the joke, "why did the chicken cross the road?" After driving thousands of miles and having chickens cross right in front of the vehicle just at the last possible moment, (I've only hit one so far), the question is more than just a joke. Of course we can often discourage them from making the attempt to cross by blowing the car horn. Which leads us into our cultural comparison of the different uses for the car horn. In Central Africa, it is proper to blow your horn at the animals on the side of the road, at the bicyclists on the road and at other cars when you are passing. This makes for lots of horn honking as you drive! It took a while for me as an American to get use to the idea that people are not going to think you are rude or mad at them if you honk. On the contrary, they will think you rude if you do not let them know you are coming.



Crossing some typical bridges. As you may see, in the picture on the left I am the only one in the car-the others decided to walk across!

PLEASE NOTE: New address after
June 1st, 1996
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Prayer Needs:

⇒ for a healthy baby, safe delivery and travel safety flying in the small MAF plane to the hospital (around May 6th) and back. Baby is due June 3rd.

⇒ for grace as we *adjust* one more time to a new apartment, a new city and a new baby all at the same time!

⇒ God's power to be shown in resolving the conflicts which have caused the missionaries to leave the Tandala mission hospital where we had originally planned to go for the delivery. "For we war not against flesh and blood . . ."

⇒ for God's Word to reach the *Yakoma*, and that the man who started translating the Scriptures would continue in the work.

Answers to your prayers:

⇒ Safety on survey trips and reparation of a busted tail pipe at a very hospitable mission station.

⇒ Healthy pregnancy

⇒ We have found a mission hospital in Karawa, Zaire with an OB/GYN too!

I lift my eyes up to the hills-
where does my help come
from? My help comes from
the Lord, the Maker of
heaven and earth.

*Your Partners in
Bible Translation,
Mike & Wendy
(and Baby Buchanan)*

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