

Prayer Requests

Please pray:

* for peaceful elections for Gabon in December.

* for stability in Congo and in Central Africa in general.

*for us as we pack and make final preparations for leaving, more shots, buying books/toys for David for the next 4 yrs etc..

*For additional financial partners.

Praises

**For the friends and churches who continue to partner with us.

**For the opportunity to help start the work in a new country.

**Wendy's back is improved, but keep praying please.

Our address

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Update on Congo

In our last newsletter we reported that there were two Wycliffe families in the port city of Pointe Noire. There is currently one family there. The families planning to go there this past summer postponed or canceled their plans for returning due to continued instability. As I write this our director and another member are in Congo visiting Brazzaville and Pointe Noire trying to assess the situation. Several language teams would like to return to their villages sometime after the beginning of the new year if possible. Thank you for your continued prayers for this country.

*Your partners in
Bible Translation,
Mike & Wendy & David too!*



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For financial gifts, please send checks to the Wycliffe address above and include a separate note indicating for Mike and Wendy Buchanan. Thank you!

The WAM Report

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Back across the ocean waves!!

Yes, we're still here at JAARS in North Carolina where Michael is serving in the computer department while we wait for the unrest in Congo to settle. However, with the doors of Congo still closed to our returning our director has begun making plans for our group to enter Gabon for the first time. Gabon is a small country just to the northwest of Congo, on the coast. Michael and I feel led to help with this new advance into Gabon in anyway we can.



Quick Stats

* Size: 103,347 sq miles or slightly smaller than Colorado.

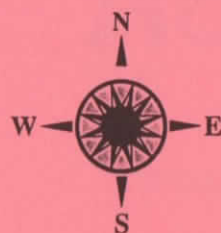
* Climate tropical: always hot, humid.

* Natural resources: petroleum, manganese, uranium, gold, timber, iron ore.

* Population: 1,190,159 (July 1997 est.)

Number of languages: 40.

There is so much to share regarding this new direction we are heading. Where do we begin?



Our Congo branch has always been the Congo/Gabon branch but the lack of personnel has prevented us from beginning work in Gabon. When we first arrived in Congo in '96 and I learned that our Congo branch was also responsible for Gabon, I had a strong feeling that some day Michael and I would live and work in Gabon. I believe that this "feeling" was a gift from the Lord to help me face yet another change, another move, another starting over, knowing that this is where He wants us to go.

Our Director's reports, following his visits into Gabon, have been very encouraging.

The Lord has truly been preparing the way for Bible translation to begin in Gabon.

1. The government policy has changed from promoting the use of only French in the schools to wanting the local Gabonese languages used in the schools and promoting literacy in the mother tongues of the people. This has always been a goal for Wycliffe believing that the Bible speaks clearest in a person's first language. Pray that this door remains open with the possibility of a new government (and new policies) being elected in December.
2. The development of a linguistics department at the University. Ten years ago no linguistic department even existed. The professors whom our director has contacted are very supportive of us coming and teaching them what we know. Pray that the Lord will raise up Godly Bible translators from among these already gifted linguistic students.
3. The pastors whom our director has met with have told him of their own goals for Bible translation even before they knew we were coming!! How exciting to be a part of what the Lord is doing in Bible translation for those who wait for His word in Gabon!! We look forward to sharing more of how the Lord is working in Gabon in the years to come. We pray you too can feel the excitement of what God is doing and will do through Bible translation!



Being among the first few to arrive in Gabon, we will need to fill several different roles.

Some of the roles our director has mentioned for Michael include e-mail coordinator, bookkeeper/accountant, survey trainer, and software instructor for linguistic students at the University. My roles are less defined at this point but I will help out wherever I can. Since David is only 2 years old he will not be in school yet and will still demand much of my time. I miss being more directly involved in "the work" but I must remember that David will grow up oh too quickly and there will be many years left when I can be more involved.

E.T.A?

In our most recent correspondence with our director he estimates that we could be in Gabon by January or February.

Presently he is planning a visit to Gabon in November to work out the details of our contract with the government.



Financial picture

We know that the cost of living in Gabon is higher but just how much has not been determined yet. At the writing of this letter our former director is putting together a more detailed financial picture for us.

As far as our one time re-startup project we now have 50% of our needed funds! If you would like to contribute to this fund, please make the check out to Wycliffe Bible Translators and include a separate note saying that you would like the gift to go towards the **Michael & Wendy Buchanan Restartup project #71302119**. Please mail to the Wycliffe address found on the back page.

Thank you for your gifts, both one-time and ongoing. We praise God for each one of you who have stood with us all these years.

David's health

Since August, David has been hospitalized twice for respiratory difficulties. The first time it was determined by the doctor to be a reactive airway response from a virus. The second time it was because of pneumonia. We are suspecting that his difficulties could be allergy related and are pursuing some testing. Please pray that we would find some answers to help David avoid further complications especially in Africa.

