

## Prayer Requests

\*David's adjustment to Africa, confidence for learning to speak French and friends to play with.

\*Pray that Wendy would find a way to connect with the African culture. Michael's job defines his role in the culture, but being a mom can be very isolating.

\*David's health to improve and that medical care would be available when needed.

\*Housing in a safe location, trustworthy house guard and house help (two cultural requirements).

\*Safety traveling around the city. Funds for a car.

\*Godly Gabonese colleagues to work with us in the task of Bible translation.

\*Extra prayer coverage May 1-14 as Michael goes to Germany for a survey conference.

**For Praises see front page and inside. We've run out of room here.**

### Our <sup>new</sup> address

Mike & Wendy Buchanan  
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Libreville GABON  
wendy\_buchanan@sil.org

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David's Health Update:

The milk, eggs and cheese allergies are more permanent. This has required much creativity on mommy's part in preparing meals and snacks. The good news is that he is eating a much healthier diet of nuts, fruit and other grains packed with vitamins! Did you know that you can make your own oat flour by pulverizing rolled oats in your blender? We are so thankful that we have found some answers to helping David be more healthy! Thanks for praying!

*Your Partners in  
Bible Translation,  
Mike, Wendy & David*

  
**Wycliffe**  
BIBLE TRANSLATORS  
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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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Vol. 7 No. 1 Winter 1999

## Gabon here we come!

The Gabonese elections were held in early December and the voters re-elected their same president of the past 30 years. **Thank you for praying for peaceful elections.** Our director was able to visit the country in mid-January and sign an agreement with GRELACO, a government agency for the preservation of African languages which is associated with the University of Omar Bongo in Libreville. This has paved the way for us to work in the country of Gabon. The director is currently in the capital of Libreville looking for housing for his family and also a small guest house for new people arriving. He is hoping to move his family to Libreville in early March and we are to arrive April 1st.

### David's Health Update

Test results for allergies show that David is allergic to milk, eggs and cheese and has food sensitivities to wheat, corn, beef, pineapple, banana, rye and sesame. We are in the process of eliminating these from his diet for 8 weeks with the hopes of rotating those he is sensitive to back into his diet occasionally.

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## New Challenges

The time is drawing near to leave for Libreville. I am excited about finally getting back overseas. A new city, new culture, new jobs. I have been asked to do the accounting for the Congo/Gabon branch which will be a new experience for me. Occasionally I find myself wondering, will I be able to do it? Will I enjoy it? I will be getting a crash course in accounting during the first three weeks of March and hopefully at that time I will be able to take over the branch's books.

I will also be helping to set up a networked computer lab at the University in Libreville and may be training Gabonese linguists in some linguistic software that we use. This will also be a challenge.

Finally, I also hope to be taking part in surveying the sociolinguistic situation in the country or perhaps just training others in sociolinguistic issues. Many of the Gabonese linguists have studied in France and some have their doctorate degrees. It is a little frightening thinking I may be training them! I know I enjoy survey but will I have the time to do it in light of my other tasks?

There are many questions and unknowns as we head over to Gabon and I though may sometimes lack confidence in my abilities, I can always have confidence in God who will help me in each and every situation. As the children's song goes, "We are weak but He is strong, Yes Jesus loves me!"



*Wendy's Matters of the Heart*



It seems the theme of my life since joining Wycliffe has been "Push through the fear". It all began in Dallas taking the linguistic courses. The Lord encouraged me through the words David spoke to Solomon when building the temple. "Do not be discouraged, do not fear, but DO THE WORK." I Chronicles 28:20. With God all things are possible! The next great fear came when I was expected to speak in front of churches. Once again I had to push through the fear and DO THE WORK. God is faithful to meet our needs. Then came the paralyzing fear of learning to speak French. Again I pushed through the fear and DID THE WORK. The Lord rewarded my efforts and I spoke French after 17 months of study! Then came setting foot on African soil. I pushed through the fear and found God on the other side as in the past. God is faithful to keep us. His grace upon grace and your prayers carried me through.

Now I find myself again facing the fear of the unknown (and the known!). I want to push through the fear and I know that God will see me through it all. Some call it walking by faith but often in front of that faith stands FEAR, tall and strong, a wall from Satan to keep us from being all that God wants us to be for His glory. I know that in Gabon there will be daily walls of fear that I will face and I desire to push through them all. Will you pray for me to be strong in the Lord, believing only the truth and not listening to the father of lies. Thank you for carrying me through on the wings of your prayers. We make a great team!!

At the writing of this letter, our plans are to leave for Gabon on March 31st. This is conditional upon our director finding housing for his family before we can join them there in Libreville. Please pray for the Lord to lead him, and us, to some wonderful housing!

## Congo Update

Just before sending this out to be printed, we learned that a translator and his family and a single woman, the last of our branch members in Congo, were preparing to leave the country because of increased fighting in their area. The country of Congo is still far from stable, with supporters of the ex-president fighting the Congolese army in southern Brazzaville and other southern parts of the country. Please pray for this country and also for all the Congolese who suffer because of the fighting. May peace and order be restored there soon, for His glory!

## Financial picture

Since our last newsletter we have found out that the cost of living in Gabon is basically the same as it was in Congo!! Our monthly support is averaging 95%.

The re-startup project fund is now at 100%! **We are so grateful to all who have contributed to this fund.**

Our director has informed us that we will also need a vehicle in the capital city since there are not city buses. Wycliffe has established a fund for this project called the **WAM vehicle fund #72302119**. If you would like to contribute, 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 vehicle fund #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 give so that we can go!***