



# Cameroon Report

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Check out our Web site [www.keesincameroon.org](http://www.keesincameroon.org)

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November 30, 2016

Dear Christian brethren,

Janet and I have just arrived back in the States after a special 11-day trip to Cameroon. This was for the Dedication or Launching of the complete Bible in Lamnso', the dialect in which we've been working for the last 35+ years. That language, the largest among 253 in the country, is the reason we moved to Nso' in 1981; we wanted to work in a native tongue where we could spend many years. The serendipity came with a wonderful climate and the two best hospitals in the country in our city.

I got involved at the end of the translation of the Lamnso' New Testament in 1981, before it came out in 1990. When the Old Testament part started in 1996, I was right in the middle of it. I paid the rent on the Bible Translation Center for 16 years, and now the Lamnso' Literacy Center for three. Seventeen years ago I placed four translators, our Bible School graduates, on the 12-man translation team. We also financed a revision of the New Testament. For the last three years I have been in charge of the preparations for the Dedication, with 110 grass-roots workers getting ready with us. There were 5,200 meals cooked and 5,400 bottles of soda and water, plus lots of logistics, with hundreds helping.

On November 18<sup>th</sup> (changed to Friday from Saturday) we had a Wonderful Launching of the complete Nwa' Nyuy (God's Book) in Lamnso'. There were over 5,000 people in attendance, including the governor's representative and the Catholic "cardinal." We already have over 200 students who have done the 21 Bible lessons in Lamnso' and were given one Bible free. We paid for 200 of the 1,000 Bibles we had ordered, but I will still have to raise another \$9,900 for the other 800 I ordered on faith.

Our Bible School Lectureship is on track again for May 2017. We have plans for a campaign group to come from the States, especially including from the congregation that helped us to re-start it this year. *We are still looking for people to go!* The dates are May 17<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. I will need all the names of those going, by the end of January, in order to get invitation letters visaed in Cameroon and back to us, so we can apply for visas from Washington, in February. So please call me or e-mail me if you have the slightest interest, and I will send you details. We are really excited about the campaign group!

Unfortunately, not all of our efforts and stories are so good. Since 2008, we have lost over 30% of our monthly support, plus another \$68 reduction this month by a congregation who has gone down. Our budget calls for a monthly increase of \$9,700. This can only come from individuals like you. Last month I preached on Sunday at a congregation, concluding with an illustration about walking out of worship when a congregation started clapping while they were singing. My point was that in Cameroon, where we always answer Bible questions in public, "We don't preach or practice anything we cannot support from Scripture." On that Tuesday an elder called and dropped the \$200 a month they had been giving for 32 years. So this will also have to be replaced by another congregation, or family, just to get us back to where we started! Please give a special prayer for those Churches and families who are deciding if they can commit to an even greater monthly part in this work in 2017.

Beside the 28-hour trip we just made back from Cameroon, and the 11-hour drive we made to see the family in Texas for Thanksgiving (and reporting), Janet and I have really been busy. We have already spoken at 25 congregations in 13 States and driven 14,000 miles. We are looking forward to visiting about 65 more congregations by April. Our one-time budget calls for \$180,000 in funds for Bibles, printing equipment, transportation, shipping, library and text books, and overhauls to our vehicles in Cameroon, including better tires. So we need you to share with us in this great work, even more than before, but especially in your prayers, and especially while we are driving around!

In His service,

*Paul*

JOTS from JANET

Dear Christian friends,

As most of you probably noticed, I did not write my "Jots from Janet" for the last newsletter. As I've traveled around the 13 States, as Paul previously mentioned, I am humbled and honored that many of you said they always read my part FIRST, and they miss when I don't write. Thank you all who do that. It means a lot to me. :-) I do appreciate all who contribute used eyeglasses, and we really hope we will get a LOT of used songbooks. I just had a long discussion with Paul about how sometimes it doesn't really matter, in my opinion, whether or not I attend ALL of the congregations that we are reporting to, that if a congregation is not convinced by the report about all we do and the needs that are presented, then my being there "is just icing on the cake," sort of speaking. Many times people just walk straight by the display table that I put up and that I stand by, without a glance, let alone ask questions about it. Many of you do not realize the miles we put in out on the road to visit the congregations, the back-tracking and planning, and re-scheduling on the congregation's part, that go into scheduling the appointments of 90 congregations in 18 States, during a period of about 9 months. Paul tries to make a circle out of our trips, so that we can go back at least every three weeks to see the family members in Memphis, and especially our kids and grandkids in Alabama. In many ways, this time in the States is harder than being on the field. In fact, many people, here and in Cameroon, think we're on "vacation!" True, we do enjoy seeing our friends and families scattered throughout our travels, and we enjoy the foods (too much) and different events we get to attend. But it is very rough and tiring on us, and we are not getting any younger!! :-) I do hope that this information will be insightful to you, but I felt the need to say it, and to beg each of you, not just the congregation as a whole, to consider giving to this fruitful work with an open hand and an open heart, and for the congregations to work with us on the communication and scheduling of our appointments while we are in the States.

In late June, I came to the States five weeks ahead of Paul for family business. This included a day of rescheduling our already made plane tickets (if the electricity is on), and trying to condense the necessary plans I had during those five weeks, plus arranging someone to take me 10 hours trip to the airport. As I was chairman of the Health committee for the LamNso' Bible Dedication, I had to have a special meeting, ready my notes and hand them over to an interim person who would oversee meetings in my absence. For the occasion, my health committee worked great, but having no running water was against us, and therefore very upsetting. But we had only 3 dehydration patients, so that turned out ok.

In Christian love,

*Janet M. Kiee*

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