



Cameroon Report

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Church of Christ, Nso'
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have arrived in the States TODAY, to begin another saga of traveling, reporting, and raising funds. This intense part of the work carries two big benefits: One is getting to see so many of our brothers, sisters, friends, and loved ones, people we have known for many years. It is truly a blessing to visit with those who have supported us and prayed for us for a long time. Another benefit is, I get to Fish! That is the one American activity I really miss when I am in Africa. So please get your ponds ready for me; I will have my license, and my equipment is always in the car!

Seriously, we will be starting out on 2nd September and will already be in 10 different states, just in the first month! So we will be busy, flying, driving, reporting, and visiting with brothers and sisters. We hope you are along our trail, and that we will have a chance to see you also.

We have been very busy in Cameroon since the May report. We had a very good 2nd Annual Scholarship Lectureship at Kumbo Christian Bible School, Nso'. We had 430 in attendance, with about 130 congregations from around the country represented. This Lectureship is designed to have lessons for members in "meatier" subjects than in campaigns. For example, Brother Kirk Castleman, a former missionary to Cameroon, visited us and spoke three days on The Apocrypha and the Inter-Testamental Period. Other subjects included Bible Figures of Speech, The Origin of the Soul, Places of Religious Worship, and What is Hades?, among others. The idea, each May, is to challenge the thinking of each speaker, to dig into a topic as never before. So we automatically exclude lessons on first principles, Christian living, or parts of the Church – these are covered in other courses and gatherings.

The logistics of the Lectureship itself were well handled by the 12 committees, with very good preparations. A shortage of water was our biggest problem, and carrying it in drums and containers was a lot of work. The feeding, sleeping, return transport, and copied materials went as planned. We only said that any speaker in the future should have his lesson for printing to us two weeks ahead of time! This will reduce the stress on our staff. Special thanks to Bartlett Woods for the wonders they have done. They not only provided the start-up equipment we wanted in 2014, but also financed half of the Lectureship this year. We hope they will also have some representatives to come next May.

Our other programs have been going on as normal. We share Bibles house-to-house in our targeted quarters (parts of villages) in October. Then from November through April we have Public Bible Lectures, usually in 12 villages a dry season. The four TEAMS have built up congregations near where they worked, and have started three new congregations, two of whom are small. Mbinon proved to be very receptive, with 15 baptisms, so far. During the rainy season, we do classes, personal evangelism, and Sunday visits, especially to visit new congregations. The four of us evangelists have a quarterly rotation schedule for these visits, to make sure we keep in contact with these new creations. We also, when Bible School is on, send out students on Sundays, to visit congregations or to go with an evangelist. Remember that we four evangelists do NOT work as local preachers, with one congregation. We work with 80 congregations, in two divisions, and in all 8 programs of the work in Nso'.

On June 4th we resumed Bible School with the Advanced Courses. I taught Greek Word Studies and Composition & Writing Skills. Other subjects included Scheme of Redemption (written many years ago by Kirk Castleman), the Book of James, Research, and Advanced Bible Verses. We had eight students this time, four men and four women. Three of them were getting finished this year. To get a Third-Year Diploma, it is necessary to successfully complete 4 terms of the Advanced Courses. These are two months long. Before coming there are lots of worksheets to complete and materials to learn.

The first two days are tests, followed by 4 weeks of classes and a week of Mid-Term break. Mid-Term Exams take two days, which are then followed by 3-4 weeks of classes. Then the students are sent back to study and write their Final Exams at home, about 2 weeks after classes end. These studies are very intensive and carry a heavy load of daily work. We did not have anyone drop out this year, but we have about four who will not be sure of passing unless they do really well on the Finals, especially in Greek. The regular Bible School (two terms a year) starts on September 4th. Brothers Fai and Simon will be teaching all the classes in the English section, while Brothers Jean-Pierre and Emmanuel will be handling the French section. These run until March 15th, when we send them home to plant, work, rest, and re-connect with their home congregations. We want them to be self-supporting when they finish.

Although Advanced Courses uses half my day when it is going on, I have also had a LOT of time consumed during the last three months by the Bible Dedication. I am the coordinator of the Planning activities for the Dedication/ Launching of the Nwa' Nyuy, the complete Bible in the Lamnso' language. Lamnso' is the largest dialect (among 253) in Cameroon. This will be a national event, on November 19th. The Prime Minister and the catholic cardinal have promised to be there. We are also inviting Ministers and the President of Cameroon to attend. Our budget is about \$30,000, because of the publicity expenses and because we will be feeding over 10,000 people. We are inviting all the schools, especially where Lamnso' is taught, so our attendance may be 25,000. The denominations are raising funds now to support this special day. I have already spent a lot to print the 20,000 brochures/ invitations, and have sent out 8 teams to meet Nso' people and groups around the country and into Nigeria. The reception has been overwhelming! Janet and I will be contacting many by e-mail, and I have brochures to send to groups of Nso' people all over the world, from California, to South Africa, to Vietnam, to Sweden. We want them to attend and to support the occasion financially. On our part, we are also going to buy 1,000 copies, at \$9.50 each, to give out free to those who do our 21 Bible lessons in Lamnso'. The newly-printed Lamnso' dictionary will also be dedicated that day, November 19th. Janet and I will be coming back for that week, but the 12 committees will continue with their preparations.

We want you to continue to take part in this work. Our goal is to raise 50% more in one-time funds than we did last time, and to increase our monthly support by 30% - we have lost more than that in the last eight years. We need used songbooks in the worst way. Janet continues to give out used eyeglasses. Yet most of all we need your prayers, especially for our travels in the States. Please take time right now to stop, and pray for us, and for the work of the Lord in Cameroon.

In His service,

Paul

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