



# Cameroon Report

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September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Brethren,

## GREAT NEWS!!!

Greetings from Mbouda, in the Ouest (West) Region (state) of Cameroon! I am doing very, very well, and safe, and have Great News to share. The Special Course in July and August was successful beyond our dreams! Truly, our God is an awesome God!

Our plan was to have students, both French- and English-speaking, to come for an intensive five-week Special Course. The idea was to teach a 12-week term, six days a week, without the reading of notes in class or the periodic tests. To do this, on three levels, we required them to fill worksheets, either from the notes or from the Scriptures, and pass them for marking. This worked out wonderfully, except the teachers about collapsed under the load of marking every night! We hoped (And Budgeted) for 25-30 students – we ended up with 53! All of our eight Staff members worked extremely hard, including the driver and the secretary. The English-section had 41 students, so we three had to work especially hard. One of the aspects was giving each student (and staff) \$1.00 a day for breakfast and snacks. Then we provided a cooked meal from a restaurant, for all 61 of us, everyday at 4:00 p.m.

At the end of the Special Course, we gave out three levels of Certificates: of Accomplishment, of School Credit, and of Advanced Credit. In addition, each student who completed received a “Sword of the Spirit” (a machete, to remember it), and the top five got extra prizes. That day we also paid everyone’s way home, as promised. The students, from 43 congregations, learned a lot, and will be ambassadors for the Bible School. A few of these students will come to regular Bible School soon, and even more will return next Summer for the Advanced Courses, either in French or in English. So, even though it was a Budget Buster and put us in a hole, this Special Course is going to fulfill its purposes.

September 4<sup>th</sup> is the starting date of the French-section (Francophones) in Dschang, a little over an hour from Mbouda. Sister Rosine Magnam, one of our Third-Year Diploma holders who has a Master’s in Linguistics, was working there for the government. We were forced to move that section from Nso’ in September 2018, to where it has been surviving since then. We have three part-time teachers (really Anglophones) who teach with Jean Pierre Magnam, our vice-principal for that section. He also has the Diploma and Master’s his wife does. So we are glad to have additional students there.

Our Bible School started in 1989, but since 2001 it had been the only preacher training school anywhere in the brotherhood to have both an English and a French section in the same school. The English section was forced to close in 2018, due to the on-going insecurity in the English-speaking section of Cameroon. So I decided we had to re-open it here in Mbouda, near to the North West. We will be starting on October 5<sup>th</sup>. My secretary is here now, and the other two Anglophone teachers who live in Nso’, Fai Emmanuel Kigha and Kiru Simon Selamu, will be alternating every two or three weeks over the 12-week terms. We will continue here until it is safe for Janet and me to return to Nso’, in the area where the English-speaking dissidents are fighting with the French-dominated government.

Other good news that has emptied our coffers, for good reasons, includes the premises we have secured. Due to a landlords’ association in Mbouda (with a lawyer and contracts), we could only rent places by paying six months in advance. First, we got an up-stairs apartment with a water tower, which is very important in this overgrown town. It has a kitchen, big parlor, two showers, and four bedrooms. The ones off the front porch serves as our office for Joshua Banye. The staff members stayed there during the Special Course. It is now the men’s dormitory and classroom. (I was staying in the two-room studio in town. That will serve as the women’s dormitory, if we have two to four women, as expected. Or for a married couple, if one comes.) When the three-bedroom apartment below the teachers’ quarters came open, the landlady called me, and I snapped it up! So I have moved in there, and Janet and I have a secure place now. That allows us to have the dog inside the fence, and a place for shipped cargo.

Yet, brothers and sisters, here's the rub, and where we really need your prayers. I planned to go back to the States this week, for three weeks, to ship a container and get Janet and Inkkee to come back with me. However, there are two BIG problems: United Airlines (our usual carrier) is Not carrying dogs since the Covid-19 crisis started. We got her at six weeks old, intending to fly here with her four months later, but it was not to be. She just turned two last month. To fly Delta/ Air France might be 50% more expensive, and have serious conditions that require extra-long layovers at each stop. Secondly, due to having paid four months rent ahead, and having a Special Course that was almost double of what we had planned, we are out of money, and in debt. A problem, but good for the work.

You know I've thought about putting off starting this section of the Bible School, in order to raise funds in the U.S. That would mean missing out on the enthusiasm built up by the Special Course, and we would lose students. Plus, since March 2020, we have Not been able to travel and visit many of our supporters. People have told us we can't stay with them. Some congregations don't even want outside visitors, especially with new variants. We were vaccinated, but it seems that does not cover everything. So, we're depending on YouTube (Kee Paul Janet Cameroon), flash drives, e-mails, letters, Janet's calls, and this newsletter to raise funds. It is not ideal, like seeing supporters face-to-face, but that is reality, for the moment. Beech Hill has gone above and beyond, especially, but we must depend on many others for this effort. Particularly, we are still short of monthly contributors, as we have been for five years. At this time, we are also critically in need of one-time help with new School equipment.

No matter if I stay here until next year, or Janet and Inkkee get to come later this Fall, I am SO happy that we are able to report some good results! Covid-19 has not been a big problem here, so we've traveled a lot and use masks infrequently. I visited 8 of the 9 congregations in the Quest Region, some with students along. We are planning to support the Regional Lectureship/Campaign coming up on October 8-10 hosted by the Mbouda congregation. We will also travel to Limbe, down on the coast in the South West, for the National Annual Gospel Lectureship. So we are glad that the work for the Lord in Cameroon that you have been praying for, is moving once again! Please pray of us both, and for our fund-raising efforts. We always pray for you who take part in this work, knowing we could never do it without you! The Lord is making all things possible for those who love Him, and persevere.

In HIS service,

*Paul*



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