



Cameroon Report

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Dear Brethren,

Today, May 14, we were scheduled to go back to Cameroon. Unfortunately, finances have not yet allowed us to return. So we have had to delay our departure until June 2, when we have to go back, one way or another, because of the Advanced Courses, which start just a week after our return.

We feel as we have done our part, for sure. We got into the States on July 30, 2008. I had knee surgery within 10 days, and we started full-time traveling August 31. In the original 7-1/2 months of reporting, we averaged 28 nights a month out on the road, with only two nights a month at home! We have been in 15 states and visited over 85 congregations. Please remember to share with us in praying to the Lord in thanks for 26,000 miles of safe driving! How blessed we have been to be safe and healthy, including Janet's back, and to be able to get to all the places we planned in March 2008.

So if we have done what we set out to do, has it been enough? To give you a perspective, we have raised only 11% of the additional monthly contributions we had put into our budget last Summer! We started in a slump, having lost 5% of our monthly support in the last two years, due to financial problems within congregations in the U.S. During the same period, what we were getting for the dollar in Cameroon went down 40% and gasoline prices went up 45%! So even though we had hoped to get so many more monthly commitments from families and congregations this time, it has not happened yet.

Many people in America have been encouraged to hear about the growth of the Kingdom in Africa. Our report has shown how the Lord has blessed your work in Cameroon. Starting and maintaining 79 congregations in two Divisions over the last 27 years in Nso' would never have been possible without His blessings. And the programs are continuing while we have been in the States, including the Bible School, the Bible Lesson Office, teaching Bible in 4 high schools, Sunday visits to different congregations, lectureships, translations of the Old

Testament and the New. We have a full plate set for us when we return, leading forward to this Fall, when we will distribute Bibles and preach in 15 new villages. We look forward to being really involved in the Annual National Lectureship in November 2009 at Ekona, which is when we usually distribute songbooks to the 200 congregations here. So the next three years will be busy and fun, as we work with our four Cameroonian coworkers.

It appears it is going to be very hard to maintain all of our programs this time. We had hoped to buy 10,000 Bibles this year. We ended up getting donations for only about 2,500 Bibles, so we had to use other funds to buy the minimum amount we can get by with for now. We did get the money for a Risograph and supplies, to multiply our printing capabilities, but we will not be able to replace any of the 3 ailing vehicles we have in the mission in Cameroon, all of which are over 30 years old! We had wanted to use a program of temporary quarters out in Mbo'nso' this next dry season, with 5 teams going for 2-1/2 days at a time. This method yielded 4 congregations in 2006, but it is too expensive for us now. I still owe the 11 Mbembe congregations in Nigeria a 10-day visit, but that is also on hold.

At this time, our biggest problem seems to be in getting answers. We know that the present U.S. economy and the news have made many people jittery and cautious about the future. Yet we need to hear from the congregations we visited during the last 8 months. So would you please take time to pray with us, that we should be able to get good answers from those to whom we reported this year?

We thank the Lord for all of you. We know we would never have been so successful, so healthy, so able to work and to travel, were it not for the moral support and prayers you have given on our behalf. Please keep us in your prayers, as we do you, when we are able to go back to Cameroon.

In His service,

Paul

JOTS from JANET

Dear Christian Friends,

Hurrah! Another time of traveling has come and gone! We have been "off the road" now for about three weeks, with the exception of a trip backup to Illinois to prepare Bibles, songbooks, and other items for shipping. Those three weeks, for me, have been busy with trying to straighten out some business matters, clean house, and spend some time with my family. Time is quickly growing to a close here in the United States and we will soon be returning to Cameroon. It will be a rough time during the next couple of weeks trying to make sure everything is in order before boarding the plane. The biggest task is finding all of my little notes about what to buy or do. Alas, I started keeping my notes in a notebook a little too late, so I have to first find, then condense my lists down into one place. It is really tough trying to carry on two households at once! But I really would not like to have it any other way. Going to the doctor several times to try to regulate medicines and to keep a lab tab on the new medicines which were prescribed for me, is time consuming. A year's supply of the necessary prescriptions will have to be packed into my carry-on. Hopefully, this time I will remember to keep a better vigil on where that bag is and not let it get missing at the airport, like last time!

My newsletter in March ended up with the close of the Winter, at least for most people. I was sorry to see it go, as I enjoy the cooler weather so much more than the high eighty degrees which Memphis started having. That was a little too hot too soon. In Cameroon, where our house is in Nso', the weather is basically constant. It is either rainy or dry. The temperature doesn't fluctuate there like it does here, so I do not have any trouble in knowing what to wear from day to day! I have had a tremendous amount of trouble this time in keeping up with what kind of clothes to always be taking on our trips to the fifteen states we visited. Not to mention the fact that after every two to three week trip out, I had to find something that I could even WEAR! All the delicious pot luck dinners, eating out, and sitting in the car most of the time really plays havoc with my waistline. There should be a better way to keep off the weight that I do put on every time I come back "on leave."

This week I have spent a lot of time in going through all of the eyeglasses which people have given me, consolidating them into several big boxes. I want to take this opportunity to thank every one who gave the glasses to me, or mailed them to Collinsville. I want to thank all of my new friends I have met this time, exchanged e-mails with already, and who have prayed for us and my family and all of our trials. Because of your prayers, dear friends, we have had, and will have safe journeys. Thank you!

In Christian love,

