

# The Derricks Family

*Elliot, Serena, Lydia, Chikodi & Josephine*



**Serving in  
Cameroon, Africa  
in Translation  
and Literacy**

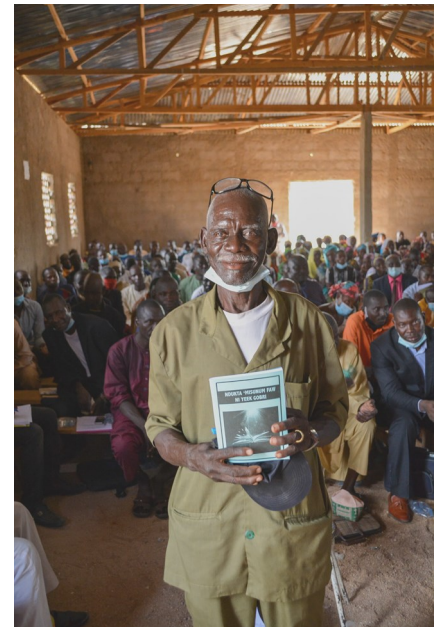


**Lutheran Bible  
Translators**

April 2021

Greetings from a very hot April in Cameroon! These past few months have been filled with **village visits to raise awareness about the literacy and Bible translation projects** (as we wrote about in our last newsletter), **finishing up our third and final dialect workshop**, and the **Subula\* National Assembly of Christians where the proposed dialect choices, orthography changes were presented**. The long-awaited reprinting of the Subula songbook was dedicated at the Assembly. Thank you for all who gave to the Subula Bible Translation and Literacy project that supported this songbook reprinting! The community was blessed with 500 copies to sell to help support the building of their translation and literacy center this year!

The village visits continue to go well and we are overwhelmed by the interest and engagement of the community. I (Serena) am planning to spend this rainy season (May-October) working with a team of about six Subula\* people to help create literacy curriculum. We are hoping to train teachers and open some pilot classes during the next dry season (December-April of 2022) to test the efficacy of the materials and see how the project can eventually expand to all corners of the Subula region—with speakers of the language numbering around 100,000. We will also be printing alphabet charts and short story books to help encourage the reading (and writing!) of Subula. There is a lot of interest in using the materials the literacy team creates in local public schools, so we continue to pray that God would open that door.



*A participant at the Subula National Assembly of Christians proudly holds his newly printed Subula Songbook. He still has his copy of the same songbook, the last printing in 1989, that isn't in good condition. He is happy his younger church members will now have their own books too.*



*A community leader reads a traditional story in the new orthography.*



*A photo of the participants in the third dialect workshop.*

Sing to the LORD,  
praise his name;  
proclaim his  
salvation day after day.  
Declare his glory among  
the nations,  
his marvelous  
deeds among all peoples.  
Psalm 96:2-3

**2021 Monthly Pledges**

**78%**

The final dialect workshop finished up in April and ended with a written document summarizing all the findings. The participants discussed and debated the dialect and orthography choices for the Subula\* language community. After much research and debate, it was decided that choosing two dialect groups would be the best sociolinguistic option. Sociolinguistics is the study of how language and culture interact with one another. The orthography changes will assist in readability and standardization in their spelling and alphabet. An orthography is the punctuation, alphabet, word breaks, and spelling rules in a language. The workshop findings were presented, debated, and approved at the Subula\* National Assembly of Christians at the end of April! This approval means we can move forward with training revisors and translators for the Bible translation team in the coming months.

We will be working with two teams for literacy and translation, that will be working in tandem and producing materials for their dialect groups. Two Bibles in two different dialects of Subula—Dialect T and Dialect K. We are continuing to do research of the Subula\* dialect groups that are further north, and have a working hypothesis that we may add a third dialect group to the mix in the years to come.

Why choose two (or maybe eventually three) dialects instead of one? To put it simply, the main reason the New Testament from 1975 wasn't widely used is because of the dialect choice. One dialect was chosen and it was difficult for others to understand due to the large differences in vocabulary and grammar. Based on the findings in the workshop, the community feels that the two dialect groups can better represent the 10+ dialects. It is a large undertaking and we pray the Lord will provide us the years here in Cameroon to complete this work.

*\*a pseudonym for security purposes*

On Elliot's birthday we were so pleased to receive approval for another step in Chikodi's immigration paperwork. We have applied for our third (and final!) step of the process. The timeline for this third step is anywhere between 6-22 months, so we would appreciate prayers that it would be processed closer to the 6 month mark. In April we celebrated three years in Cameroon. Although our ministry is fulfilling, we are eager to reconnect with our families and supporters and introduce you all to Chikodi! We will update you once we have the final approval and know our travel plans.



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If you have questions, please contact us!

**P** **+Family:** We thank God for a better experience with hot season and that we didn't suffer from heat rashes this year. We thank God and pray for Chikodi's immigration paperwork progress. Thank God that our solar power continues to serve us well and that our vehicle does great on the rough village roads.

**R**

**A** **+Work:** Praise God for all the work He has enabled to happen these past few months. We are thankful for safe travel for the workshop participants and for their unified voice at the Assembly. Pray that the Subula people would continue to be united and they would select good translators that will be diligent and faithful in their work.

**Y**

**E**

**R** **+Community:** Pray for continued security in our region and throughout Central Africa. Praise God that the COVID-19 in Cameroon has not impacted our ministry drastically this year.

**S**



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