

MISSION TO THE LELE WITH THE GEBHARDS IN WEST AFRICA

APRIL 2018

## Do demons really make computers?

By Marc

*I can't believe he's asking this question again. He asked me this about a year ago too!*

"Mr. Marc. Is it really true that demons make computers?" my friend said a few days ago.

Like last time, I was shocked by his question. *Where do people get ideas like this?*

Last time he asked, I had told him, "No, people build computers."

And then he had said something about how those foreigners who make computers and phones and printers are so smart, they must never sleep.

And here we were again sitting in the front room of our village house and he was asking me again

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **Genesis 1:27***

**WELLS MINISTRY** Praise God! Our village wells team got the official recognition and permission from the local government authorities early this month for their work.

**TRAVEL** Pray for travel protection for Marc and Tina as they wrap up their visit in West Africa and fly back to the US in the last few days of April.

**TRANSLATION** Praise God for giving us a great few weeks in the village moving forward in exegetical correction work in Luke and the Psalms. We were able to get several chapters worked on. The translation workshop was also a success as well as consultant checking.

**PIERRE** Pray for Pierre as he deals with some hard situations. We helped Pierre get a new smartphone a few days ago and it was stolen the same evening. After our workshop was finished, he found out his adoptive father had died back in the village. Upon arriving home, he found out that his best friend had died of complications related to diabetes.

PRAYER



*TECHNOLOGY AT WORK—Marc, Jonas and Pierre work on a list of village testing questions for a Bible scripture portion during a recent Bible translation workshop.*

LIVES IN TRANSFORMATION—The village church holds Sunday school in our new guest house, under construction.



if demons made computers and phones and such. So I decided to ask him where this idea came from. He began telling me about an audio recording he had been listening to.

The speaker on the recording tells people that he had a vision where he was carried away to foreign places where he saw demons building phones and computers. The recording must have been pretty convincing and people just can't imagine that human beings would be capable of making things like computers and smart phones.

***"God made people in his image!" my friend suddenly exclaimed.***

Our conversation a few days ago turned a corner though. I began talking about how God made people extremely creative—giving them the ability to make complicated machines. We began talking about how humans were made a bit different than the rest of the creatures. God gave us a level of creativity that beyond what we see in the animals around us.

"How many birds in the last thousand years have improved the way they build nests?" I said to my friend. "Do any of them change their construction techniques—cutting straight boards, mixing up new kinds of cement and using tin roof?"

"None of the animals do that. Never!" he said.

"Do any animals make bicycles and cars?"

My friend gave me a puzzled look and nodded in the negative...communicating that it would be pretty crazy to think a cow or a dog or a lizard could make things like cars or bicycles or even a brick house with straight walls and a tin roof. And then the truth of the matter came to the front of my friends mind.

"God made people in his image!" my friend suddenly exclaimed as he remembered the words of Genesis.

It was like a big light came on. It began to make sense that people could indeed make complicated machines—even computers. God gave them the ability to learn and create all sorts of things and develop new

technologies as the years go by.

A few days later my friend was looking at the Bible translation work with me. I showed him some of the new tools we had in the translation software...some really neat things that the computer could do.

"Oh technology!" he said. "God really did made people in his image."

I smiled when I heard that. God smiled too. My friend gave the ultimate glory to God. My friend now recognized that technology grows out of God making humans in his own image, not by the powers of darkness. Demons don't make computers.

Evil spirits don't really have any reason to develop machines that help people translate the Bible. But God has a great reason for the existence of those machines and gave people the intelligence to invent such machines and software.

God's word is transforming people's lives—the way they think about things. One little verse about people being made in God's image is transforming my friend's thinking, helping him to understand God's creativity.

These past few weeks here in West Africa have been full ones. We worked on corrections and consultant checking in several Bible chapters. We got our translation team upgraded to new software. We attended a translation workshop. We'll tell you more about that in the next newsletter. God is working in big ways in the Lele Bible translation work. Thank you for being part of it through your prayers and support!

## Will you help?

Will you help spread the truth about God's kingdom with our Lele neighbors in West Africa?

We are seeking new partners and partnering churches for this work. Your prayers and dedicated financial support are vital for the continuation of this ministry in the coming months.

For online donations:

[www.pioneerbible.org/MarcAndTinaGebhard](http://www.pioneerbible.org/MarcAndTinaGebhard)



Thank you for your part in the mission to reach the Lele. Alternatively, donations can be made out to "Pioneer Bible Translators" and sent to:

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