



MISSION TO THE LELE WITH THE GEBHARDS IN WEST AFRICA

MAY 2018

April trip a success for the translation work!

By Marc

April was a good month—a challenging month, but a good one. It was worth the effort for the advancement of the Lele Bible translation. We now have about half the book of Luke and several of the Psalms corrected for accuracy. Praise God with us for this progress!

Leaving all our kids in the US for a whole month was hard. Five days of travel by air and rough roads to get to our West African village wasn't a picnic either.

We arrived in the village on March 31. After greeting friends, our next step was basically to clean the



Tina enjoys the chance to visit with Pierre's wife Eliza and their new baby, Rachel.



Marc, Jonas and Pierre study a passage at the Bible translation workshop.

mouse droppings off of enough surfaces in order to sleep that night. The next day, we celebrated resurrection Sunday with our village church...and cleaned some more.

The house had sat empty since July last year and our water pump was broken which made cleaning a bit tricky! After a day or so, we tried to install a new 12 volt pump but found it was too big for the well casing. Tina decided to work on filing and modifying it to fit the hole. Eventually it worked!

Meanwhile, Jonas and I dug right into working on the Bible translation with the new computer

*The grass withers and the flowers fade the but the word of our God stands forever. **Isaiah 40:8***

TRANSLATION PROGRESS Praise God for recent victories on the path to getting the book of Luke published in Lele. Luke has now been exegetically checked through chapter 17 with consultant checking and corrections going forward as well. Keep praying for solid progress towards getting Luke published soon.

GEBHARD CHILDREN Keep praying for our kids as they pursue their educational goals in the months to come. Timothy is doing an internship this summer while David is working to enroll for classes at Johnson University this fall. Sarah is finishing drivers education right now and looking to enroll in local college classes this fall. Grace will continue doing middle school course work this fall.

SPIRITUAL PROTECTION Pray that God would surround our whole Lele translation team with his angels of protection. Much progress was made last month and yet we had some discouraging moments as well. Pray that the enemy's power is crushed.

PRAYER

we had brought him. Unfortunately Pierre's computer had a screen that wouldn't work so some repairs were in order. I ended up spending much of a day completely taking apart his computer to fix it.



Pierre's poor computer in pieces.

Thankfully, with God's help, we were able to get Pierre's computer back together and functioning to work on corrections in the Psalms.

As Pierre and I were finishing up some translation work one of

the days, we found out that a lady in the village was having problems delivering a baby. There was no medical worker or midwife there that day. Tina went over to the clinic and decided the situation was life-threatening and we needed to drive the lady down to the hospital in the city to get help. The mother barley survived but the sadly the baby did not make it.

That situation hit us hard with the realities of just how desperate things are in a remote village in one of the poorest nations on earth. The village clinic was ill-equipped for delivering a baby. Not only was there no qualified medical worker, but conditions were way less than sanitary or safe.

Medical facilities and access to clean water are still big issues in West Africa. While in the village, I was able to meet with the well-drilling team to talk about completion of the well equipment warehouse as well as planning for future drilling projects. Transportation was still a big topic of discussion and finding a decent used vehicle is still a big priority for the group. We appreciate any financial donations that might come to the Village Wells and Sanitation fund to help with this.



Lele Bible translation team—Tina Gebhard, Marc Gebhard, Jonas Diawara, Pierre Sayon Diawara.

We want to continue supporting community development efforts in the future, but our main focus in April was moving forward with the Bible translation.

It was so good to sit down with Pierre and Jonas and work on the exegetical corrections. It works so much better sitting in the same office with them than trying to

do things long distance. We're getting a much more refined Bible translation as we go through this process. Thank you so much for your contributions these past few months that allowed us to make this trip and move forward in the translation of God's Word.

During our village time, Tina was also able to learn more about the process and has been starting to help us with punctuation and formatting work in the text.

Toward the middle of April, Jonas, Pierre, Tina and I made the trip to the capital to participate in our West Africa Bible translation workshop. For three days we studied the importance of comprehension checking. We studied texts and made comprehension questions. Then we practiced how to go ask those questions in the community to help us refine our translation work.

Before sending Jonas and Pierre back to the village, we spent a day consultant checking some of our work with several translation experts from our organization. This is helping us to further refine our work.

The month of working with our Lele friends was busy with little time to rest, but it was very fulfilling as well. What a joy it was for Jonas and Pierre to get to be in a workshop collaborating with other West African translators, and to get a bigger picture of all that is involved in making a more accurate, meaningful Bible translation. We landed back in the USA on April 29.

Thank you again for your faithful partnership to make all of this work possible. May God richly bless you and multiply your gifts for the kingdom.

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



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:

PBT- Gebhard
P.O. Box 10184
Terre Haute, IN 47801



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