



MISSION TO THE LELE WITH THE GEBHARDS IN WEST AFRICA

SEPTEMBER 2018

A work in progress, not quite finished

We need your help to keep constructing the Lele Bible

By Marc

My birthday is September 8 and I'm pretty excited that my village friend Pierre sent me an early birthday present—pictures of our village well-drilling team warehouse under construction.

The carpenter you see is about halfway done putting the roof on one side of the building. You might see this building and think it's just

about done, but if you came to our village right now and tried to sleep in it, you'd realize it had a ways to go still. The evening rain blowing in would chill you to the bone and buzzing bugs would keep you awake at night.

When my friend Pierre sent me the picture of the building under construction, I was happy to see a big part of the roof on the building

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

SPIRITUAL PROTECTION Pray for God's protection against Satan's distractions, that God gives us strength and joy each day for the mission he has given us to accomplish.

FINANCE Keep praying for more partners to join us in our work. Praise God for sustaining us through this past month.

TRANSLATION PROGRESS Pray for Jonas as he drafts Romans and for Pierre as he works on Psalms. Pray for us as we do the accuracy check for Genesis. We're now in the 8th chapter! Praise God for Tina being able to put together a 2019 Lele scripture calendar in the last few days too. It is being printed and put together right now!

GEBHARD CHILDREN Continue to pray for our children—Timothy, David, Sarah and Grace—that God would lead their futures according to His will and help them each step of the way.

PRAYER





already, but even more thrilled to see a guy working to put the rest of the roof on.

This building construction is a good visual of where we are with the Lele Bible translation too. Over 60% of the Lele New Testament has now been rough drafted. Over 20% of the Old Testament is drafted too. We've just finished initial accuracy checking in Luke and are working on checking Genesis right now. You might say, the walls of the building are up and the carpenters are working on the roof.

While I've been pulling out a few bent nails and hammering away at checking Genesis, Pierre is putting new bricks in place in the Psalms. Jonas is putting up beams and trusses for the book of Romans!

Giving to the work

Monthly mission funding has been running short recently. We are seeking new partners for this work. If you know of a church interested in joining our effort, we would love to come tell them about our work. Your prayers and dedicated financial support are vital for the continuation of this ministry in the coming months.

For online donations:

Thank you for your part in the mission to reach the Lele. Alternatively, donations can be made out to "[Pioneer Bible Translators](#)" and mailed to:

www.pioneerbible.org/MarcAndTinaGebhard



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Our names should not appear on tax-deductible checks.

When Pierre sent me these pictures, he told me they needed to cement the walls and floor of the building. Thankfully, our donors have given generously in the past few years so we are able to send funds to buy cement to continue the work on the building. And thanks to our donors, Jonas, Pierre, Tina and I are able to continue working on the Lele Bible translation work too.

One kind of carpenter works on a new building in our village while carpenters of another kind are putting together a Book for a people group that never had one like it before. That Book tells of another Carpenter—one who worked until his hands bled, building a bridge to eternal life.

If we continue this progress, we could see nearly a third of the Bible published in the next 6 years.

The warehouse in our village is still a long way from being finished. They'll need to finish the roof, plaster the walls, cement the floor, get some windows and doors, paint, put in a ceiling—you get the picture.

As we look forward and make goals for the next several year of translating the Lele scriptures, we are beginning to see the Bible for these people take shape.

We hope to finish comprehension checking in order to publish Luke next year. We're checking Genesis right now planning to publish it and two more books of the Bible by 2020. If we continue this progress, we could see nearly a third of the Bible published in the next 6 years. Very soon, we will see scriptures printed and in the hands of Lele people, being used to start new Bible studies and plant new churches. Praise God!

Are you getting excited yet? As I blow out my birthday candles this week, I realize that I'm a work in progress too. I am thankful God has not given up on me...but keeps working on the construction to transform me into something more. I'm also thankful to see His Word being translated and transforming the lives of my Lele friends. I'm thankful for you too, our faithful team of prayer and financial supporters who keep buying the wood, nails and cement—literally and figuratively to keep this work going.

OK, back to nailing more pieces of tin on this thing I'm working on. Could you pass me up another bag of nails? Thanks much!