

HALATANDO



Praise God with us as more and more Lele people hear about Jesus!



MISSION TO THE LELE WITH THE GEBHARDS IN WEST AFRICA

DECEMBER 2018

Too big to ignore... **Does God have your attention?**

"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

The thing that the Lord had just revealed to those shepherds in that field was just too important to ignore. They had to go see what it was all about.

I wonder if God has our attention like he had the attention of those shepherds out in that field that night.

And here we are in 2018 staring at our little screens, going to work each day, trying to learn complicated math, sipping our coffee, trying to pay off our debts.

I wonder if God has our attention like he had the attention of those shepherds out in that field that night.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord," that first

angel had proclaimed.

When glowing people from the sky show up and tell you something, you pay attention. When those same messengers use the words "Savior", "Messiah" and "Lord", you have to figure out what in the world is going on.

Imagine this kind of thing happening this evening when you step out to take out the trash. You don't even make it to the trash can. You drop the bag and just about trip as you see these messengers in the sky. Your neighbor across the street sees it too. He comes across the street looking like he's just seen a ghost or something.

"Did you see that? I think I heard them saying something!"

"You heard them too? What did they say? That some kind of special person has just been born in that little town south of here? What *was* that?"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." Luke 2:15

TRANSLATION PROGRESS Marc just finished up a Greek course and translation software workshop. Tina and Marc will travel to West Africa in a few weeks to work on the translation. Jonas, Pierre, Marc and Tina will be attending a translation workshop in the capital at the end of January. Pray for continued good progress toward publishing Bible scripture books in the months to come.



SPIRITUAL PROTECTION Pray for God's protection for our whole Lele ministry team as we continue to seek God's will for this work.

VEHICLE Our mechanic friend in West Africa is warning us that our field vehicle is unsafe to drive as he has found the front part of our frame (which holds the engine) is now cracked. Pray for short term and long term solution as we continue our work in West Africa.

GEBHARD CHILDREN Pray for Timothy, David, Sarah and Grace as they continue to plan for their future.

PRAYER

GIVING

As we look to traveling to West Africa in just a few weeks, we appreciate your prayers and support. We are needing to put a more concentrated effort into raising the funds needed for a replacement vehicle in the months to come. If you are able to help with that, we would so much appreciate it. Thank you!

For online donations:

www.pioneerbible.org/MarcAndTinaGebhard



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

PBT- Gebhard
P.O. Box 10184
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Our names should not appear on tax-deductible checks.

"They called him a chosen one or something like that, I think. Was that my imagination or did that...uh...bright glowing person just say that the baby is like the leader of the universe?"

"Uh, y-y-yeah, that's what they said. Wouldn't that be like, uh, God?"

"They said he will rescue people from pain, sickness, sadness and death. What is going on?"

As you look down the street, people all over your neighborhood are standing in the street staring at the sky, talking about it.

"What in the world was that?" your other neighbor says. "Did you see that? Were those like...uh...angels?"

Some kind of divine being has just landed on your planet—and they've come for you! When you encounter a message this blatant, this earth-shaking, this crazy, you can't ignore it.

The reality is that all over the world, people are encountering this same shocking message today. What those angels said was outrageous—that a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord had been born.

There are many belief systems in this world. All of them seem to be seeking similar things—some kind of

solution to the problems around us, someone to lead, someone who is somehow more qualified than the rest of us to run things. Many of those belief systems recognize Jesus as someone important—but they don't quite go as far as calling him Savior, Messiah and Lord.

What is fascinating is seeing how people react when they are able to pick up, read the story of Jesus and really understand it for themselves for the first time.

In the place we work in West Africa, the majority of people would not claim to be Christians. In fact they would claim to follow the writings of another prophet.



When these same people pick up and begin to read Bible scripture for themselves, their faces light up.

"This book is in our language!" they say. "I can understand this book. I don't understand that other one, but this one makes sense!"

Like those wide-eyed shepherds they are drawn in when the obvious truth is right in front of them. They want to know more. They'll walk for miles to another town. They'll figure out how to deal with their sheep and their other responsibilities. They'll do anything to find out more about this Savior they're hearing about.

We're so thankful that the message is being translated for the Lele people. As we get ready to board a plane and head back to our little village in early January, we thank you for helping us spread the message of the angels to our neighbors in West Africa. Have a joyous Christmas and Happy New year!



Marc and Tina will be taking another trip to West Africa in