

# HALATANDO



MISSION TO THE LELE WITH THE GEBHARDS IN WEST AFRICA

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

## Rejoicing with our Lele family

By Marc

There was much rejoicing in our village a few weeks ago as church members brought their pick axes and shovels to dig a new building foundation.

For the second time in the last ten years, the Lele believers there have outgrown their meeting place. Of course a new building is just one sign that God's kingdom is expanding among the Lele people.



Marc with Pierre and Eliza's little girl Rachel, who brought much joy to our visit.

When you begin looking at the lives of the people in the church, you begin to get a bigger picture of God's growing work among this people group. For example, every last Sunday of the month the people of our church go to preach God's word and sing worship songs in another neighboring village.

A few weeks ago, I was invited to go preach in that other village. It was incredible to see how many people came to worship Jesus.

People have been telling me that almost all the people in that

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.*

*Psalm 150:6*

**TRANSLATION PROGRESS** Praise God for all the progress made in the last few weeks as we work to refine the Lele Bible translation. Keep praying for forward movement and creative solutions as we look to getting Luke and other Bible books published in the next year or so.

**SPIRITUAL PROTECTION** Pray for God's protection for our whole Lele ministry team. Jonas' wife is expecting the birth of a child in the next month or so. Tina and I are traveling back to the US February 5-6. Pray for God's will for Pierre and Eliza and their family as they become more involved in reaching Lele neighbors. Pray for all our children and their future direction.

**VEHICLE** Praise God that our mechanic was able to get our vehicle put together again enough to do another trip to the village. A few more problems cropped up while upcountry. The fuel tank developed some leaks and our front wheel assembly became loose. Keep praying for us as we raise funds for a replacement vehicle.

PRAYER



The well drilling team organizing their tools in the new storage building.





little village have now accepted Jesus as their savior. That Sunday when we were there, the chief of the village came forward to confess his belief in Christ too.

A few days ago, I was talking with the pastor of our little growing village church. He was telling me how the church people plan to start going to another unreached neighboring village every Wednesday night to share the word with people there too. The message of Christ's salvation is giving people a real joy that is becoming contagious. The Lele people are doing missionary outreach in neighboring villages!

There are now 11 different villages with active communities of Lele believers and more and more people are coming to know Jesus. According to our estimations, there are now likely around 600 believers among this people group of 45,000.

We have really enjoyed being with our Lele neighbors in West Africa these past several weeks. As we sit here in the hot, steamy capital of this West African nation getting ready to board an airplane, we praise God for a great several weeks of ministry work.

Earlier in January, we were in the village where we were able to do quite a few chapters of corrections for accuracy in the Lele Bible. Jonas and I made good headway in Luke and then Pierre and I tackled some of the Psalms.

While in the village we saw the progress on the well-drilling team's storage building and office building. Thanks again for your generous donations to get this warehouse built. We are seriously considering purchasing a used truck from missionary friends in the next few months so the team can transport tools to remote villages to continue their work. Please pray for us as we consider our options. Also pray for adequate

funding to purchase this much needed vehicle.

After our time in the village, Tina and I along with Pierre and Elisa and their little girl, and Pastor Jonas, traveled to the capital to work through more Bible text with a Bible translation consultant. Again, we were able to progress through quite a few chapters together as we work to make a more accurate translation that will really communicate well in the Lele language.

At the end of January, we participated in a Bible translation workshop focusing on Biblical poetry. As Pierre works on the Psalms and we look to translating books like Isaiah and the Proverbs, it was good to dig deeper into the structure of poetic Bible passages.

In addition, Elisa began her training to lead the Lele literacy ministry. She also worked with our missionary colleagues to put together a Lele primer. Keep praying for good progress in the Lele literacy program. There is such a huge need for people to learn to read in their own language.

Thank you again for your prayers as we continue on in this work. We're looking forward to the many things God will be doing in this ministry in the next several months.

## GIVING

As we finish up another successful several weeks with our Lele village friends, we appreciate your prayers and financial contributions to the work. Much work has been done, but much remains as well. Thank you for being part of this team!

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 to "Pioneer Bible Translators" can be mailed to:

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