



HALA TANDO

MISSION TO THE LELE WITH THE GEBHARDS IN WEST AFRICA

MARCH 2019

Helping them with the ABCs Alphabets, Bricks and Churches

As we deal with melting snow and rising waters after a wet winter in the US, our Lele friends are in West Africa are still in dry season.

The pictures Pierre has been sending us recently tell us that this dry season is about the ABC's—Alphabets, Bricks and Churches.

Alphabets—Pierre and his wife Elisabeth have been teaching literacy classes each Sunday afternoon in our village.

About 20 students of all ages came to the first class a few weeks ago and more and more villagers want to join. Pierre says they really need to train more teachers to help all the Lele people wanting to read and write in their own language.

With reading classes underway, imagine all the people who will be able to read Bible scripture text as we get it translated!



Our friend Marie learns letters and the sounds they represent in Lele.

Bricks—Dry season is the season for making bricks for houses. This year in our village and in the neighboring one they are making bricks for new church building constructions.

Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NET)

TRANSLATION PROGRESS Pray for Jonas, Pierre and Marc as they continue rough-drafting, exegetical checking and correction of text. We're focusing on Luke, Genesis and 1 Peter this year.

LELE LITERACY Praise God for the small group of Lele people learning to read right now. Pray for Elisabeth and Pierre who are teaching the classes. Pray for the training of more teachers to help people read God's Word in their own language.

SPIRITUAL PROTECTION Pray for God's daily strengthening and protection for our entire team through the work of his Holy Spirit.

WELL TEAM We're currently working to raise funding to buy a decent used Landcruiser type vehicle for our village wells and development team. Pray for the funds to come together in the next few months to purchase this vehicle.

PRAYER



Construction of a new church building in the neighboring village. It will be time to put on a roof in just a few weeks. Can you help us get wood and tin for their roof?

The neighboring village had a small church building before, but it began to cave in at the end of the last rainy season. So church members are diligently working to put together a new building before the big rains begins in April and May. The situation is getting a bit urgent since the bricks are of the simple sunbaked mud variety. Thus, this small church of 20 or so believers is looking for help in paying for wood and tin roof to put on it very soon. We want to help, but we do not have enough to do this project and help with the needs in the other Lele churches.

Can you help us pay for some roof tin to add to the bricks these villagers are making so we can get a building put together before rainy season? It's easy to help fund this church roof and other church needs by making a donation to our *Lele Church Development* fund. Just go to our giving page listed to the left and designate your gift to that fund.

Churches—The Lele church is growing! As Lele believers share their resources by drilling wells, teaching literacy classes or helping farmers be more productive with their crops, the love of Jesus is felt in very real ways. People want to hear more about this Jesus who tells people to love their neighbors in these ways. That kind of love is attractive. The few Lele churches that have sparked up among this unreached people group are real lighthouses that can help people find their way to Jesus.

Lele believers are beginning to sense the need to be missionaries to their neighbors, the many unreached villages who still haven't heard the good news—among the Lele and among other neighboring language

groups. With your help, the Lele church is expanding and reaching their neighbors. Let's keep doing this thing! Thanks so much for being a part of this work.

OK, what would our newsletter update be without a cute baby picture? Thanks to God, Pastor Jonas' wife Elisa brought a healthy baby boy into the world on February 21. Congratulations Jonas and Elisa!



New baby boy born to Pastor Jonas and his wife Elisa February 21, 2019! Thank you for your prayers for them.

GIVING

We appreciate you're your continued prayers and financial gifts to this mission work. Your contributions and prayers keep the Bible translation, literacy and community development efforts moving forward. *Thank you for being part of this team!*

For online donations:

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