



# THE LAMBERT LETTER

June 2011

## The Cameroon Branch Moves Forward

Dear friends,

It's spring in Cameroon, time for our annual Spiritual Retreat and Branch Meeting. This year the entire organization is engaged in debate over "reinvention", positioning SIL so that it is better able to work with our partners and respond to the language development needs of the 2,000+ languages where linguistic and translation work has yet to begin. There was much opportunity for individual and group discussion, and the meeting as a whole was one of the best that we've ever had. Did it help that I (Mark) had a hand in organizing it?



Christy Watkin helped lead worship before each session.



Chris Jackson, a mother-tongue language education promoter in the Northwest Region and a member of the Executive Committee, making a point at the microphone.



I was one of the minute takers on the first day of meetings. Seated behind me is Mary Santos, the director of the Parent Run School that our daughters attend while we are in Cameroon.



We spent much time in prayer, asking for the Lord's wisdom in our discussions. Pictured above is one of our pilots and his wife.



We had a wonderful program for the children called KidZone, manned by people who flew in from the U.S. just to help. Some parents brought their kids to the meeting anyway.



John Hollman, Africa Area Director (pictured at left), spoke to us on the topic of Reinvention. One of the things we did was to ratify the new Director of Administration and Finance (my boss). After ratification, we laid hands on him and asked that the Lord bless and guide his ministry.



David Lux, Misaje Cluster team leader.





We've had our ups and downs this year. Bonnie caught a flu bug shortly after Branch Meeting, and then, three weeks later, came down with uncontrollable vomiting. She spent a few days in a downtown clinic. When they could not diagnose her, a friend pulled some strings to have her relocated to a mission hospital in the Northwest Region. The only thing that the doctor was able to determine was that she had low potassium levels, and she is taking pills to boost her level. The cause of the vomiting remains a mystery.



The plane that flew us up to the hospital, our beloved Tango-Mike.



Bonnie received good care at the hospital, but I had to provide all her meals. Normal for Africa.



When she was released three days later, Robert Hedinger retrieved us and drove us to Yaoundé (six hours) to attend management meetings with his wife.



Theresa and Christina had their faces painted at the Rain Forest International School Carnival, one of the many activities held during Branch Meeting when the entire Cameroon SIL community is gathered in Yaoundé.

In other news, I am once again the Group Vehicles Manager. Bonnie is still working in our Reading Room. Both girls ended their school year very strong. And a pin-tailed whydah has decided to make our yard his territory, putting on daily shows as he tries to impress the females. As always, we are grateful for your support. Take care!



The obligatory group photo for Spiritual Retreat and Branch Meeting 2011.



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Yours servants in Christ,

*Mark & Bonnie*

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