

*Jesus: The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. John 10:10*

Dear brother and sister,

I am so happy for the opportunity to write this letter to you. After more or less a month in Cameroon I can testify that God is so gracious and faithful. He is indeed our source of abundant life that never fails, a source that brings us fresh living water whenever our own motivation and inspiration are running dry.

I landed in Douala, Cameroon, on the 17th of August and travelled by bus, the next day, to get to Yaoundé, the capital city where I stay at present. The weather here is more or less like Swedish summer, the sun can be really hot and then it gets colder when it rains. I will stay here in Yaoundé to the 4th of October, when I will move on to Bamenda. Until then I will study and prepare my future work in different ways. I study linguistics and read orientation material on the culture of Cameroon, I get to practice French, learn Pidgin-English, (a language with English words but different grammar) and of course I get to study Mmen, the language I will describe during the next coming 15 months here.

It is very different to live in Cameroon. The food, the temperature, the culture and the language are all quite new to me. In my spare time I have had the privilege to be part of what CABTAL calls Bible Translation Sundays. (CABTAL, Cameroon Association for Bible Translation and Literacy, is the name of the organisation that I work with.) There are several teams that visit churches all over the country in order to inspire, and engage Christians to be part of, and support language development projects in the minority languages of Cameroon (they estimate a number between 250-300 languages). The service last Sunday started at 7 am and finished at 2 pm. I was quite exhausted afterwards, but it turned out to be a great opportunity to get in touch with Christians that are interested in CABTAL's work.



Map of Cameroon: the 4th of October I will move to Bamenda



Here together with a friend



Fufu and fish is served every Wednesday

The project I am part of is focusing on describing the grammar of Mmen, a language of the North-West region of Cameroon. They have just published the first book in Mmen, with Mmen proverbs. But many people are illiterate in their mother tongue and it is very difficult to read English or French, the official languages of Cameroon, when you have never learnt to read in your mother tongue. Furthermore, it is difficult to understand the information given in French or English on human rights, how to prevent Malaria or HIV/AIDS, or the importance of having clean water. Even at church one might never listen to sermons in one's mother tongue. The knowledge available is only presented in a language different from the language which people might understand best and which speaks to their hearts.

Often, when people cannot fully comprehend the information given to them, they will depend on what others tell them. They listen and might understand but have no means to check any incorrect message. The people in Cameroon always see a connection between the physical realm and the spiritual. If someone gets sick or faces a problem, most people interpret it as a punishment from any ancestor, a bad or good god or from the creator. Many people therefore live in great fear of spirits and pay a lot of money to get help from witch doctors when they are ill or have difficulties.

The enemy is always telling lies and give people false hopes, but Jesus has come to give every one life to the full. Many lives can be transformed through receiving teaching in their mother tongue. It is my wish that one day different materials and books, including the word of God will be available in Mmen, and that people will be able to live their lives to the full. Thank you for standing with me in that prayer for the Mmen people and the other languages of Cameroon.

Wishing you the great blessings from God,

*Mirjam Möller*

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Together with my colleague's family

**Praise:**

- God for safe travel
- God for the first weeks of introduction that helps me getting settled here in Cameroon
- God for good friends and colleagues at the office of CABTAL here in Yaoundé
- for good health

**Prayer items:**

- that God prepares the people I will be working and meet with in Bamenda
- that everything concerning accomodation in Bamenda
- that God gives me perseverance and wisdom as I study French, Pidgin-English and Mmen