



the RIDERS' recordings

SERVING TOGETHER WITH WYCLIFFE SINCE 1997

✧ 40 Years In Cameroon ✧



Can you guess the meaning of this short proverb?

“We are now a forest of old palm trees.”

Find the meaning and application on the back of this newsletter.



The year was 1969. Do you remember what you were doing back in that year? Some of you reading this were not even born yet. I (Joe) was 8 years old and in the third grade. For many it was the year of the Woodstock music festival, the first man on the moon, Wal-Mart incorporates as Wal-Mart Stores, Inc, UNIX is invented and Golda Meir of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, becomes Prime Minister of Israel.

For Wycliffe Bible Translators, 1969 marked the year that a very small band of missionaries stepped into the Cameroons with the goal of starting language development and Bible translation for the 279 languages that exist here. This

past month, we as a branch celebrated what God has done in the 40 years since. The theme for this celebration was "Connecting People through Language." During a two-week period, we participated in our annual branch business meetings and four special celebration events. One of the events was for the representatives of the Cameroonian government.

Many came to hear speeches from representatives of the Ministry of Research and Innovation, the Ministry of External Relations, and the Ministry of Human Rights. Joe, as a director, had the privilege of greeting and interacting with several of the government officials. We also had the opportunity to hear the testimonies and stories of our older veterans, look at some extensive displays of our branch's work and share a meal together with the many government officials. God has been faithful. It will be exciting to see what God has in store for the next 40 years, should He tarry.

Roars out to the Lion of the Tribe of Judah

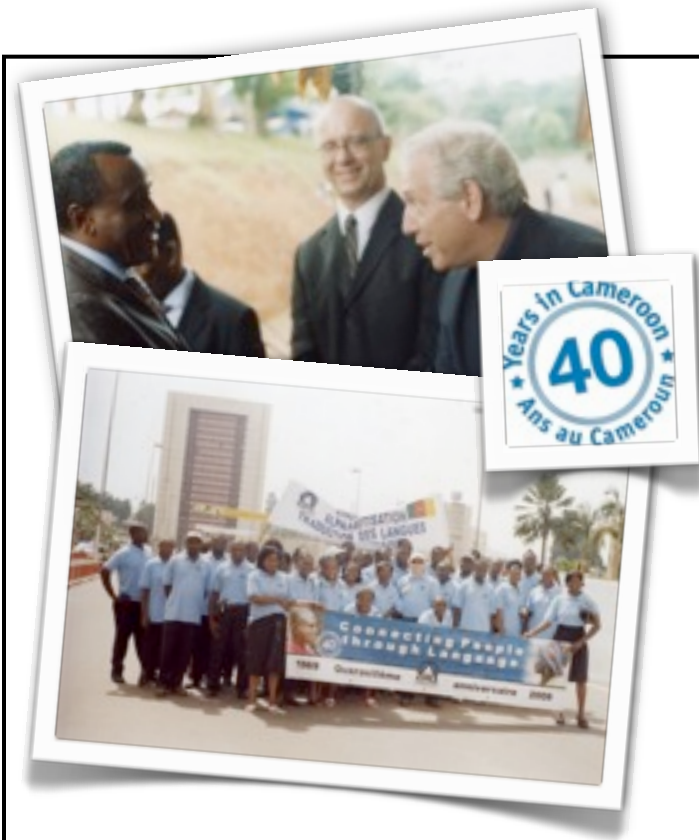
Continued Prayer - for Donna as she has taken on even more responsibilities in the Computer Services Department.

Pray - that Tyler would find just the right job that he could do for the Cameroon branch this summer.

Praise - God for His goodness to Cameroon these past 40 years.

Prayer - for Joe as he prepares to teach in England in a course for personnel administrators for a week in June.

Praise - God for the many people coming to serve in Cameroon over the next two years (around 45 in all).



Tyler has recently taken his SAT tests and done very well for which we are thankful. He is already thinking about majoring in engineering and where he will attend university after his graduation from high school next year.

Austin has been busy with playing on the junior soccer team at Rain Forest International School. This team is the equivalent of a junior varsity squad in the U.S. As an eighth grader, his coach (Joe) thinks he is developing well as a player and a witness for God. Austin has split his playing time as a goalkeeper and as an outside midfielder. His dad is not biased at all (wink).



A few weeks later, Joe took part in the national Labor Day celebrations in the downtown area of Yaoundé. He marched in the Labor Day parade with our

Cameroonian colleagues. It was the first time a director from our branch has ever done such a thing and this act had a profound effect on many of our paid staff. Being on his feet for four and a half hours wasn't easy, but it spoke volumes to our Cameroonian colleagues. Joe had several hours to chat with many colleagues while waiting to march.

Donna has been tremendously busy as well. She has been helping to set up our new satellite phone program for our remote village teams. For some of our translation projects this is the only means of communication that is possible.

Answer:



“We are all now old in the family. It is up to the younger generation to take up the responsibility.”

The older the palm tree is, the taller and less productive it becomes. Younger palm trees need to eventually grow to replace the older ones.

We are currently trying to raise some extra funds (around \$2000) to buy 2 soccer goals for Rain Forest International School where Joe coaches 3 soccer teams.

Please send a note attached to your gift to Wycliffe Bible translators with the project name and number: RFIS Phase I Project #4788 Please let us know via e-mail if you are giving something extra towards the soccer goals.

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