



Jeff & Sonya Kilmartin

Missionaries in Cameroon



Though raised Roman Catholic, Jeff was a practical atheist until about age 21, when he met a man who said he was born-again.

Jeff also wanted a relationship with God, so he became a Christian and was baptized. Sonya was raised in the church. At about the age of 9, her family moved to a church where she realized for the first time she needed to make a personal commitment to Christ. She was baptized at 10 and was active in a very vibrant church community through her teen and young adult years. As a young Christian, Jeff knew he wanted to be involved in vocational ministry. He earned his BA from Trinity

Western University in Langley, British Columbia, and afterward received a BTh from Northwest Bible College in Edmonton, Alberta. In the 1990s, he earned his MDiv from North American Baptist College (now Kairos). Sonya earned an education degree at the University of Alberta; she worked in two Christian schools and in related education fields for a number of years, including a two-year stint as athletic director at NABC while Jeff was in seminary.

By then, the Kilmartins were married and well on their way to having four children: Robert, John, Cari, and Daniel. During Jeff's exit interview from seminary with all the Canadian NAB regional ministers in 1996, he was asked what he wished to do. He replied that he wanted to pastor a small country church, after seven years have a sabbatical taking his family to live in Africa for a year, then come back and serve that same church after having made connections in Africa, with the goal of keeping those connections alive by traveling back every year or so. The RMs encouraged that vision, so during their first NAB pastorate at Elim Baptist in Beausejour, Manitoba, they did just that. They travelled with their family in 2008 to the Mambilla Plateau in Nigeria, where the NAB had a mission field. Jeff served as the Acting Field Director. Out of that trip came a partnership between Elim Baptist and a small group of Christians among a Least-Reached People Group in Nigeria. That partnership stayed with Elim and also came along with the Kilmartins when they moved to Wiesenthal Baptist in Alberta in 2011 to be closer to their aging parents.

In the meantime, both Jeff and Sonya have returned to Nigeria and Cameroon at different times to minister among this LRPG and to teach in various settings. Jeff also earned his DMin from Sioux Falls Seminary (now Kairos) in 2010. While they have loved their churches in Canada, they know the great need that exists among this LRPG in West Africa and had a desire to return to minister according to their faith and ability.

The Kilmartins began their work in 2017, with Jeff's teaching position in Ndu, Cameroon, being their anchor point, and traveling other parts of the year among the LRPG in both Nigeria and Cameroon. Due to the political instability in the Northwest Cameroon, they have since relocated to Adamawa state, which allows them better access to this people group and better opportunities for language development. It has limited seminary teaching, but recently Jeff has been able to do some instruction at a few locations with the seminary's extension education program. Sonya has been involved with a local Cameroon Baptist Convention school that has children from various people groups, all schooling in English. She hopes to see fruit from that endeavor at student, teaching, and administrative levels.

Birthdays:

Jeff – February 8

Sonya – August 25

Anniversary:

August 16

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