

AUGUST 2024

## HOW IS IT GOING?

## Prayer

- Pray for God, through His Church, to bring reconciliation and peace to the civil unrest in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon.
- Pray for inner peace in the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC). A wrangling over constitutional change has resulted in a lawsuit between the some of its Christians and the CBC leadership.

## Praises

- Safe return to Cameroon for Florence in June and Walter in July and indications of church growth even as the situation of civil unrest continues.
- For good encouragement and fellowship at the July NAB Triennial meetings in St. Paul, Minnesota with a focus on the church being God's people of peace.

I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly. Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

 $\mathsf{PSALM}$  85:8–9 (NIV)



Walter at the entrance to his new office at the Department of Cooperating Missions, with Tata Pierre, administrative assistant.

As a missionary who spends home assignment time (furlough) in one continent, then transitions to ministry in another continent, the question "How's it going?" comes often.

So how has it been going on home assignment? Well, in early July, I was privileged to attend the North American Baptist Conference (NAB) Triennial meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota – with the theme "Becoming a People of Peace. It was precious to connect, in person, with supporting churches, NAB head office staff, missionaries, and former missionaries.

Shortly thereafter, I headed back to Cameroon to start a new missionary term, joining my wife Florence, who had already returned in early June to attend to her dental practice.

So, how's it going in Cameroon? On the sevenhour drive from Douala at the coast to Bamenda, much of the highway has deteriorated, with little or



Walter with two new compound security recruits - Jake and Scout.

no maintenance. A few sections closer to Bamenda had been newly paved. But in Bamenda, where the socio-political crisis/civil war continues, the road infrastructure is dilapidated, and utilities like electricity, water, internet service, and garbage collection are spotty at best. Yet even with poor economic and political stability, God is still working in His Church. In late July, there were 21 baptized at our church in Bamenda, Nkwen Baptist Church. I am part of the Sunday School teaching staff. On my return from home assignment, I learned that the number of teachers had increased significantly, many of them young men - very interested in absorbing God's Word and sharing it with others. How encouraging that is!

Now that your back in Cameroon, how's work going? I am settling into an adjusted role. Partly I am once again working with the Cameroon Baptist Convention's Finance and Development Department, doing the missionary accounting and helping in the training of finance staff. I have also been assigned the role of Cameroon Baptist Convention's Director of Cooperating Missions, serving as liaison between the Convention and the different mission organizations that work with them. Currently on the field there are five from the NAB, 14 from World Team, and three independent missionaries.

So, looking forward to the days ahead, we yearn for God's peace within ourselves, within the church in Cameroon, and within the nation's political landscape. Our encouragement comes from God's abiding presence through his Holy Spirit. Secondly, we are encouraged by the family of believers, the sending churches, and individuals for their prayers and support. We are indeed in good company. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Walter

## Walter & Florence Grob

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