

In His Hands

(Isaiah 49:16)



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Rob & Bintou Peterson
robert_peterson@sil.org
bintougpeterson@gmail.com

Shortly after arriving at Bongolo in 2013, we met Pastor Jean-Marc who was trained and had a passion for Bible translation.

Several months later, while discussing needs and opportunities with him, we discovered that although the Jesus film had been dubbed into Nzebi it was not widely available due to a format compatibility problem. With the help of Campus Crusade & JAARS, SIL-Cameroon's media department began producing microSD cards with both the Jesus film and the New Testament that could be played using readily-available local hardware!



Pastor Jean-Marc began the promotion and distribution project and has **now distributed over 1100 DVDs or memory cards in Nzebi, Ipunu or French!** One of the testimonies from this effort came right from Bongolo. A young boy disappeared unannounced from his house one day. Hours later he returned carrying the family's radio that plays memory cards. He wanted to listen to the Word of God without being disturbed so he had taken the radio and gone to the family farm!



As the distribution continued, other language groups began to approach Pastor Jean-Marc asking **how they could have the Jesus film in their language.** As we prayed and discussed the possibilities with various Bible translation entities, it was clear that CABTAL, a Cameroonian Bible translation organization, should come to both spread the vision for Bible translation and see if the Lord was leading them to be personally involved. In June 2015, Efi Tembon, the director of CABTAL, made his first trip to Gabon.



I had the privilege of flying him and saving him days of traveling by road. The first stop was Bongolo where he spoke to a national meeting of the leadership of the C&MA (Christian & Missionary Alliance) Church of Gabon. We then flew east to Franceville to meet with the Teki community both in the city and in several villages. This is one of the least reached areas of Gabon and several of the leaders caught a vision for how the audio New Testament could be used to evangelize and disciple.



Town meeting in Franceville with community and church leaders

From Franceville, we then returned to Libreville to meet with church leaders from a variety of denominations. **We were very encouraged by the response as each denomination designated representatives to form an inter-church committee to form a strategic plan for Scripture impact in Gabon!**



Church leaders from at least five denominations. More pictures from the trip [here](#).

In addition, the committee is working to establish a partnership with CABTAL. The proposed vision is to start projects in 5 languages starting with the translation of Luke including audio and film. Efi is planning to return to Gabon in early August to speak to another church national assembly as well as meet with the inter-church committee. **This is a high-priority prayer**

request and step as the formation of a strong inter-church committee and the development of a solid strategic plan is **key to local ownership and long-term Scripture impact.**

We are excited to see the growing interest and engagement within the church and communities. **Please join us in praying this small beginning would grow and result in many communities being transformed by hearing the Word of God in a language that speaks clearly to them!**

Praise and Prayer Summary

Praises:

- Visit of CABTAL to Gabon to share the vision of life and community transformation through the Word of God.
- The opportunity to provide practical logistic and transportation support to the Bible translation efforts.
- An encouraging meeting of local believers forming an inter-church committee for the purpose of long-term community impact through Scripture.
- Provision for 40 drums of AvGas for the program at a good price.
- Successful annual approval of the runway at Bongolo and approval for another year.
- The Lord's love and grace to us each day.

Prayer:

- Bintou and I as we seek the Lord and learn to walk with him moment-by-moment.
- The national inter-church committee would quickly form and develop a concrete strategic plan for Bible translation and Scripture-use.
- That local communities would also form inter-church committees and start to identify leaders, full-time and part-time participants in local projects.
- Pastor Jean-Marc as he leads the national committee as well as continues to work on completing the Nzebi OT & revision of the NT for publishing.

By His Strength,
Rob & Bintou

www.thebalafoncall.org

Wycliffe Address [online](#) or:

Wycliffe, PO Box 628200, Orlando FL 32862-8200

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