

W5 on Missions

Who... Dan & Melody Grove

Dan, from Ontario, is a graduate of Emmanuel Bible College, Kitchener (B.Th.). Melody grew up in Campbellton, NB and graduated from Moody Bible Institute and Wheaton College



(B.Mus.) The Groves pastored in Southampton and Nackawic, NB for six years. They have 3 children.

Caleb and Sam are attending Rain Forest International School in Yaounde (grades 11 and 9). They stay at the UBAC hostel. They are busy with heavy schedules at school, play sports, and are involved in small groups. Caleb participates in a drama-evangelism team, and helps with the senior high youth group. Pray for their safety and health, for their relationships with friends, teachers, at the hostel, and with God.

Anna, who is 8 years old, is enjoying school with Sarah. Aaron and Sarah DeVries have come for six months. Aaron is working on the language of Bamessing to develop their alphabet. Sarah is teaching Anna which frees Melody for language work. Anna likes playing with kids who live nearby. She is learning to speak Chrambo and people get very excited when she can respond to the questions they ask her. She wants to be a light among her friends in Bambalang.

Where... Cameroon

Cameroon is an independent state in western Africa. Most of Cameroon was once ruled by France; the remainder was under British control. French influence remains strong, especially in Yaounde, the capital.

Terrain: ranges from densely forested plateau to coastal plains and mountainous regions in the west.

Climate: tropical, between 21° and 28°C. In the south, rains fall from April to November and are rare the rest of the year.

Major religions: traditional, Roman Catholicism, Islam.

Official languages: English, French. Hausa, Fulani, Pidgin English, and Douala serve as trade languages.

What... Dan and Melody Grove are co-appointed with Wycliffe Bible Translators for Bible translation and literacy ministry in Cameroon. They work among language groups whose language is presently unwritten; reducing it to writing, developing a literacy program and working with a team of nationals to translate the Scriptures.

From their *October 2007 Update*: "We've just completed a three-day workshop to help six language groups (Babungo, Babessi, Bafanji, Bamukumbit, Bambalang, and Bamunka) produce an alphabet book to go along with the alphabet chart

that they each have... The alphabet book has a picture and sentence to illustrate a key word that applies to a particular letter in the alphabet. The book can be used as a reading book... as a motivating tool..., and as a means of demonstrating to non-readers that their language can be written down.

So how do people respond to having this book shown to them? Picture me and my friend Ana, who is in her late 60 or early 70's, sitting on stools in front of her mud house. Two of her grandchildren who attend school are there. I show her the first page, and get her to tell me what the woman in the picture is doing. She says that the woman is sitting on the chair, making a basket. Then I read to her what the sentence says in her language, which is almost exactly what she has just told me. The kids burst into laughter. Then we go on to the next picture, look at the letter, and they tell me what they see happening. I again read the sentence and they again laugh with glee. The grandmother is tickled pink, and says the whole thing over again, pointing to the picture. As we get further in the book, the older child tries to read some of the words and is tickled when she gets words right."

Another day, I had several children standing around another friend while I showed her the book. You should see how surprised they are that the book is speaking their own words.

Why... "People love having their language in print and are getting excited about what lies ahead... Pray that God will direct us to people who will be able to work well in literacy, as we provide them with training. Novethan and Pius are doing a great job, and have a keen interest in this work, but soon they will be busy working on Bible translation so we need others to take their place. We are planning a one-day workshop this fall for the language committees: selecting people to be trained as literacy teachers, distributing the materials that they produce, good financial planning for the committee, etc. Pray that the last two languages to get started, Bamessing and Babessi, will form language committees who can participate.

When... Earlier this year, Dan was elected to serve as vice-chairman on the Executive Committee for the mission here in Cameroon. The chairperson is going back to Canada for a year; this adds a considerable amount of work to Dan's already busy schedule. Please pray for him as he balances his responsibilities in our own language project, at the cluster level as team leader and now as the chairman of the EC. Pray that God will help him to do all these things and that he will not become overwhelmed. Part of Dan's responsibilities at the cluster level involves visiting church leaders, government officials and police officials at the village and municipal levels. Pray that he will be well received and that he will have opportunities to share about God. Pray for the churches to catch a vision for Bible translation right in their midst, and that they will want to help support people from their own villages who will give their time to work as translators on their language.

Lorna McCain

Corresponding Secretary for UBWMU/ABW