

# PILLINGERS' UPDATE, June–October 2008

*Serving People in Word and Deed*

Dear friends,

A lot of water has gone under the bridge since our last illustrated update in May! We want to thank you all very much indeed for your encouragement and prayers, first while Steve was in Cameroon, and later during his prolonged bout with kidney stones over the summer. We've so much appreciated how you've stood with us during this time!

**[Steve writes:]** I'm happy to say that I'm firing on all cylinders again now! I'll have a final check-up on 30th of this month, but I don't anticipate any problems...



*Edoh and Mary working on the Ife NT*

My work in **Cameroon** went very well—thank you for your prayers. As you know, it was a two-fold assignment: I worked with **Mary Gardner** and **Edoh Agounkey** on the **Ife NT (Togo)**, and was able to finish everything I needed to do personally with them before they left. I planned to complete the final page-layout after returning to the UK. And it was good to spend time with the two Cameroonian typesetters, **Zach Essama** and **Georges Mbeck**. They had learnt how to use the typesetting software at our international publishing centre in the States, but had many questions to do with running a typesetting centre and organising their work with translators. I was glad to be able to share some of the practical bits of know-how I've picked up over the years.

When I got back to Britain, though, things were not quite so smooth!

Ife turned out to be one of those languages that 'resists' adjustment, and the page-layout went very slowly. (It has what we call 'stacked diacritics'—i.e., more than one special mark on top of many of the letters: e.g., É.) Then came the kidney stones... with the result that everything got delayed by about a month.



I'll therefore be starting my next project—a revision of the **Konkomba Bible (Ghana)**—on 21st October instead of the 7th. I'll be working with **Dame Mary Steele**: a veteran Wycliffe member who was honoured for her lifelong contribution to linguistics and literacy in West Africa. Here you see her several years ago, working with my former colleague, Doug Estabrook. She's now almost 80. It will be a great privilege to work with her, especially as this will be the first time I've typeset a complete Bible from Genesis to Revelation. I'm very much looking forward to that. But with the schedule delayed as it has been, I'd be grateful for your prayers that we'll manage to finish before the next project...

Fortunately, as it turns out, the **Rendille** typesetting has had to be delayed. We were going to travel to **Kenya** next year for me to work on this, but it has now been postponed until 2010. As a result the typesetting of the **Chumburung Bible (Ghana)** has been moved forward to March next year, leaving extra time to complete the Konkomba! You might call it 'musical typesetting'.

That's the programme as it stands now. Thank you again for your prayers and involvement! We couldn't do this without you.

**[Johanna writes:]** On the family front we're happy to tell you that **Stephen** graduated from his three year University course (Philosophy and Biblical studies). He feels strongly called to work with St. Thomas Crooks church in Sheffield, and is looking into possibilities of liaising with Fusion, an Australian outreach organisation working here in Britain. However, for financial reasons he needs a full time job first, and has just started with Siemens in Sheffield, a telephone job contacting customers and engineers.

**Jen** has started her second year at Goldsmith College, London University, doing Anthropology. She loves the course, and is also very happy living in a house with four other girls (and three cats!!). She has thrown herself into the CU, but now needs to reconsider her level of involvement in that and other activities, as she still suffers from chronic fatigue. We have advised her to find prayer support in her local church (All Saints Peckham). *Please pray for her*; healthwise she is really struggling. We are thankful, though, that she is finding her feet now—even in London! (She doesn't like big cities!)




*Typesetters Zach and Georges (back row)*

Personally there is much I'd like to share with you, and I hope to do so in a separate letter. Let me just say that I am involved in partnership development, DIY, the local residents' association, supporting others, doing a short course, and of course the normal daily work of a housewife. My health has definitely improved! Many of you have prayed for me for years, and I am so grateful for that, and for the improvement I now feel. It gives me hope that Jen, too, will find new strength.

Thank you again for your involvement, friendship, love, support and prayers. Without a team of supporters we could not do what we are doing now, and it's a joy to share with you!

In His love,

Steve, Johanna,  
Jen, Stephen



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