



# Baines Broadcast

December 2004

Finishing AOC

News from David and Evelyn Baines

Moving to Chad

## *The final countdown for Africa*

In March, after 18 months of French study in Brussels, David passed successfully the required exams. We were therefore given permission to move on to the next phase. Evelyn stopped working as a nurse in April. We needed to complete partnership development which involved visiting churches and prayer groups in Belgium and, in June, in the UK. We were blessed by these times of sharing and saw people get excited about SIL's work in Chad. We were grateful for safety in travel, friends' hospitality and a chance to catch up with them as well as with our family in the UK.

End of May, we packed and David moved most of our belongings back to our flat in Edinburgh. It needed much repair before it could be rented out again so David spent most of July and August working on it with the help of a few friends. We are very happy God led us to a man who manages properties which belong to people living abroad. He was able to find us a couple of tenants days before we left Edinburgh!

In August, we had a most wonderful holiday on the Isle of Mull. Friends let us stay for a week in their cottage. This was a much needed time for rest. We walked on the beach, fished, observed the wildlife, visited Iona and took a boat across to Staffa. We came back refreshed and ready for the last preparations and goodbyes to family and friends in Brussels, before we flew to Yaounde in Cameroon to attend AOC - the Africa Orientation Course.

## *AOC - A Time of Transition.*

We arrived in Yaounde a few days before the course started. This gave us time to settle in a bit and meet the other 26 participants. Several come from the United States, others from England, Norway, Spain and Switzerland. The 9 children range from 2 months old to 14 years old. One Swiss couple with a small child is also going to work in Chad.

The Africa Orientation Course is designed to equip us for life in West Africa. We learn to adapt to the warm and humid climate of the rainy season, find our way around Yaounde and attend a Cameroonian church.

Our courses include tropical health care, interpersonal skills, cross cultural studies and practical kitchen skills which also involve going to the market to barter for produce. We were introduced to Prosper and Jodeline Achombat, a Cameroonian couple who invited us to their home for a meal and later to stay with them for a weekend.

## Highlights

**March** David passes his French exams. We are given the go ahead to prepare to leave for Africa.

**April** We fly to Edinburgh for Easter week and work on our flat. We visit the Brethren Assembly in Antwerp, and share at Holy Trinity Brussels.

**May** We celebrate our 3<sup>d</sup> Anniversary! We visit St Paul's, Woluwe and Kraainem churches. We have a dedication at our church in Schaerbeek. David and his brother, Peter, move most of our belongings back to Scotland.

**June** We drive around the UK visiting churches in Hemsley, York, Oswestry, and Bourne. We stay for a few days at Horsleys Green and say good bye to family in Bourne and Hawkinge.

**July** Evelyn stays with her parents in Brussels to pack up belongings for Chad while David works on our flat in Edinburgh.

**August** We have a dedication at our church in Edinburgh. We spend a week in 'Knockan' on the Isle of Mull. God provides a manager for our flat and good tenants! We return to Brussels, get visas, flight tickets and complete health check ups.

**September** We arrive safely in Yaounde. Red earth, lush tropical rainforest are our first impressions. We are woken up by a chorus of weaver birds at 6am.

**October** We spend a week at the tropical beach of Kribi and learn 'survival skills'. Tropical storms!!

**November** We spend 3 weeks in the village of Mbangsang in the mountainous North West.



### ~ Kribi ~

Three weeks into AOC, we went camping at Kribi - a tropical beach. We learned to set up camp, showers, latrines, 12v lights, drive 4x4, kill and clean a chicken and a fish, bake a cake on a wood fire and much more. We enjoyed swimming, a welcome relief from the sun and the humidity. The torrential rain did not spare us. A number of participants woke up to wet tents and mattresses on several occasions. We were feasted on by mosquitoes and thanks to prophylaxis, nets and repellent we are malaria free for now. Our stay was shortened because we needed to be back securely in Yaounde before the elections on Oct 11<sup>th</sup>.

### *E raa we a?*

*How are you this morning?*

The final phase here was a 3 week stay in a village in the North Western region of Cameroon, near the city of Ndu. The Wimbun people speak Limbum which we studied, so that we could communicate with our Mbangsang village hosts: Lawrence and Belinda Ngala. We visited the farm, climbed the hills and took part in their everyday activities. We met several Fulani people who were celebrating Ramadan during our stay. The other participants also stayed in villages within a 10Km radius of Ndu. David cut his finger badly with a machete. It was a worrying time for us but it has healed very well, for which we praise God.

### *A house in Ndjamena !*

SIL Chad Personnel are looking again for a house for us after one within walking distance from the SIL Centre, which looked like a possibility, hasn't worked out. We fly out to Chad on the 28<sup>th</sup> November all being well. Many thanks for your prayers, letters and support! *David & Evelyn*

### Praise the Lord with us

- We are thrilled to be in Africa, and soon in Chad!!! We are very grateful for all that we have learned at AOC and for the new friends we have made.
- For God's provision which has allowed us to leave for Africa, attend AOC and move to Chad.
- For traveling mercies both as we visited churches and prayer groups in Europe and traveled to and within Africa.

### Please pray with us

- As we move to Chad: that we will settle in quickly and well. Find and set up a house in Ndjamena, meet many SILers over Christmas and during Conference and Retreat weeks in Jan/Feb 2005 and start work at the SIL centre.
- For our flight to Chad to leave on the appointed day. That our shipment from Brussels will arrive by airfreight safely in Ndjamena in December.
- That our laptops will be reliable - several hard drives have failed us.
- That we will rely on God's strength as we adapt to life in Chad, learn Chadian Arabic and start our respective responsibilities in the branch.

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