



“What love the Lord has for me!” A Pentecost story

*“And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?”
(Acts 2:8)*

The hot African sun was setting behind the mountains as I walked through the campus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon’s Bible School in Tcholliré. As I approached the steps of student housing, I saw two young men sitting on the steps with a large book in their lap. After the traditional greetings and hand shakes they told me they were reading from the Gospel of Luke. With a big smile on his face, the younger man explained that his “big brother” was helping him learn to read God’s word. It was then that I realized that both of the young men were blind; they were reading the raised dots of Braille.

Hand in hand, the older of the two helped the younger move a finger over the dots. The younger man paused, turned to me and exclaimed, “It is so wonderful to read God’s word. I can now see what love the Lord has for me!” He went on to say, “Maybe someday I’ll be able to read from the whole Bible.”

There was no rushing wind nor tongues of fire that afternoon, but I could clearly see the Spirit resting on these two young men as they experienced the presence of the Lord through the word.

A note: Because of the efforts and gifts of many, the young man’s “maybe someday” hope was fulfilled. A Bible in Braille arrived at the school. It weighed 150 pounds and needed 13 feet of shelf space.

Jim Noss and his wife, Karen, served for 35 years as ELCA/ALC missionaries in Cameroon. Having retired in 2008, Jim and Karen now live in Eagan, Minn. They enjoy giving presentations about their experiences as missionaries in central Africa.



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