

DENEUF NEWS May 14th 2021

Hilary Deneufchâtel, based in France with SIM, currently training as a Bible translation consultant.

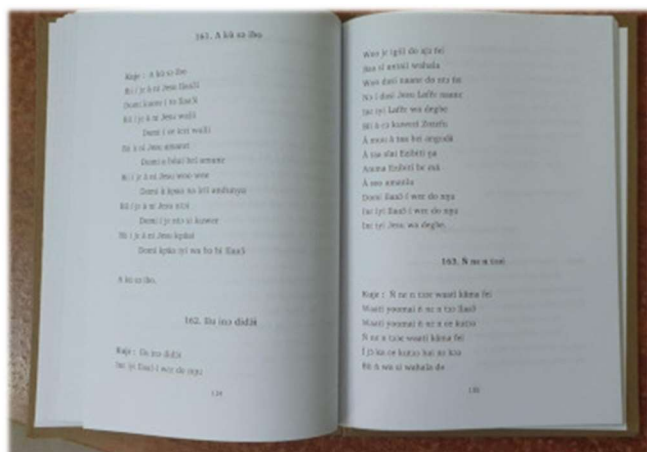
Dear friends,

It is nearly a year since we moved back to France from Benin. It's a very different France from the one we left behind, and we know that you've also been living with changing Covid restrictions, but we hope that you too have seen the faithfulness of God. We feel at home here in Villers-lès-Nancy, and are enjoying this part of the country.



Monkolé Bible

In April my Swiss colleague Philippe from Midi Bible sent me a message to say that although it had taken longer than he had hoped, the Monkolé Bibles were finally being printed in South Korea. When that's finished, they will be sent by boat to Benin, and once they get through customs, they'll make their way north from Cotonou by lorry.



I was encouraged recently to hear that both Monkolé churches have literacy classes running, with people wanting to make sure they'll be able to read their Bibles once they arrive.

The Monkolé song book has been updated and re-printed in Parakou, and I had a photo of that sent to me just this week. Since I also proofread that, it was great to see it finally

in print! Some songs are translations of French hymns, but many were composed by the Monkolé themselves.

Bible consultant training

Most of my work time lately has been spent learning Biblical Greek. It's a difficult language to learn, and very different from other languages I know, but I'm enjoying the challenge! As a former language teacher, I know that motivation is crucial, and I am certainly very motivated!

I have also been able to attend some online training about translation software. This is software which works alongside Paratext, the main package used in Bible translation. I've learned to use one programme which helps do some basic type-setting. It wouldn't replace a professional type-setter for the Bible, but it could be used for printing individual books as they are translated and checked. Another programme can produce mobile phone applications with Biblical text in them. These are handy things to know about to recommend to teams in the future.

I also had the opportunity last week and this week to sit in on some online checking sessions. The translation consultant is in Dallas, and the team is in Zambia. It's been inspiring to see the reality of online checking sessions, and to appreciate the consultant's good relationship with his team, and the work they are getting done. I have of course spent many hours in checking sessions over our time in Benin, but it's interesting to see the different style of another consultant.

Another activity which has taken place over Zoom recently is the Bible study which I've been doing with a friend here in Villers. She is a Christian who wants to know the Bible better, and studying with her helps me to see the text through the eyes of someone for whom it is relatively unknown. This is extremely helpful for Bible translation.

Family News

Marc continues his work as a supply teacher. It is different from the system in England as he has a reliable post and salary from the education authority. He is now teaching partly in Nancy and partly in Épinal. This job has added even more unpredictability to our timetables, but he has been enjoying teaching and gets on well with his colleagues.



Simon will be going to lycée next year (like sixth form but starts a year earlier and lasts 3 years). He is hoping to study for what is called an Abibac, where he would have a lot of his classes in German. Benjy is in his first year of secondary school, which is going well. Eve is mid-primary school and she is enjoying school too. They are all glad to be able to get involved in church activities for their age groups, and also a local scout group, when Covid conditions allow!

In Benin the weather put us off much walking, but here we have had fun rambling in the local countryside as a family. We've been enjoying the four seasons! We look forward to a trip to England sometime, but with quarantine and tests to have to fit in, we don't think it is going to be this summer.

Much love,

Hilary (and all the family)

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We thank God:

for His help as we have made the transition back to life in Europe
for the printing of the Monkolé Bibles
for the literacy classes in the Monkolé churches
for this opportunity I have to observe some online checking

Please pray with us:

That Monkolé Christians will be equipped to read, study and understand their Bibles
that they will share the Good News around them with those who do not know it
for my continuing training