

Newsletter #16 – December 23, 2014

Merry Christmas! I hope this letter finds you well. As I reflect on all that the Christmas season means to me, I can't help but think of all the wonderful things God has allowed me to do here. I am more involved than ever in my teaching position at Rain Forest International School. Also, the Bible club for local children is still going strong - and around every corner I am constantly faced with new and exciting opportunities!

I am continuing to teach performance art to the middle school students. I'm also director of discipline and head of learning support. This semester, in my performance art class, we will be doing a musical. I had been toying with the idea for a long time, but some things needed to fall into place before I decided to do it. First of all, scheduling classes is always a tough job. Until recently we thought we had an art teacher coming to teach a class to the middle schoolers, which would have made it impossible for me to have enough students in my class to do a musical. Secondly, I needed someone to help me with the music aspect. While I am a singer, I've never taught music before and was apprehensive about that. Well, God worked it all out (surprise, surprise!). The art teacher ended up not being able to come which freed up the scheduling conflict. And, I overheard the music teacher saying that she was still trying to come up with things for the middle school students to do in music class. So, it dawned on me...*collaboration!* I approached the teacher and asked if she would like to do a musical with me and she wholeheartedly agreed. She picked out the music, and I am now about to write a script over the Christmas break. I've never written a script that long before, but script writing runs in the family (thanks Mom) so I'm game to give it a shot! In my January newsletter I will tell you all the wonderful things that God is doing through me as director of discipline and learning support coordinator. To be honest there is so much going on there that I need more time to put it all into words! Very exciting!!

Our Bible club meets every Saturday with the local children in that neighborhood. We read through Bible stories and come up with creative ways to help the kids remember them. We act stories out, color in coloring pages, sing songs, and share prayer requests. It continues to be a wonderful ministry!

The school where I teach, Rain Forest International School, is a Christian school (7th - 12th grade) that is set to meet the needs of missionary children from across the globe. We also have some Cameroon national students who are receiving a quality Christian education here as well! There is a hostel nearby where some of the children live during the school year. Some of the parents of the "hostel kids" are missionaries who are working in remote locations, or areas that are too dangerous for their children. They rely on RFIS to educate their children to whatever degree necessary for them to be returned to their home countries and seek jobs or further education. That being said, we have to meet a lot of standards and our guidance counselor is up to date on the varying educational requirements for students from many countries. We have kids with us from Asia, Europe, the Americas, Australia, Cameroon, and other African nations. It's quite a diverse campus for sure!

As a result of having to meet so many standards our students are required to do a certain amount of community service to graduate. Once a year we take them all on a community service outing to help them fulfill that need. A few days ago some other teachers and I took about half of the student body to a local parochial primary school. While there we helped them clean up, cut grass (with machetes!), taught English to the teachers, and played with the kids for a while. See the pictures below. I apologize because some of the pictures are not the greatest quality. I discovered that it's very difficult to take good pictures when you have five children clamoring to hold your hand, one child falling asleep on your lap, and a group of kids who just want to see their face on the camera screen...

On a different note, I pray this Christmas season that we will all know how truly blessed we are. So many of my friends here struggle to make ends meet. Every day I pass by children playing in the street, because their parents can't afford to send them to school. Every day I walk by little houses built of hastily made brick, and watch as women sweep their dirt floors. Every time I look out my window I see men who are struggling to make ends meet, selling bubble gum to the cars during a traffic jam. I watch as men, women, and children dig through trash cans to find food to eat or items that

can be refurbished and sold. I personally know a woman who has nothing, and yet has opened her home to twenty boys who were abandoned by their own families. These are boys who had joined gangs and at a young age were already becoming hardened street criminals. Then, Mama Paulina got hold of them. She and her boys spend much of their time going through trash cans finding bottle cap tops that they then sew material onto to make hot pads that they can sell. The money they make goes toward school fees, food, clothing, and whatever other necessities they need to survive. Luxuries are unknown to them. I wonder how many times they have picked up a coca cola bottle cap, and wished they had the money to buy just one coke for themselves...

I never tire of watching how God provides my personal financial needs so my work here can continue. If God encourages you to send financial support for my ministry just click on this link and follow the simple directions: <https://give.wycliffeassociates.org/p-1018-holly-emmerich.aspx>. Feel free to respond to this email if you'd like to be in contact with me. I love hearing from you, especially during the holiday season!

You are blessed, I am blessed, and we are ALL blessed in our own ways. May we remember that this Christmas season. Let us not forget that God's only SON came to earth so that we could *all* be children of God. Whether your floor is dirt, or paved with gold – whether you have money saved up, or you're just hoping to feed your family today - whether your skin is black, brown, tan, or white - we are all sons and daughters of the Most High God. My challenge to you this Christmas is that you take after your Father...

Prayer requests

It seems I've been having a small heart condition the last few months. I just saw a cardiologist here (recommended by other missionaries in the area) and she thinks I may have something called an "atrial ectopic heart rhythm." What it means is that my heart makes an extra beat from time to time, I will be going in to the hospital today to get hooked up to a heart monitor that I can wear around home for 24 hours. It will measure my heart rate and determine what the next step will be. The cardiologist is certain that any necessary treatment, if there is any, will be able to be done here. Other than that I'm perfectly healthy and happy. Thanks for your prayers regarding this matter!

I will be coming home over our summer break from school this year! The plane ticket will be purchased officially in the next couple of days. Even though I am working with a wonderful travel agent who is able to get me a "humanitarian fare" (a discounted fare for missionaries or other humanitarian workers) a roundtrip economy class ticket is still a little more than \$2,000. I'll have to tap the surplus in my missionary fund for the money. I know that God always provides, and even as I am writing this to you an email came to me saying that some friends of mine from my home church (Harvest Church in Washington, NC – in case you're ever in the area!) have gathered some money together to send to me. They have supported me from the beginning and the wonderful people that attend are so very precious to me! I don't know why I even bother worrying...

Those of you who live "close enough" might consider attending a benefit concert my parents are organizing for me at the Rocky Hock Playhouse this summer. ***I'll be joining the Rocky Hock cast*** in a massive concert. THE PRICE IS RIGHT TOO!! Here is the information:



Tickets - \$10.00
(plus tax and gratuity)

Ticket Price **includes** our delicious buffet:
NC Pit-Cooked BBQ, Fried & Baked Chicken, Fried Fish, 3 Vegetables, Bread, & Beverages

***Concert begins immediately following the buffet.
Meal start times are indicated below.***

Tuesday, June 23

11:30am

Tuesday, June 30

11:30am

Bring friends...OR YOUR ENTIRE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS. Call [\(252\) 482-4621](tel:2524824621) for reservations.

http://rockyhockplayhouse.com/2015_show_schedule.htm

***There is so much more that I can't wait to tell you, keep a look out for my newsletter in January. God is so good,
and opportunities continue to abound!***





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“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Romans 10:14,15 **Wycliffe Associates**
EVERY VERSE. EVERY TONGUE. EVERY HEART.