

+Newsletter #18 – April 8, 2015

Life is just full of little moments, isn't it? Like my first Christmas away from family, when I had many a wonderful conversation with other missionaries, one of whom has since passed away. And, more recently, I had a moment of clarity, a moment where I more deeply understood my place in the body of Christ here in Cameroon. A friend and fellow missionary here sent me an email asking for help. A family that she knows in a nearby village has a severely disabled daughter named Esther. She wanted to know what I could do to help them. The local doctors were at a loss. Based on a description she gave me I was able to help the family understand that Esther has a condition called microcephaly. It's a rare genetic condition that causes low brain development, a small head, low IQ, and in this child's case it is likely causing her blindness. In this area we are surrounded by tribalism, ancestral worship, etc. The general belief among the followers of those religions is that disabilities are caused by curses, sin, or somehow displeasing the gods or ancestors. The parents of this child are Christians, we can rejoice in that! The family is making a trip here to Yaoundé to see if they can get better healthcare options, and they are going to stop in and see me so I can give them some advice on how to help Esther. I am so excited to be able to offer whatever help I can to this family!

My work at school continues to go well. I am still in charge of discipline, learning support, as well as teaching a performance arts class to the 7th and 8th graders. In addition, I have taken over the middle school choir class while our regular music teacher is in the states helping her father recover from surgery. There are some very exciting things on the horizon for us here! I have teamed up with the school therapist and we have researched the various learning styles and why some students struggle so much. The typical Western style of teaching is tailored to those of us who are aural learners, that is, those students who learn best by hearing. But, there are a myriad of other learning styles! Visual learners learn best through pictures and spatial understanding. Verbal learners learn best through using words, both in speech and in writing. And, physical learners learn best through using their body, movement, and sense of touch. Those are the most common learning styles. The trick is being able to incorporate all of them into the classroom. Research shows that students who are not strong aural learners will struggle in school and sometimes turn to drugs or alcohol. These students are not "stupid," they simply can't learn through listening. So, part of my job here at Rainforest International School is to identify those students, and then help them and their teachers. Liane, the school therapist and I will be implementing a new therapy program to assist students with Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, and other students who do not typically learn best by hearing. The program has been tried and tested for thirty years in the US and a therapist there has agreed to consult with us, via email and Skype, so that we can use the program here as well. It was a miracle that we found the program in the first place, and an even bigger miracle to find out that the therapist in the states who will consult with us here in Africa lives about three towns away from Liane (our school therapist) and will be able to meet with her face to face while Liane is home over the summer! It really is a small world after all!

You may recall that I am working with a local puppet ministry and a man named Silas Nfor who has a vision for children's ministry here in Cameroon. We have been invited to go to a village and give presentations to the local children's workers about how to do child evangelism. The children's workers there have a heart to start bible clubs for the kids, and they want to make sure they do the best they can! I will be able to present some of the information I collected about the importance of recognizing and teaching using various learning styles. The traditional way of teaching here is that the teacher stands there and talks to you, expecting you to learn and remember things. In some places that has spilled over to the way they teach Sunday school. If you attended Sunday school I'm sure you remember well the lessons that used pictures, illustrations, songs, movement...but perhaps you don't remember so much of what was simply said. (Especially not if you don't learn just by being talked to.) Silas and I have a passion to make sure that every child, no matter how they learn, hears and understands the Gospel so that when the time comes they can make an educated decision about following Christ!

The village we will go to is remote. There is no running water, no electricity, and dirt floors, etc. I am so excited! We will be there for a couple of days. Right now I am on Easter break from my regular teaching position. My village trip will take up the last couple of days of that break. Then, the very next morning after I return I will be back to school!

I have begun working one day a week at the elementary school here as well since they asked me to fill a need with learning support that they could not meet. There are several students there with diagnoses that affect their

learning, so I will be able to help them and their teachers. I am also going to be doing a program with the entire school about conflict resolution, what the Bible says about it, why it's important, and how to do it right!

We are going into the last stretch of school before summer break. There are a lot of things that go on at the end of the school year as I'm sure you former school teachers can remember! Graduation, teacher training, student testing – the list is never ending! There are some students I have identified as being in need of educational testing to see if there is a learning disability or other problem that might affect their learning. The testing for that will begin taking place immediately after break. And, since I have begun working at the elementary school I am helping out with the testing of some of those students also. Busy, busy, busy!

I am sure that some of you have heard about the terrorism here in Cameroon. Let me assure you that I am still safe and sound here, and that God is with me, telling me to stay put! My ministry here in Cameroon is going strong!

Prayer Points:

1. Please continue to pray for those who have chosen terrorism as their way of communicating. Pray that they will understand there are better ways to make their point known.
2. Also continue to pray for my safety and the safety of my fellow missionaries here and around the world.
3. A few friends of mine here have fallen ill with malaria, although the treatment is readily available in this area it can still be a life threatening illness. One friend had to be air lifted to a hospital. My friends are doing well now, but please continue to pray for health.
4. Pray for my upcoming trip to the village to do child evangelism training.

Contact information:

Cards and letters:

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If you have not yet done so, would you consider joining me in my efforts here by giving financially? A small monthly contribution would help me spread the Gospel to the students here, without people like you giving to me on a regular basis I would not be able to be here. To make a donation to my ministry please click on this link and follow the simple instructions (you may also give in honor or memory of someone else!) <https://give.wycliffeassociates.org/p-1018-holly-emmerich.aspx>

I will be visiting friends and family in America over the summer and would love to come and visit you! If you are looking for speakers at your church, bible study, Sunday school, or organizational meeting then perhaps we can arrange something! I would love to share about the work I am doing here and the impact your financial and prayer support is having on lives in Cameroon! See my contact information above if you would like to try and set something up.

I cannot count the blessings that I have received through Jesus Christ, without counting all of you as well. Your prayers and monthly financial support touch my heart and brings me to tears when I consider that you have chosen to send your money and your prayers to me, a simple servant of Christ. Please know that I pray for all of you on a regular basis. I absolutely adore getting emails and letters from you, and I consider it a blessing to be able to bring your prayer requests to God. Please let me know how I can pray for you today.

Those of you who live “close enough” might consider attending one of the benefit concerts my parents are organizing for me at the Rocky Hock Playhouse in Edenton, NC 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** for reservations.
http://rockyhockplayhouse.com/2015_show_schedule.htm

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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

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