

## Newsletter # 2 – October 8, 2013

Well, I'm here folks! I've included some pictures with this email so you can see what it looks like around here. Although it is very different from home, I love my little apartment. I have a gas stove on which I made coffee this morning (and yes, my eyebrows are still there!), a small refrigerator/freezer unit that keeps food just cold enough to be called "cold," and just frozen enough to be called "frozen." They both work great because with the heat around here it doesn't have to be *all* that cold to feel cold enough! I have a water filter in my kitchen; it keeps me from getting nasty parasites that live in the tap water. I don't even dare brush my teeth without filtered water. Since there is no water filter in the bathroom I fill up a bowl from the kitchen and use that water to wash my face and brush my teeth. I am safe to take a shower, as long as I don't get any water in my mouth. Cameroon is on the equator so it is perpetually hot. But, you don't find many air conditioners in the country. In fact, air conditioning is really only common in North America and parts of Europe. Elsewhere, it is still considered a luxury and most people don't bother with it. It is quite easy for me to adjust to the heat because it's hot everywhere. Being the same temperature inside as it is outside forces you to become accustomed to it. We are still in the wet season here so once in a while there will be a downpour of rain. It comes out of nowhere and usually stops almost as quickly as it starts. But, it cools things down nicely and I'm not complaining!

When I arrived on Thursday evening the toilet didn't work. I am currently having to fill a bucket of water up and pour it in the toilet bowl in order to flush. The leak is actually a bit more like a small waterfall... According to our housing manager there has already been someone here to fix it...twice. However, they say it will be fixed again today and I can start using it tomorrow. A very nice local gentleman is fixing it for me as we speak. Wycliffe Associates makes a point to hire local assistance whenever possible, to help the economy. They share our vision, and are wonderful at their jobs!

I have found that the people here are nothing less than delightful. When walking down the street it isn't uncommon to find children politely saying hello to adults as they pass by. The compound where I live is the second largest gated community in Cameroon. The largest is a few miles away. Neither community is "big" by American standards. There is a guard posted at the entrance who locks and unlocks the gate for people who live or work here. Now when I say gate, I mean a big heavy metal gate that would be difficult to get over. The guard house is right there too so I feel very safe!! I haven't met all the guards yet, but the one I have met is a very nice young man whose name is Lambert (pronounced "Lam bear"). I feel very secure knowing he, and others like him, are keeping me safe day and night! Yesterday evening one of my neighbors was playing the guitar and singing hymns. It felt good to know that I am surrounded by Christians in this compound. And, it's terrific knowing that my immediate neighbors are not offended by my praise and worship music!

Although the main language is French most everyone I work with speaks at least a little English. Nonetheless, my supervisor/friend/fellow Christian warrior has offered to let me borrow some computer software so I can learn the basics of French. Unfortunately if you do not know the language the locals will sometimes charge you extra for goods and services. Learning the language and knowing the regular price for certain items will go a long way in saving money. (By the way, they use francs here. The same currency as France used before they changed to the Euro.)

Just as I was writing this the power went out as it frequently does. Hopefully this particular blackout won't last more than 24 hours (as I'm told they sometimes do). Thank goodness for batteries. I'm learning to thank God for natural sunlight. When the power goes out so does the internet and right now the internet is the only thing that connects me with my family and friends back in the states! The internet comes and goes a bit which makes it challenging when I'm in the middle of an email or chatting with family! Pray that the internet signal gets stronger as well. Small worry, I'm where I am supposed to be and it feels right to be here.

There is one last item I want to share with you as I close this email. As followers of Christ we love to know we are walking in His will. And, it's very special when God makes it obvious that we are where we are supposed to be. Something very special happened to me two days ago. When I first heard about the Wycliffe opening here in Cameroon I immediately felt the Lord say I was to go. But, I also needed to hear that from my interviewer. His answer was not quite as immediate as I found myself hoping for! I recall waiting several long (unbearable, heart-

wrenching, frustrating) weeks before hearing back and I was getting impatient to say the least. Finally, after hours upon hours of prayer, the answer did come. Yes! They wanted me!

I met my interviewer face to face a few days ago. He is one of the sweetest and kindest men I've ever met; an asset to God's ministry here. He immediately apologized for taking so long to get back with me. As we were talking I learned of some personal things going on in his life at the same time he was trying to make the decision. The decision on whether or not to even open this position up for me had been put on the back burner. After weeks of not dealing with it his wife came to him and said that while she was praying the Lord told her it was time to move forward and go ahead and have me join the team! Bear in mind that while I was waiting to hear back I had been praying these words, "Lord! Please let them give me an answer, I know you said yes, now tell them that too!" The very next day I received the call.

Isn't it funny how God makes us wait? Much like a child who has to wait for his favorite dessert. As children of God our loving Father makes us wait...because He knows when it's the right time for cookies and ice cream! Cameroon is my cookies and ice cream and it couldn't have come at a better time in my life! Please write me any time. I would love to hear from you!

### **Prayer concerns:**

Continued provision (health, safety, finances)  
Improved internet signal  
Success in learning the language (French)  
Discernment from the Holy Spirit

### **Praises:**

The Oku tribe now has the New Testament in their own language! In a few days some fellow workers and I will be headed to a town called Bamenda, where there will be a celebration. These people long for the Word of God in their own language and when their prayers are answered they CELEBRATE! My colleagues have long been a part of this new translation and I am blessed to join them and see first-hand how the work I am able to be a part of (because of your prayers and support) is advancing God's Kingdom! I will be sending out a special newsletter in a couple of weeks to tell you all about the celebration. Now, as promised, here are the pictures!





Holly Emmerich  
Wycliffe Associates  
Recruiter/Site Volunteer Coordinator  
Yaounde, Cameroon, Africa

*"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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