

## Newsletter #9 – May 7, 2014

I'd like to start off this letter with a prayer request. You may or may not have heard about the kidnapping of approximately 276 girls from an all-girls school in Nigeria. These girls were abducted at gunpoint and it is believed that they are being sold as "wives" or being forced into human trafficking or slavery. Some of them may have been brought over the border of Cameroon, the country I serve in now. Would you pray with me that they will be found safely and returned, and that even in this tragedy the Glory of God will be revealed? And I pray all of you are safe with some of the weather you've been having on the east coast! It's the full blown rainy season here so it rains at least once a day. Makes the muddy path I have to walk to catch my ride to work every morning pretty treacherous at times!

I am very much enjoying my new position as Learning Support Specialist at Rain Forest International School (RFIS). I have been working there now for a little less than a month, and I am loving it! It is so refreshing to be able to use the gifts God has given me to bless the children of missionaries from across the world. Because of your help I am able to serve students from countries like North Korea, South Korea, The Netherlands, China, England, Australia, and more! These children, ages 13 – 18, bless me every day! We may often think of missionaries and the comforts they give up in order to see The Great Commission fulfilled, but have you ever thought about how their children play a part in that? These kids have given up so much. They have moved to a foreign country, left behind friends and family, and many times they must learn a new language. It's difficult for anyone to get used to that, children included. It wasn't long ago that good education was difficult to find for missionary children, by the grace of God that is changing.

The children of missionaries are often referred to as "Third Culture Kids", or TCKs. They have grown up in a culture other than that of their parents, and they have had to adapt. Many of the children I teach have grown up as TCKs, only knowing in theory the customs and ways of the culture their parents come from. The problem lies therein. How do they transition back to their country for work or college when, even though it is the country they claim heritage to, they know almost nothing of the culture or ways of life there? I heard a story of one young man who found the transition so difficult that he committed suicide! If you will indulge me for a moment, I'd like to create an analogy to help you see it the way I do. I often compare the transition of a TCK back to their "home" country to that of a soldier coming back from war. We have all heard stories, or perhaps experienced for ourselves, the hardship many of our brave young men and women face when they come back home from the battlefield. Believe it or not, the children of missionaries are on a battlefield all their own. They are Christians who are often just as passionate about sharing the Gospel as their parents are. They are seasoned veterans in this war against evil. And when they return to a country that is supposed to be "home" to them, they are met with opposition. They are used to being up against people who are not Christians, but they are NOT used to being met with lukewarm Christians who do not understand the determination, willpower, and persistence of the missionary culture.

With my degree in Special Education I am able to help RFIS build a Learning Support Program so that parents of children with special needs can also come onto the field. What a blessing to be able to see a child with learning difficulties have the kind of relationship with God that can only be experienced on the mission field. Surely we are all in different areas of our walk with God. But there is a certain nearness to God that can only be experienced in a third world country. A place where, by its very nature, Christians are forced to depend on our Father for such things as clean water, electricity, and health, to say the least. I don't know about you, but I don't want anyone to miss out on that! Not when God has blessed me with the tools necessary to help those children thrive! The environment at RFIS is unparalleled. As a uniquely Christian school we are allowed, even encouraged, to pray with our students on a daily basis. Teachers can choose to open their class time with prayer, and every morning we gather to sing praise and worship songs together. There is a unity here that I have not experienced at any other school. We teachers are truly invested in the lives of our students. We are not just here to see that they succeed academically, we are here for their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs as well. Would you deny a child of having this experience, just because they don't learn the same way you and I do? Would you want to tell the parents of a child with learning disability that they can't be the hands and feet of Christ, because we can't teach their child? How about the child with Asperger's Syndrome, should they be denied of a nurturing environment that cares for their spiritual needs? Of course not! A big part of my job is to help these students learn who they are in Christ, so that when they have to make that transition they are fully equipped with the whole armor of God! It is not an easy task, and I don't take it lightly. Nor do I take

lightly the simple fact that I can't do this without you. *You are making a difference in the lives of these precious warriors.*

I love hearing from you, it is such a blessing to receive emails, cards, and letters!

Email: [holly\\_emmerich@RFIS.org](mailto:holly_emmerich@RFIS.org) ([holly\\_emmerich@RFIS.org](mailto:holly_emmerich@RFIS.org))

### **Prayer Requests:**

- \* For the students who are headed to their home countries at the end of this school year.
- \* The school girls who were kidnapped in Nigeria.
- \* Continued health and safety for myself, and all my missionary friends here.

### **Praises:**

- \* I am very easily adjusting to my new role as Learning Support Specialist.
- \* The rainy season has brought back the wonderful shades of green I see each day!

I love hearing from you, it is such a blessing to receive emails, cards, and letters!

### **Contact Information:**

Email: [holly\\_emmerich@RFIS.org](mailto:holly_emmerich@RFIS.org)

#### Cards and letters:

HOLLY EMMERICH  
C/O SIL  
B.P. 1299  
YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON

#### Packages:

Holly Emmerich  
SF Cameroon  
7601 Radin Road  
Waxhaw, NC 28173

*(These are shipped via sea freight 2-3 times per year, shipping and handling costs may apply, and please let me know if you plan to send something this way!)*

**John 9: 1- 3** *As Jesus was walking along he saw a man who had been blind from birth. "Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?" "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him..."*

Holly Emmerich  
Wycliffe Associates  
Learning Support Specialist, Rain Forest International School  
Yaounde, Cameroon, Africa  
Cell: (Cameroon) [+237 50 10 10 17](tel:+23750101017)

*"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.