

Newsletter – January 3, 2016

SINCE INITIALLY WRITING THIS EMAIL I HAVE DECIDED TO SHARE A MEDICAL SITUATION WITH YOU. A LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT IT WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE END OF THIS LETTER. PLEASE READ ON. . .

Happy New Year! One of the many customs I enjoy here in Cameroon is that if you are greeting a friend you haven't seen since the New Year, you always begin with "Happy New Year!", or, "bonne année" if you greet in French - even if it's the middle of March! I have been enjoying the holiday season. I was able to spend Christmas with other single missionaries and Cameroonians here in Yaoundé. One of the best parts of my Christmas was that everyone brought a covered dish to share, and some people had saved things they brought from the United States just for this occasion! It was great to have some old favorites like cranberry sauce and pecan pie! It's very hard to get turkey here so we opted for chicken instead, and enjoyed other dishes brought by everyone, including one of my favorite Cameroonian foods called koki. It is made out of koki beans, salt, pepper, dried fish, red palm oil, banana leaves, onion, plantains, and has a bread like texture. I have really grown to like this! What's even more interesting is that it is not easy to make, and most people make it either over the fire, or heat it in the sun.

I am on a break from school right now and have spent some of that time preparing for next semester. I am still teaching middle school music, middle school performance art, basic math, and giving private voice lessons free of charge to two of our high school students. In addition to that I am middle school coordinator, which means I oversee all the middle school teachers and their classes. It has been good to rest over the holidays and I look forward to going back to school January 12th!

We are now in the full swing of dry season here, which means longer and more frequent water outages. I have a rain barrel outside that catches rainwater and also gets refilled when the city water is on, so I always have a supply of water for those endless days when there is nothing coming out of the tap. I never knew you could recycle water so much! The water you wash dishes with becomes the water you bathe in, and the water you bathe in becomes the water you flush the toilet with! It has become so normal, so much a part of what I do, I'm almost confused when the city water comes back on.

I wanted to let you all have a better glimpse as to what day-to-day life is like here, so please enjoy the pictures I have included. These are just some of the things I see on a regular basis, so much so that it is normal to me now. As a word of explanation, the man with his back to the camera is carrying a large tray of sunglasses on his head. And, the little boy you see in the two pictures at the bottom is playing with a toy that is common here. It's a "car" made out of items kids often dig out of the trash. Whether he received it as a Christmas gift, or made it himself I'm not sure, but look at the joy on his face!

I praise God for those of you who make a monetary donation to my ministry here in Cameroon on a regular basis, I could not do this without you! To make a donation please go to this link and follow the simple instructions: <https://give.wycliffeassociates.org/p-1018-holly-emmerich.aspx> Gifts may be made on a one time or monthly basis, and may even be given in honor or memory of a loved one.

Prayer requests:

1. Please pray that the next semester of school will go well. Specifically pray that the students will continue to be receptive of instruction, and that they will develop a personal relationship with Jesus.
2. Pray for me as I teach these precious children, that I will not just teach them necessary skills, but that I will be someone they can trust and look up to in both word and action.
3. Pray for our school as we continually recruit new students for next year, both children of missionaries and Cameroonian students.

4. Pray for the continued health and safety of my colleagues and me.

To send cards and letters please use this address:

Holly Emmerich

C/O SIL

BP 1299

YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON

For a wish list of larger items that I cannot get here in Cameroon please email me at Holly_Emmerich@WycliffeAssociates.org, or simply "reply" if you are receiving this by email.

SPECIAL NEWS:

OK, AND NOW THE SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST AND SITUATION I AM FACING. MY MOTHER, GLORIA EMMERICH, JUST HAD GALL BLADDER SURGERY ON WEDNESDAY. HER RECOVERY HAS BEEN A BIT SLOWER THAN EXPECTED. IT SEEMS THAT BECAUSE MY BROTHER AND I (BORN 10 YEARS APART) WERE CESAREAN BIRTHS, AND BECAUSE OF OTHER SURGERIES SHE'S HAD, THERE WAS A LOT OF SCAR TISSUE FOR THE SURGEON TO DEAL WITH. ALSO, HER GALL BLADDER WAS "VERY SICK" AS THE SURGEON SAID SO RECOVERY HAS BEEN SLOW. I DON'T BELIEVE IN "COINCIDENCE" BUT WHEN I WAS BACK IN NORTH CAROLINA LAST SUMMER MY DOCTOR TOLD ME THAT "MY" GALL BLADDER WAS GETTING SICK AND THAT IT NEEDED TO BE CLOSELY MONITORED, HE CLEARED ME TO RETURN TO MY WORK IN CAMEROON, AS I WASN'T HAVING ANY SYMPTOMS AT THE TIME. WITH NEW AND RELATIVELY SEVERE SYMPTOMS THE NURSE HERE NOW FEELS THAT I AM IN NEED OF FURTHER MEDICAL ATTENTION AND I'M TRYING TO GET AN AIRLIFT TO THE BAPTIST HOSPITAL IN MBINGO ABOUT 30 MINUTES AWAY FROM YAOUNDÉ BY AIR. (IT'S AN 8 HOURS DRIVE WHICH IS PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA FOR ME UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.) GOOD HOSPITALS ARE SCARCE HERE AND IT IS THE BEST ONE AROUND. THEY WANT TO DO SOME TESTS. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY I MAY NEED TO COME BACK TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SURGERY AS THE HEAD DOCTOR AT THE BAPTIST HOSPITAL IN MBINGO IS WORRIED THAT THEY DON'T HAVE THE PROPER EQUIPMENT OR SKILL LEVELS NECESSARY FOR SUCH A SURGERY. I WILL KNOW MORE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. PLEASE PRAY AS I WORK THROUGH THIS. GOD IS IN CONTROL!!!!





Blessings,

Holly Emmerich

Learning Support Specialist, Teacher, Director of Discipline
Rain Forest International School

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..."

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