

Dear Friends,

May 10, 2017

Well a lot sure has happened since I last wrote. For some time now I have felt God leading me in a new direction in my life. After much prayer and petitioning the Lord I have decided to take off my "missionary hat" and accept a salaried position at a Christian school in Paramaribo, Suriname (South America).

I cannot express in words how valuable my experiences here in Cameroon have been and how much I will cherish the wisdom and experience I have gained. Although I've only been here for three and a half years, it feels like I've gained a lifetime of knowledge and growth. It is hard to say goodbye to this part of my life but I am excited to see how God has used Cameroon to prepare me for the next chapter!

In August I will begin teaching 5th and 6th grade math, science, and Bible at the International Academy of Suriname – a Christian school located in the capital city of Paramaribo, Suriname. I have also been asked to help with drama activities at the secondary level. It seems the weather and seasons there in Paramaribo are similar to here in Yaoundé. Suriname is a more developed country and the prevalence of tropical disease, while still a threat, is much lower. To learn more about Suriname you can visit this website: <http://www.countryreports.org/country/Suriname.htm>

I have so many fond memories of my time here in Cameroon – not the least of which were the times I went to villages with Silas and his puppet ministry team. Seeing the conditions, which were poor even by other Cameroonian people's standards, stand in contrast to the smiles on people's faces. What joy those children expressed at the opportunity to hear a message of hope. I will also miss working with my students. What a thrill it was seeing them discover their artistic abilities and learning to be confident. Watching them grow artistically and spiritually has been the biggest joy. All these things make leaving that much more difficult.

My account with Wycliffe Associates is set to receive donations through June 17th (my last official day on the field). If you plan to make any last-minute donations please do so before then. After June 17th a donation for me will no longer be accepted. Though my salary in Suriname by American standards is quite low I will be receiving a monthly stipend from the school. Working with Wycliffe Associates has been a tremendous experience but I will no longer be working under their umbrella. But, I would very much appreciate your continued support through June 17th. I will be returning to the US for a five week visit with my brother, his family and my parents beginning the end of June before heading to Suriname in August. I have made arrangements with Wycliffe Associates to continue having access to the funds in my account until they are gone, at which time I will be in Suriname.

I have attached a few pictures of some of the people and places I will miss here. As I begin my last month here in Cameroon I have found it somewhat difficult to face all the "lasts". The last time I will see this person, the last time I will go to this place, the last time I will celebrate my birthday here, etc. As many of you know I have a cat here, a friend of mine is going to take her when I leave. Those of you with pets will understand how difficult it will be for me to leave her behind!

Again, I want to sincerely thank all of you for your continued prayers and support over these last three and a half years, words cannot express what you have meant to me. If you would like to receive email updates about my adventures in Suriname after I leave Cameroon please respond to this email and let me know. Once I am settled in Suriname, those on the snail mail list can write me too! I'm sure there will be lots of exciting things to tell you about!

Prayer requests:

*The visa process is lengthy and can take up to three months. Please pray that the paperwork goes through in a timely manner so I can arrive in Suriname prior to the start of the school year in August.

*I expect that the Lord is going to open up extraordinary doors for me in Suriname. Transportation there is difficult and I am told it will be best to purchase a vehicle. Pray that finances will become available and I can purchase something inexpensively that will be safe on the road... (My father will especially appreciate your prayers. He's a bit nervous about me having to face the traffic in a busy city like Paramaribo.)

God bless each and every one of you ; I appreciate all your support and prayers!

Sincerely In Christ,

Holly Emmerich

Every year we have a “wacky week” here at Rain Forest International School. Each day of the week has a theme. The first picture is “twin day”, when friends get together and dress alike! These fun times will be missed!



Celebrating International Women's Day with very dear friends!

Visiting local schools and villages, I will miss ministering to these children!

