

Dear Friend,

October 3, 2016

I am back in full swing here in Cameroon at Rain Forest International School. I have many titles this year - Learning Support Specialist, teacher, middle school team leader, the list goes on.... I am teaching five different classes: middle school math, middle school study skills, middle school fine arts (music and drama), pre-algebra, and high school choir. Boy am I tired!! In addition to teaching I am also keeping up with documentation on students with special needs. I've included a picture below of me with my middle school students!

Here in Cameroon we have mango flies, they lay eggs on our clothing as it dries on the line outside, and sometimes if we put the clothing on while it's not quite dry they can cause a problem. If the eggs stay in a moist environment (like damp laundry) and hatch while you are wearing them then the fly larvae will burrow into your skin and make their home there. This is quite painful, as the larvae grows and uses you as a food source. The way to get rid of them is to cover the wound with petroleum jelly. This blocks the oxygen and essentially suffocates the grub growing inside you. He will either die, or crawl out searching for oxygen. If they die inside you - use tweezers to pull them out. I am still getting over a case of seven "bites" from these parasites. They are not known to carry any diseases, so provided the wounds they leave behind don't get infected, I will be fine! (Hope that wasn't too graphic...)

One of the things we teachers around the world face is how to help kids get along. In a school like ours, where we have so many different cultures represented, this is sometimes a challenge. As human beings we are often afraid of what we don't understand and this puts us at odds with people from other cultures. Our students are from vastly different backgrounds and this leads to many, many silly misunderstandings. Unfortunately, fear sometimes manifests itself in acts of aggression - like bullying. This is something we are already facing here this year, more than ever. I'm working closely with the school mental health counselor to combat the problem. Your prayers would be appreciated!

In high school choir we are already practicing our Christmas program. It's a good mix of Christmas songs both old and new. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to work with a choir. Working with high school students is a challenge, but it is going quite well!

Much of the work I do is of a confidential nature. This is often the case when dealing with children. However, I like to think that the situation we have here at Rain Forest International School is always a bit different from what you and I consider normal. The children I teach face language and cultural barriers on a daily basis, not to mention the daily grind of living in a third world country. This is all quite tiring for an adult, much less for a 12 year old. Suffice it to say that I see every obstacle that my students face as a learning opportunity. And, a chance for them to grow and develop into fine young men and women of God. Please keep my colleagues and me in your prayers as new challenges arise daily.

Both of my math classes as well as the study skills and fine arts classes are going quite well. We are learning and exploring new things every day, and it is very exciting to be able to see what bright minds and creative imaginations these children have!

I love hearing from you! To email me please write to: [holly\\_emmerich@wycliffeassociates.org](mailto:holly_emmerich@wycliffeassociates.org)

To send cards or letters write to:

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YAOUNDE, CAMEROON

To send care packages please contact me and I will give you a US based address to mail to. I have a list of items I would like to receive but can't get here, which I am happy to send to you.

### Prayer Requests

Please pray for understanding and unity among students from different backgrounds.

Pray for wisdom and guidance for those of us who work teaching important life lessons to our students.

Pray for me as I teach five very different classes.

Pray for continued health and safety for my colleagues and me.

This is me and our middle school students having some fun in the auditorium. This building has cement floors and folding chairs and is where the entire student body meets every morning for our daily assembly. It is also a classroom for my fine arts and high school choir classes.

