

NEWSLETTER #1 – September 13, 2013

As I start out on this new adventure, I can't help but reflect on all the blessings I've received. Not just financial gifts, but the precious people God has brought into my life. I want to send you a sincere thank you. Without your prayers, smiles, hugs, well wishes, and financial gifts I would not be able to take this step. God has used you mightily! You are all blessings from the Lord God, and I thank Him for you daily.

I am putting the final touches on my travel preparations. The ticket has been purchased, housing is in order, and I have received all my immunizations (yellow fever, typhoid fever, polio, hepatitis A and B, and Meningitis...boy are my arms sore!). As I write this I'm sitting in my dad's office at College of The Albemarle listening to him lead rehearsals for the COA fall shows, *Little Women* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. It's a little tough for me knowing these will be the last rehearsals I will be a part of here in the States before I leave for Cameroon. Rehearsals, music, audiences...these things have all been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. In less than a month I will be heading half way around the world to help spread The Gospel on a continent I have never been to because that's what God told me to do.

It's all sort of a whirlwind really, and it's absolutely astounding how God put everything together. As Psalm 23 says, we truly want for nothing! He provides all our needs. I don't know about you but sometimes I take for granted all the things I have: running water, electricity, internet, a roof! In America we have more than enough. You know, my wonderful pastor once told us from the pulpit that even the poorest person in America is still one of the richest people in the world. That's hard to grasp sometimes, especially when we see a poor homeless person on the side of the street, with very few material items. But the resources available to those in need in this country are bountiful compared to the resources for the needy in any other country.

My goal in this letter is not to dwell on the depravity in the world. We all know about that and it is the basic reason I am going to Cameroon. But, I as a Christian can no longer sit back and watch as those without knowledge of our precious Lord Jesus Christ continue to live in sin and immorality without even knowing how far off the path they really are. There are so many lost souls out there; so many people who are unable to lay hands on a Bible for fear of rejection from their families, their neighbors, friends, and even their governments. There are people who are dying without knowing the precious love and mercy of Jesus. I cannot stand for that.

We are the army of God. And, if we *are* the army, then all of us are soldiers. Soldiers don't sit back and let the battle wage on without joining the cause! Some soldiers go to the frontlines and fight the enemy head on; other soldiers stay back ensuring that things run smoothly for the army. Both are necessary to win the war. I'm going to the frontlines; you are the ones backing me up. You are ensuring that I can continue to have the things I need to advance the Kingdom. You are just as responsible for the souls I help in Cameroon as I am. I quite literally cannot do it without you! And nothing I do or say would ever properly express my gratitude to you. Thank you!

On October 2, I (or should I say "WE"!) will fly off to Cameroon, with stops in Chicago, and Brussels, Belgium. It will take me (US!) about a day and a half to get there. At my stop in Chicago I'll meet up with another lady, Peg, who will travel with me the rest of the way. She works with Wycliffe and is based out of Cameroon. She "happens" to be flying back to Cameroon the same time I am so we decided to fly together. She'll help me get through customs, get to my apartment, get settled in, etc. I have spoken with her several times through email and on the phone; she is a blessing from God as well!

Once I get settled in you can be sure I'll send pictures of the people I'll be working with, those being affected by your gifts of finances and your prayers. I'll send out regular newsletters to make you aware of how we are advancing in this spiritual war! I pray blessings on each and every one of you; may God send you

increase in every aspect of your life. I leave you with Psalm 23. Perhaps you can look over it, and ponder all of the wondrous things our Father in heaven has promised us!

Psalm 23

*The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.*

God Bless you,

Holly Emmerich
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"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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