

Newsletter #19 – May 12, 2015

The end of the school year is fast approaching and there is so much going on here! My middle school performing arts class has their final production of the musical we've been working on in a couple of weeks, so we are working hard on the finishing touches for that. We had a "preview performance" for the school on Wednesday, which went very well. Most of my students have never performed before, so I decided to have a performance for the student body, so the kids could get used to having an audience. Those of you who've done any type of presentation or performance before know that having an audience changes things! It went well, and now we have a little time before our evening performance for the community on May 23rd.

There are a handful of kids in that class who are extremely talented, for whom theatre is a great outlet. Life here is hard, life as a missionary kid has a special set of challenges. We often talk about the sacrifices that missionaries themselves make, but we sometimes forget that their children are also facing life in a new culture, leaving behind friends and family for a calling that they are sometimes too young to fully understand. As teachers here at Rain Forest International School we do more than just teach. My classroom is made up of kids who come from many different cultures: Dutch, Asian, American, African; next year it will be a new group of kids with new cultures. The fine arts provide these children with a creative outlet. There are no desks in my classroom; they are free to move about and express themselves in ways they may have never experienced. In my class I am able to introduce these kids to theatre and, in some ways, to use it as a medium to unify the cultures. Theatre brings people together like nothing else. For many children, the opportunity to be part of a group and pull off something you could never do on your own, is a new experience. I am so blessed to be a part of that.

My trip to the village a few weeks ago went very well. I traveled with a small group of missionaries and Cameroonians to do some child evangelism with the puppet ministry I am involved with (see the pictures below). Many children prayed a prayer of salvation! We also left some child evangelism materials with the church there. All in all, it was a very successful trip. I was there for a few days with no indoor plumbing or electricity, and dirt floors, but surrounded by the most wonderful people. The pastor of the church allowed us to stay in a spare building that the church uses as a guest house from time to time. There was a barrel of water for washing, and our toilet was a hole in the ground in the middle of a field, with a tarp hung around it for privacy...another Cameroonian experience!

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the teachers, as we bring the school year to a close.
- Pray for the students, as they face the end of the school year. We say "goodbye" a lot here on the mission field, as missionaries go back home, and new ones come in. The kids face their friends leaving, and the task of welcoming new students.
- Pray that our final performance for middle school goes well.

To make a donation to my ministry please click on the following link and follow the simple instructions:

<https://give.wycliffeassociates.org/p-1018-holly-emmerich.aspx>

I really look forward to being home in June. PLEASE attend one of the benefit concerts at the Rocky Hock Playhouse in Edenton on June 23 or 30 if you can!! I'd love to see you. (Call [252.482.4621](tel:252.482.4621) for tickets and information.)



Tickets - \$10.00
(plus tax and gratuity)

Ticket Price **includes** our delicious buffet:
NC Pit-Cooked BBQ, Fried & Baked Chicken, Fried Fish,
3 Vegetables, Bread, & Beverages

Tuesday, June 23

11:30am

Tuesday, June 30

11:30am

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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..."*



The pictures below were taken in the village, Bamesso; the one on the left was taken while I was conducting part of a Sunday school session. The one on the right was taken during a puppet show presentation that was set up outside of another local church.



These are some of the kids we ministered to in Bamesso. Please pray for them, that the seeds planted would continue to grow and flourish.



Part of the team that went to Bamesso. From the left: Monique (our translator), Kay Watts (a fellow missionary), and the pastor of one of the churches where we ministered.

