

Newsletter #6 – February 9, 2014

Life is short, isn't it? A few days ago I learned of the sudden death of Bob Lane, a dear friend and colleague here in Cameroon. I spent Christmas with him, his wife and youngest son. He was one of the nicest most welcoming people I've ever known. On Monday evening it was expected that Bob had suffered a "silent" heart attack and it was recommended that he be hospitalized. Arrangements were made to fly him to Mbingo Baptist Hospital early Tuesday morning. However, as preparations were made to take him to the airport, the Lord took him Home. Bob, his wife Barbara and their youngest son Nathan came to Cameroon in 2011 with Wycliffe Associates (WA). Bob Lane served as the Site Volunteer Coordinator with WA from November 2011, after which he became the Finance Manager for SIL (formerly Summer Institute of Learning) Cameroon in November 2012.

In the missionary community we are very much like family. We laugh and cry with each other, we help each other out, have each other over for dinner and watch each other's children. We fight, make up, celebrate, and mourn as a family. I can't express to you the sense of community that exists among the missionaries here. People are surrounding Barbara, helping her make decisions, cooking her meals and offering transportation so that her son, 17 year old Nathan, can continue going to school. It's a strange dichotomy of beauty in the midst of loss. Barbara teaches 5th and 6th grade at the school for missionary children here and upon learning of the death of "Uncle Bob" one of the students asked, "But, we prayed for him last night, so why didn't God heal him?"...How do you answer that? How do you help a child, or an adult for that matter, understand that God is good, even in this situation? And yet we know that God is sovereign, and His timing is never wrong. Bob was surrounded by prayer warriors at the time of his death, and yet God still decided that it was time. Please pray for those of us who are mourning the loss. But, as the Bible says, we have hope because we know that Bob is with God. And trust me; he's having a blast up there!

Another colleague of mine has been diagnosed with a relapse of ovarian cancer and must go back to the states for treatment. The same thing happened last time she was here in Cameroon, God healed her then. Will you believe with me that God will heal her again? *"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."*
Matthew: 21-22

I thank God that Bob knew the Lord and I know where he is. But what about the ones who don't know the Lord? Every day thousands of people die without ever knowing Christ! They will spend eternity completely separated from the presence of God. It burdens my heart to see so many lost people around, and it brings me to tears when I think of those who refuse to believe. And, on the contrary, it brings me great joy to see people who have come from witchcraft and devil worship to accepting Jesus and wanting a Bible in their own mother tongue! They, like us, need to understand the boundless love of God.

On the 1st of March we will celebrate the dedication of the New Testament in the Meta' language! This is the first whole set of scripture for this tribe. Imagine it, this Easter they will be able to read the account of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection in their own language, praise God! This is a good reminder of why I'm here, I spend hours on the phone every week talking with people back in the states about how they can come and be a part of Bible translation here in Cameroon! Below you will see a picture of me, hard at work in my office! *Incidentally if you ever want to serve on the mission field, in any capacity, my contact information is below!*

I was blessed to be able to speak at Rain Forest International School in January; I shared my testimony of the trials and struggles the Lord has brought me through. Afterward many of the students came up to me wanting to talk about some of their own struggles. I was able to pray with the students and help them through some things of their own. I got to thinking about how special it is that I was at a school where I could still pray with the students. I can tell them to rely on Jesus, and I don't have to worry about any repercussions. The students and staff have asked me to come back from time to time and be available in case any students want someone to just talk to. I am truly blessed!

I want to thank those of you who sent me Christmas cards and encouraging emails over the Holidays, the snail mail takes about a month to get here so it was a pleasant surprise to get Christmas toward the end of January. Thanks! I always love hearing from you, you have no idea how much it means to me! I encourage you to write to as many missionaries as you know, we feel honored when you take time out for us! God bless each of you, I couldn't do it without you!

Prayer requests:

- Pray for Bob's wife, Barb, for their three sons in the States and for their son Nathan who is here in Yaoundé with Barb.
- Pray for my colleague with the ovarian cancer relapse.
- There are a few new missionaries coming to the field soon, pray they make new friends and adjust well in their roles.
- Pray that the Meta' New Testament will be read and used to the glory of God!
- Continued health and provision
- Malaria still seems to be on the rise around here, this disease is transmitted through Mosquito bites! My medicine cabinet already includes a malaria test kit and treatment.
- We will be traveling to the North West region of Cameroon to celebrate the New Testament dedication for the Meta' language. Pray for safe travels! Traffic, driving, and road conditions are not always ideal here. Not to mention general safety for a group of Westerners.

If you would like to contact me by email please write to Holly_Emmerich@WycliffeAssociates.org

If you would like to send a letter please write to:

Holly Emmerich
C/O SIL B.P. 1299
Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Packages often get stolen in our postal system, so if you would like to send something other than a card or letter please contact me. We have secure ways of getting items here.

God bless you!

Holly Emmerich
Wycliffe Associates
Recruiter/Site Volunteer Coordinator
Yaounde, Cameroon, Africa



“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