



KRISTI TENCLAY - Missionary in Cameroon

August 2018



Enjoying the lake-view for some morning devotions while in MN for a family reunion in July

As I sit down to start this newsletter, I am in the Omaha airport waiting for my first flight of my journey back to Cameroon after about a month in the US and Canada. My current itinerary is the third version of the day. I could probably write a whole newsletter about this morning, but I will save you all from that craziness. Let's just say it has been an 'interesting' day already, and I haven't even boarded for my first flight! (check out my facebook page for more of the details if you want . . . little would I have guessed when I started this newsletter, but the saga continued well beyond the three itineraries and my final piece of luggage took nearly a week to catch up with me in Cameroon!)

Traveling internationally is one of the inevitable parts of my life as a missionary, but not something I ever thought about much beforehand. Before heading to Cameroon for the first time in 2010, I hadn't even been out of North America. Truthfully, that was pretty normal for the majority of people I knew. Most of us didn't even have passports, and international travel was something reserved for 'rich' people in my mind. I am often amazed by how almost 'normal' it has become. I find myself talking about exotic places like Italy and France with an unsettling degree of familiarity, reassuring nervous first-time passengers that the horrible noise of landing gear being lowered is 'normal' and 'ok,' helping non-English speakers figure out where to go in US airports (whose signs are amazingly monolingual for international airports!), and discussing the merits of various international airports and preferences for different airlines with some degree of knowledge. Crazy!

Some friends of mine recently flew with their kids for the first time, and it was so much fun listening to how their kids reacted to the experience. At least one of them was so excited because several aspects of the trip were "just like in the movies!" I was struck by the contrast. Quite honestly, I have allowed that which is extraordinary to become ordinary, normal, maybe even mundane. Which leads me to ask myself: what other extraordinary aspects of my life have I allowed to fall victim to normalcy? I can come up with a whole list ranging from phone and other computing advancements that have occurred in my lifetime to the fact that this giant metal cylinder I am sitting in with probably a couple hundred people is FLYING, to the marvels of modern medicine. However, none of those hold a candle to what God has done!

Take a moment to consider the Bible stories that have become so routine to us that we don't even consider how extraordinary they are anymore. How many soldiers did God allow Gideon to lead to victory against the Midianites? (go back to Judges and check it out!)

PRAISES and PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for more teachers! We are so thankful that God has send us one new teacher (who arrived the day before classes started) and for another who is still raising support (we are hoping she will arrive later this semester), but we have several nearing retirement too...
- Praise God for safety in the midst of the many miles I have traveled in the past two months! (And that my last piece of luggage finally arrived!)
- Pray for Cameroon! (see the update later in this letter)



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What about the parting of the Red Sea or the stopping of the Jordan River? And you gotta love Elijah calling down fire from heaven on his water-soaked alter as a testimony that our God is SOOO much more than Baal. There are more of these 'little' miracles than I can count throughout the Bible. And then there are the "big ones" like bringing Lazarus back from the dead – seriously people, think about that! He was dead long enough that he STANK! We aren't talking about 'hey, grab the defibrillator and see if a shock or two can restart his heart' like we see in the movies. We are talking about giving life and health back to smelly decomposing flesh! The list could go on and on, for the Bible is filled with the extraordinary. But, how often do we step back from the familiarity of it all to really be astonished at what God has done and can do?

I challenge you, as I am challenging myself to pay more attention to the extraordinary – be it in the world around me or in the Bible. I want to re-discover the amazement and be astonished at what God has done and is doing! I would love to hear from you – what is God amazed or astonished you with lately? What is He reminding you about that is quite 'extraordinary'? Drop me an email at ktenclay@hotmail.com and let me know!

Blessings! Kristi TenClay

The political situation in Cameroon: The political situation regarding the English-speaking portions of Cameroon and the apparent unwillingness of the central government to negotiate or discuss reform has continued to escalate in recent months. Likewise, violence among the Ambazonian separatists appears to be increasing. There does seem to be an ebb and flow as the 'hot spots' shift from week to week, but tensions are high. Though I have many friends who are daily aware of the crisis because of friends and family in those regions, my daily life isn't generally impacted directly. That doesn't mean it isn't impacting our community in some unique ways. First, Yaounde has acquired a pretty good handful of missionary families who have moved into the city for safety reasons, and we are blessed to have several of those willing to step in and fill some gaps at Rain Forest International School while they wait for the unrest to settle in their villages. Our classes resumed on August 7, and those volunteers are going a long ways to helping fill some gaps we have as well as coverage for one of our teachers who is still raising support and won't be able to join us for a few months. Secondly, the unrest seems to be bringing new students into our community. In the past week we have had several new Cameroonian families from those regions apply. It will be interesting to see how this shapes our school community in the coming months and years. Please pray for these new students and their families as they adjust to RFIS. Pray for the political situation in the NW and SW regions of Cameroon. Pray for the whole country during the upcoming elections (in October). And pray that Christians throughout the country – both nationals and expatriots – will be faithful to follow God's calling in our lives regardless of the earthly implications.



*RFIS Construction project . . . From a cleared field, to a construction project, to an athletic complex!
Pretty cool!*



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