



## SEPTEMBER UPDATE

### Destination Cameroon

Greetings from Cameroon! I flew out of Greenville-Spartanburg on August 11<sup>th</sup>. While boarding the plane from Washington-Dulles to Brussels, Belgium, I heard someone speaking a familiar language. Three people were speaking Cameroonian Pidgin! I introduced myself and found that the gentleman grew up in the Bamenda area, the exact place I was going! I also learned that the road going into Bamenda was closed by a mudslide just outside of the city. Having traveled very little, I was rather nervous about finding my way around the terminal. This gentleman had flown through Brussels before. He helped me navigate the security checkpoints and find the proper location for transport to the correct terminal. What a blessing, an answer to prayer!

Around 5:30 pm Cameroon time we landed in Douala as a thunderstorm was passing through. What a contrast to my arrival some two years earlier. In 2007 I had arrived a little after 7 pm to a very hot and humid concourse with no air conditioning, poorly lit, no signs, strange sounds, smells and security guards with machine guns. There were checkpoints for vaccinations, passport, etc. I was on sensory overload and completely overwhelmed. This time was so different. The thunder storm produced very comfortable temperatures and going through the checkpoints was so familiar. There was a definite sense within my being that this is where I belong. After picking up my bags I waited in line to go through Customs. Everyone's bags were being searched and the Customs officials were choosing to not allow some items to come through or charging duty on them. Well, an official asked if I was a missionary and then waived me on through! Praise God for answered prayers!

### No Room in the Inn

When I arrived in Bamenda, I learned that my requested three week reservation at the guesthouse was recorded as only three days! Adequate housing is very difficult to find, so I thought that I would need at least three weeks, if not more. Another missionary in this region arrived in April. It took him over three months to locate a house. He hopes to have the house repaired and ready to move in by October 1. There are no newspaper listings, apartment guides or online listings of homes. Finding a place is by word of mouth. Well, two dear Cameroonians began to look diligently for a place for me to live. The guest house had no openings but another guest house on the same premises had openings for one week but was full after that. The task of finding and moving into a house in good repair within 10 days seemed impossible. Options were explored. Places I could rent short term immediately presented significant safety and health risk. We walked in the areas looking for "FOR RENT" signs and asking people about availability. The places we found needed much work and for the most part did not meet the need. After looking for three days we didn't know where to look. I again went to the Lord pleading for direction. The next day I received an exciting phone call asking if I could look at a house right away. Absolutely! We got to the house and tears of joy came into my eyes as I toured the lower level. It was a very nice house by Cameroonian standards, fenced for security, a large living room,



three large bedrooms, and a kitchen with cabinets. It was exactly what I'd prayed for and more! Indeed the Lord had done exceedingly abundantly above what we think or ask. The Cameroonians negotiated rent which the owner discounted as I was a missionary and we were to meet Thursday evening to sign the paper work but it didn't happen. My Cameroonian brother assured me that there was no problem that we would meet with the owner at 5 PM on Friday. The meeting did not take place. Lord, what are you doing? You know that I have to be out of the

Guesthouse Sunday morning and have no place to go. Well, we met with the owner around 8:30 on

Saturday morning and she told me that I could move in that afternoon. She left me a bed, living room furniture and a dining room table to use. Praise God, one day to spare!

### Ministry Direction

As you may recall in my last pray letter, I asked you to pray that Proverbs 3:5-6 would be true in my life - that my steps would be ordered by Him! As I came to Cameroon, there was much uncertainty about where to live and various details of ministry. Well, as you lifted me up in prayer the Lord has provided that direction, a different one than I anticipated. As I solicited input the Lord gave peace about living in the city of Bamenda and to start a Sunday Bible Study. Additionally, I'm surveying bush areas north of Bamenda to identify two villages for outreach.



The Lord is blessing with many opportunities to minister. I had the privilege of leading Alondi to the Lord. Would you please pray for His growth in the Lord? Additionally, I'm meeting with Algernon who claims to know the Lord, but his testimony doesn't bear witness to that truth. Would you please pray for wisdom for me as I attempt to show him his lost condition and lead him to the Lord Jesus? Bello is a Fulani (Muslims) who was lead to the Lord by a friend. He has such a thirst for the Lord! His friend gave him a Bible but his father took it away from him. I am meeting with Bello regularly. He's memorizing scripture and greatly desires to have a Bible as he seeks to grow in Christ. Please pray for him to have wisdom as it faces much persecution from his family.

### Thanking God for His Providence!

On Labor Day September 7, a Cameroonian brother and I went to Esau over some fairly rough roads to investigate that region for a potential Bush ministry site. God's Providence was so evident in that trip. The trip was very profitable and the Fon, district tribal leader, welcomed me to work with the village on disease prevention and to hold Bible studies and made the Meeting Hall available for the meetings. Some potentially dangerous problems occurred with the truck but God brought us safely home. Praising Him for His Providence! Please read the attached account of the trip.



#### Prayer requests

- Victory Bible Study
- Growth for Alondi and Bello,
- Salvation of Algernon
- Track Ministry
- Preparation for Essu outreach, disease prevention lesson plans
- Pidgin studies & cultural adaptation
- Quality repair of truck to make it safe & reliable
- Financial needs
- Sale or rent the house

#### Financial Need

When I came to the field I was short about \$10,000 in funds needed to start up the ministry and I have depleted all the funds on hand. The needs are numerous. Bello needs a Bible and I've placed an order for a case of Bibles, which cost \$60. Tracts are a very effective tool here and I would like to place an order, which cost \$100. John/Romans and children's Sunday School materials are also needed. Last Sunday, children showed up for the Bible Study (8 AM) and had no breakfast. My shipment of household goods, books ministry equipment and supplies is schedule to arrive in early October. The duty and transport to Bamenda will likely be several hundred dollars. Would you please send a gift to Open Door at the address below to meet these and other needs?

### Thanking HIM for You

Thank you so much for your prayers! They've made such a difference and my heart has been encouraged as I've faced obstacles and sensed your prayers. I've highlighted a few answers in this pray letter. Your effectual fervent prayers are making a difference in lives! Don't stop, please continue to pray that my steps will be ordered of Him!

*Leff Benge*