

April 9, 2010

Dear Family and Friends,

I think I have recovered now from travel, jet lag, inability to focus, and general malaise following the trip to Cameroon. These are my closing written thoughts about our mission trip to Cameroon.

I must say this was a tough trip physically for all of us to make. The long flight was difficult. The roads were bumpy.

Our experiences with the people in all the communities were the highlight of the trip. Reaching out, loving, touching, hugging, playing with, and connecting with all the people made each day special. We never really knew what to expect from place to place or what we would be doing. We worshipped together, sang together and played together. Play is play regardless of where you are. It is the most natural state for kids, even us big kids, and crosses cultural barriers and brings people together. Play brought smiles and laughter and joy! Play connected us for an even greater purpose! We played and we shared. They played and they listened. No barriers of language, culture, race, or religion. It was all about relationship, with one another and with Christ. That was our ultimate connection.

We saw need. Need for the basics of clothing and safe drinking water - the necessities of life. Need for education, health care, medicine and prevention. The need to be loved and valued and affirmed and cared for, the need for a greater meaning and purpose for life.

We were reminded of how blessed we really are! We have far more than we need. Maybe we discovered the difference in our wants and desires and our basic needs in life. Our priorities may have changed. We have far too many clothes in our closets, too many shoes to choose from, and too much food to eat. We don't know what it means to be hungry, suffer from the elements due to lack of safe drinking water, barefooted due to lack of shoes. But we saw happy people, content with circumstances in life, making do with what they have. We learned that we're pretty spoiled, set in our ways, and we see things through rose colored glasses. We were humbled.

We witnessed true ministry, people giving their lives in service to others, like Roland who blew us away with his passion, commitment and service to NAFI. His life revolves around kids in the community and his church and how he can serve them. The joy of his service shines bright day in and day out as he gives of himself for his people. There is Franklin, Rene, Bill and the rest endlessly working for NAFI and serving the children in Ngo-Ketungia division. Often doing it from their heart and not expecting anything

in return. How can they do all that they do? God has his hand on all these people. We are fortunate to have served with all of them for a short period of time.

We were well fed by Jean Martin, housed comfortably at the Catholic mission , and transported by Julius and Innusa – all with great love, generosity, and gentle care. We lacked for nothing. We knew we were being bathed in prayer daily by so many. Only God knows the results. Seeds were planted and lives impacted.

And, God provided the special time at Seme Beach in Limbe. We were able to unwind and had a transition back to the US. What a way to end this trip.

Thank you, team, for all you did and the spirit in which you served. Thank you for saying “yes” to the call and being faithful in all aspects of the ministry!

A big "thank you" for all our prayer warriors. We felt your prayers. Thank you all for contributing to this trip in one way or the other. Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!

In His Love and Service,

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