



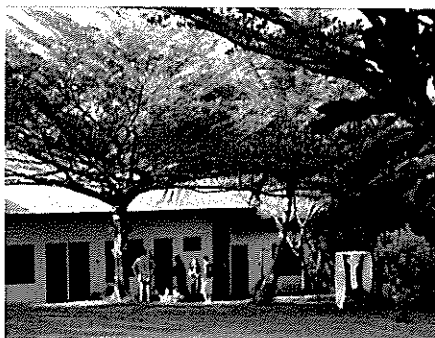
*Preparing to work with  
Wycliffe Bible Translators  
and SIL*

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Cameroon! I've been here about six weeks now and I must say I'm having a wonderful time. I'm based in Yaoundé, the capital city, which is set in the beautiful rainforest area of southern Cameroon. Some of you have asked how I am adapting to the heat here. In fact the temperatures have not been too hot most of the time but just pleasantly warm, with fairly regular rainstorms and thunderstorms as it is the heavy rainy season.

I'm enjoying the Africa Orientation Course (or Africa Cross-Cultural Living Internship as it is now called) very much. We are exploring a range of cross-cultural issues and other subjects such as health and practical kitchen skills. We spend quite a lot of time in the kitchen as we work in teams taking it in turns to prepare meals so that we become familiar with preparing food in Africa. We also go to the market to buy the food which is quite an experience. I actually find it quite stressful as we are supposed to bargain over prices – this is not only in order to pay a good price but is an important part of the social interaction at the market. There is a lovely variety of fruits and vegetables, beans and other items at the markets, and as I gain in confidence I think I will get to enjoy shopping for myself when I plan my own meals in Mali.

There are 12 participants on the course: one each from Germany, Slovakia, Sweden and the UK (me!), a Canadian couple who are here with their three sons aged 11, 12 and 14, and six from the US, including a couple with their cute 2-year-old daughter. Good friendships have been formed among the group and it will be hard when we say our goodbyes and go our separate ways at the end of the course.



French and English are the official languages of Cameroon but there are about 280 indigenous languages spoken here. Many people speak French and/or English as their language of wider communication for daily business but would speak a different language at home and with members of their same language community. On my first Sunday here I attended a Roman Catholic service in the Ewondo language which is spoken by many people in the Yaoundé area. I don't know the language but I was familiar with the liturgy and the music was amazing

## Prayer & praise

**Please pray** for safe travel in Yaoundé and as we make the journey to the northwest of the country for village phase on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

**Please pray** for the arrangements for village phase, that I will relate well to the family I'll stay with and adapt well to the demands of village life.

**Please pray** for the staff and participants of AOC.

**Please pray** for Bible translation work in the many languages still without Scripture in Cameroon.

**Praise God** that I have settled in so well and happily here.

**Praise God** for the beauty of this country.

**Praise God** for new friends I have made.

**Praise God** for good health so far.

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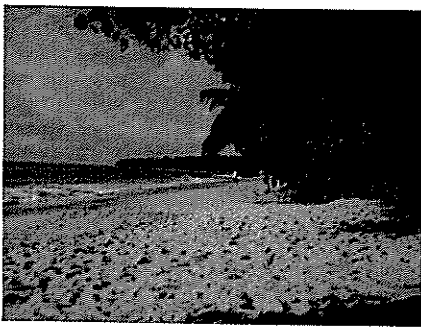
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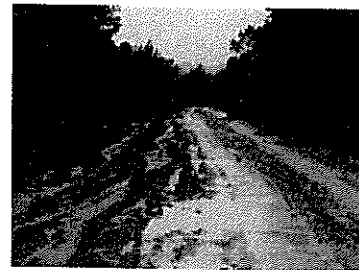
(choir with percussion accompaniment). I have also been to a Fulani church attended by Fulani people from northern Cameroon who are living in Yaoundé. The service was in French and Fulfulde, the language of the Fulani people, which is the language I will be learning (though a different dialect) when I go to Mali. It is an added bonus for me that two of the teachers on our course work with the Fulani people in Cameroon, so it is a wonderful opportunity for me to learn a little about Fulfulde and the Fulani people before I go to Mali.

We have all been put in contact with 'Yaoundé friends' to encourage us to spend time getting to know Cameroonian families. I attended a house church with my family one Sunday, held at their home. We met for prayer and worship for a couple of hours from 8.00 – 10.00 and then went out to do evangelism in the local neighbourhood. This was quite daunting for me, and with two ladies from the church I visited a family where we were invited to join them in front of their home (where visitors are welcomed) and talk with the teenage children of the family. I felt very humbled and privileged to be welcomed by this family who left whatever they were doing when we arrived to sit and spend about an hour with us.



Last week we gained experience of rural living when we went camping by the sea near a place called Kribi. This made a good break and was a kind of holiday as well as giving the opportunity to learn about living in basic conditions (we had no electricity, the outdoors was our bathroom etc). We also experienced the impact of the rainy season on a dirt road and it took a very skilful bus driver to get us to our destination, as the last few miles of the journey were on unpaved road.

On 26th October we will travel to the northwest region of Cameroon for the village phase of the course. We will stay with Cameroonian families in a village for three weeks. I am quite apprehensive about this and would value your prayers that it will be a good and enriching experience for us all.



Thank you all so much for your prayers, interest and support, and for your letters and e-mails which are very much appreciated. May I also thank you for your good wishes and support on the occasion of my commissioning service in August; it was a very special time for me and I was delighted that a number of you were able to be present for this.

I will be in Cameroon until 24<sup>th</sup> November when I will return to the UK for a very brief visit before travelling to Mali on 4<sup>th</sup> December. I would value your prayers for the transition from Cameroon to Mali and for all the practical arrangements that I will need to make during that week in the UK, in particular obtaining my visa for Mali, for which I will need to travel to Paris.

With very best wishes

*Nicola*

Nicola Pinn

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