



The Lord has provided an open door of opportunity for us in Cameroon. We are thrilled to be involved in all of the lives, events, and work He has prepared for us to do here!

Dear Friends,

February 14, 2017

### **INTRODUCING THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR TEAM:**

We would like to introduce you to the newest member of the Masongezi Ministry Team: Alain Tazoem (second from the left) grew up in the city of Dschang and received a little training in French cuisine from a French Chef living in Bafoussam. He has already been a blessing to our ministry by preparing the meal for the "Marriage Seminar – Saturday to Remember". Alain replaces Nancy who moved back to Bamenda the end of September 2016. We decided to have Alain work only two days a week instead of everyday, which increases Shirley's responsibilities. A couple days each week you can find Shirley multi-tasking either in the kitchen, cutting the shrubs, or in the office, which she equally enjoys. However, this division of labor cuts down on my effectiveness in the office, prolonging communication with you or other administrative tasks I need to complete. ***Therefore, we ask you to pray for this new role for Shirley as she finds a balance of handling the priority items first. PTL for a godly husband who loves doing dishes to help at any time!***



### **UPDATE ON OUR INTERNET WOES:**

Some of you may have heard about the strikes or boycotting done by the English-speaking Cameroonians against decisions the current government have taken that are allegedly discriminatory in practice. We cannot do justice to this lengthy history with just a few sentences, so please read between the lines. Neither do we want to offer political advice or criticize the Cameroonian government. The root of the problem started around 1961 when a divided Cameroon was colonized by the French and British, then both colonies agreed to form a federal state. Their partnership did not provide equality, but turned out to be a transition of the two English-speaking regions to feel as if they were being exploited by the French-speaking dominated state and population. Unfortunately, the first president was not intentional in reconciling two different languages and cultural groups that have a history of mixing like oil and water. In the 1990's things got worse, as the northwest and southwest English-speaking Cameroonians talked of federalism or secession because of several decisions that denied development of these two English-speaking regions. Today the government seems to bury their heads in the sand regarding exclusivity, devising strategies to protect positions reserved for French-speakers only and to repress contrary actions. With this history and recent actions, the teachers and lawyers began to have strikes and closed the school and law practices in these two English-speaking regions in early January. Therefore, all schools including colleges & universities, banks, law offices, markets, supermarkets, etc. have been closed at least two days a week in a demand for the government to change their allegedly discriminatory practices. The government has responded by suspending cell phone and Internet in these two regions (per U.S. Embassy 2/14 security message) and we happen to be caught in the crossfire by living in the western region. Six of our colleagues living in the northwest have not had Internet since 1/17. However, one couple lives on a hospital compound that has their own Internet connection so their staff to check their email. **Ask God to intervene in this situation!**

### **PRAYERS & PRAISES:**

1. **Pray for UNITY in our small team since we come from three different countries and two different language groups.**
2. **PTL we have had Internet 70% of the time. By the way, our water is great because of your PRAYERS! Please continue!**
3. **The spiritual climate in Cameroon is like bedrock, so pray for our ministry to fall on good soil as we attract "seekers".**
4. **Pray for our exit strategy as we prepare for home assignment, leaving Cameroon June 1. There's much to do as we close our office and home for 12-months.**

Serving the Lord with you,

Wilondja and Shirley

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