

2006 Cameroon Mission Team News

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North Texas Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Team to Cameroon



The North Texas Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Team to Cameroon has arrived at its destination in Africa. Roger Martens has provided the delayed first on-location report.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2006 **NORTH TEXAS VIM TEAM TO CAMEROON**

Roger Martens:

Jo and I and the rest of the team arrived safely on Saturday [June 17] around 5 p.m. Unfortunately, our flight to New York was late and we had only 20 minutes to be transported to the connecting flight. People made it, luggage didn't. Next flight to Cameroon was to arrive Monday at the same time. We traveled to the airport last night to pick the luggage up. It arrived—yea! Unfortunately, 5 bags didn't. Right, one of the 5 bags was the one Jo and I had our Cameroon clothes AND the laptop in. We are without at this time and the next flight to Cameroon is Thursday. I guess I can say we will not have any daily communications about the trip. We have just checked with the airlines and they have no idea where those bags are. They at first thought they may have been left on the plane and sent to Congo, but they couldn't find them there either.

The Youth Camp is going well. We presently have 35 youth from the 19 United Methodist churches in camp. The North Texas students are doing a wonderful job of music, games, bible lessons and crafts. Jo has already filled 2 tapes of recording and I don't envy her task of editing it all into 20 minutes.

We attended 2 churches for Sunday services the day after we arrived. Half went to English-speaking while the other half went to French-speaking. We attended the French service and our interpreter did a fantastic job of keeping up. I was surprised at the "grape" juice for communion. They had made peli peli for us as a treat after the service along with soft drinks. Tell the Guatemalan missionaries I had Miranda for the first time since ChiChi. Peli peli is like an empanada with spicy meat and vegetables inside. Fortunately, Jo doesn't go for the real spicy so I managed to have 1 1/2.

The road from Douala to Limbe and the drive is not to be believed. Mayor Miller [Mayor Laura Miller of Dallas] probably has NO street pot-hole problems in comparison. I think the most amazing part was crossing the 2 lane bridge (1 each way). I counted 5 lanes of auto/truck traffic trying to gain access to that 1 lane. Of course, that's not counting the hundreds of motor bikes with anywhere from 1-4 people on each. Cars move through the streets like dodge ball trying to avoid the potholes. I'm glad I won't be driving.

We have been stopped many times by police, ghandarmes (?), and military personnel, not counting the border guards between the French side and the English side. In fact, last night the French guard wanted us to take all the luggage we picked up at the airport and packed inside the van to transfer the bags to the roof because that was where he thought luggage should be. Took awhile to talk him out of it.

Anyway, that's the story. Probably nothing until we get home, but everyone on the team is having a great time AND we have electricity. AMEN

Roger Martens