

2006 Cameroon Mission Team News

Ron Amberg, Communications

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North Texas Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Team to Cameroon



At long last, we have a news story with pictures from Cameroon, Africa. Unfortunately, due to the Thursday, June 22nd very late delivery of lost luggage, this will likely be the last on-location report.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2006

NORTH TEXAS VIM TEAM TO CAMEROON

Roger Martens:

Dear friends and families of the Cameroon mission team:

You're receiving this report because, yes, the missing luggage arrived on yesterday's flight from Brussels and was picked up with another 4½ hour round trip to Douala.

Although one of the suitcases looked like it had been run over by a truck, the contents of all the bags were intact.



The team upon arrival at the Hostel.

This has been an extraordinary week of "Camp des Jeunes" or Youth Camp here in Limbe.

Though the campsite is Spartan, it is not where we originally thought we would be.

We all stayed in the Presbyterian Youth Hostel which was perfect because it had a center courtyard for our large

group sessions, meals and worship. There were enough double bedrooms for all the men but the women had to stay at the Hotel next door. The Hostel had four showers on two floors with running water (not hot) as well as flushing toilets. There was electricity though no refrigeration and all food was cooked over open fires in the back. The Hotel had bathrooms in each room AND air-conditioning.



Missioners and campers wearing camp T-shirts and listening to Rev. Wes Magruder.

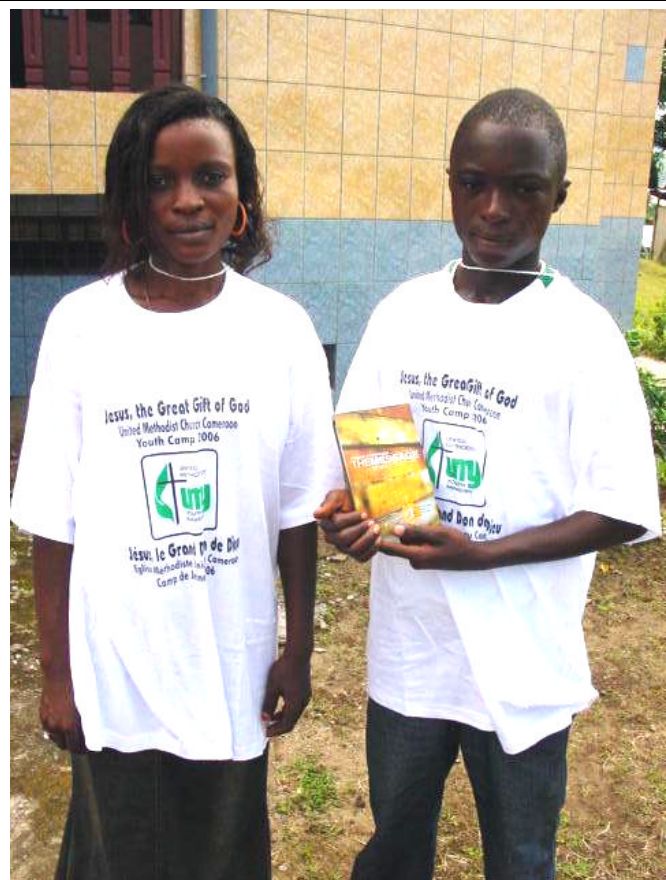
(Now that camp is over, the men are spending the rest of

the week-end in the hotel.) We felt like we were in the lap of luxury compared to what we were expecting.

We arrived in Limbe Sunday afternoon and had several planning sessions before dinner.

The campers started arriving by noon on Monday and continued to arrive throughout the day. Though some were shy at first, within an hour, Team USA and the Cameroonians were singing (in two languages) and dancing together. That set the mood for the rest of the week which was nothing short of amazing and inspiring.

Just a few hours ago the last of the campers left on the trek back to his/her town or village after a very tearful "goodbye." We are not going to steal the kids' thunder by filling in the details that they will want to share with you but will send a few pictures that we hope will give you the flavor of this awesome week.



Elsa & Valery modeling their T-shirts and holding their new Bibles.

To you parents of the college students: First of all, everyone is healthy and happy. Except for one case of carsickness (the roads are indeed bumpy) no one has had any signs of illness due to food or water.

The leaders of this team (Revs. Cammy, Joe and Dana) were fabulous. Everything was so well planned and your confidence in their skills was well placed.



Singing and dancing in the courtyard (This happened a LOT!)

And finally, you should be very proud of your sons and daughters. We were so impressed with how seriously they took their mission. They were leaders, teachers, colleagues and friends. We never heard a cross word from anyone.

Flexibility was a key word on this trip and they manifested it at all times. But they will be first to tell you that they received so much more out of it than

they gave. They are wonderful young people.

We are spending the week-end doing some sightseeing and then attending worship services in two communities, a francophone church in Douala and an anglophone church in Buea (pronounced Boo ya). Monday, it's the long trip back to the States. There will be a lot of catching up to do.

Everyone sends their love and prayers,
Roger and Jo Martens

P.S. To our own family: We leave for Kenya at midnight Sunday night. We'll see you on the 4th of July. Sorry about the Mavs.