

September, 2021

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In This Edition: A typical day...?



Panoramic view from Yaounde General Hospital. We took a friend and neighbor in for treatment of a kidney stone. Beautiful view of a part of Yaounde we don't often see.

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### A Typical Day?

Many of our supporters have asked us, "What is a typical day for you in Cameroon?" Today, you can have an answer to that question, because yesterday we had a typical day. It was not typical in the details or specifics (i.e.-we don't go to the dentist every day), but it was typical in how it went. We hope that you will enjoy the story and that it will give you insight into our daily lives in a way that encourages you to pray for us with frequency and specificity.

Saturday, September 25, 2021.

We didn't sleep very well because of barking dogs during the night and then a worker outside at 6 am.

Got out of bed after checking my phone for anything urgent. Found out that the toilet tank was not refilling with water. Checked downstairs storage to see if we had the

part I'd need to make the repair. Yes! I have two spare fill valves. Informed the family not to use the toilet. Mentally prepared to make the repair after Anna's dentist appointment.

Got myself (Ryan) and Anna around to go to the dentist to begin Anna's adventure in braces. Realized that the toilet tank was filling again. Water supply issue? Clogged line? Who knows? Put the spare part under the sink, ready to use next time this happens.

9:30 AM: We left an hour before the appointment to arrive on time at the dentist across town, utilizing numerous back roads to avoid the worst of the traffic. Saw a dozen military vehicles on the road including jeeps with mounted machine guns and a hundred or so soldiers. Wondered where they were going. The dentist appointment went very well, the excellent care being our reason to drive an hour each way to get there. Unfortunately, their x-ray machine was not functioning. So, we received a prescription for the x-rays at a local hospital.

11 AM: arrive at the hospital for x-rays. They've changed how they receive patients, so we learned a new process (receptionist, cashier, receptionist, radiology receptionist, radiologist). Anna was promptly taken for the first of two x-rays. No problems. Great staff and equipment. We were shown to a separate room to wait for the next x-ray. An hour later, we were called in. Again, great staff and equipment. Waited for the film. Left at 1:30 PM.

1:30 PM: Should have been home 1.5 hours ago, still have an hour drive to get home. Started home, thinking about a quick stop for something to eat and drink. Stopped by national police. Gave them my ID, realized Anna had forgotten hers at home. Policeman tells us to park better—we're going to be here a while. He has me open the back of the vehicle to check for dangerous/contraband items. Keeps asking me why I don't have the ID for Anna, that I need to have it. He needs to see it. He says he'll have to write a ticket (usually their way of asking for a bribe), that I'll have to leave Anna with him and go home to get the ID and come back. At this point, Daddy Anger shows up. I tell him there is no way I'll leave Anna behind. I finally get through to him that she's only 14 and my daughter and he eases up, gives me a fist bump (huh?!), returns my ID and has me close the trunk. Then he says, "I drink Guinness." I say, "Oh, you do? I don't, I drink Coke." "OK," he says, "you can buy me a Coke." I give him 1000 CFA (\$1.75) and we're on our way home again.

2:00 PM: driving and realizing the streets are unusually clear and there are police and military lining the main road. Realize that this means the President of Cameroon will be traveling through and all traffic will be blocked. We get off the main road and keep going. Of course, everyone else has gotten off the main road too... We spend the next couple of hours in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

4:00 PM: we're home. We get lunch and rest. We're thankful for the wisdom that comes from experience; after living in Cameroon for 6+ years, we are familiar with many of the systems and customs here and can navigate them as efficiently as possible. But we still pay the price in time, energy, and stress. Our expected 2.5-hour dentist visit took 6 hours and left us quite tired. We decided we'd earned some rest and spent the evening at home for dinner and movie night with our family.

This is a typical day. Something breaks. Something takes much longer. We battle illness, bureaucracy, corruption, and security issues. Our plans are radically changed. We depend on God's grace and utilize our hard-earned experience to navigate these challenges. Thankfully, really, thanks be to God, every night, we're back home safely. These typical days are another reason we covet your prayers. We depend on your prayers to keep us safe, effective, and near to God.

*"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." 2 Corinthians 4:7-9*

## September 2021

### Praise & Prayer

\* Abi and Daniel are starting the school year well at University. Pray for adjustments to school schedule, good health, and relationships. Pray that God would open doors for them to come to Cameroon for Christmas. Praise that they have found a possible church home to attend.

\* Anna and Mercy have adjusted well back to Cameroon and school. Pray for them as they adjust to harder classes this year and for good friends. Pray for Anna to be a light to others in her attitude and kindness as she is serving on the school worship team this year.

\* Pray for Kristin as she is teaching and the Assistant Director of Academics at RFIS this year. Pray for good communication with parents and staff, wisdom in handling sickness and/or covid in the school community, and insight into what needs done as we get ready for an accreditation visit in the spring.

\* Pray for Ryan as he is on the RFIS school board and helping with the director search for the school. Pray that God would lead the board to a great candidate who can lead the school through the next phase of growth.

\* Pray for Ryan as the city team leader to have a vision for where the team is going and to have good connection times with incoming staff; and for guidance as he brings pastoral skills to our group.

\* Pray for ATNA (Reach the Nations) -- guidance as they determine next steps for helping train people in the far north of Cameroon to do outreach; for good communication among the various team members; for the women's bible studies to see fruit; for the improvement in the skills of sharing the word with others. Praise God for good relationships among the leadership of ATNA.

\* Pray for our family to be able to live at peace with those around us, to have good health, to exhibit love and patience to those we interact with daily.

\* Praise God that Ryan was able to help Becci, our teammate, buy a car. Pray that we would also find the right second car -- a smaller car with good gas mileage for all the driving we do.

June 17, 2021

In This Edition: You want to read this!



Your support provided resources so Patrice and Jones to bring Biblical, Spirit-empowered teaching to more than 200 pastors and church leaders in 7 Far North cities last month.

#### The Big News (short and sweet)

1. A Muslim man invited Jesus to be His Lord and Savior this month! We'll call him Abe. As he learned about how God loves sinners enough to die for them, taking their penalty on himself, Abe said, "they never taught us about this God!" An ATNA disciple-maker was key to leading Abe to Christ and continues an intensive discipling process to ground Abe in the truth. Please pray for Abe and his family!
2. We travel to the USA June 20, 2021. Our purpose is two-fold: transition Daniel into university life in Minnesota AND renewal. In ReachGlobal, we are required to take 4 months of renewal time every 5 years. This helps us to recover from the stresses of cross-cultural life and ministry overseas. So our goal for this trip is not to visit lots of churches or ministry partners. Our goal is to be refreshed through rest, reflection, and realignment prior to returning to Cameroon for another season of ministry. We've sacrificed a lot in the last couple of years; now it is time to give attention to self-care so that we can continue to run our long-distance race. Please pray for a safe, trouble-free trip. Please pray for renewal and rest for our souls.
3. Over 200 pastors, evangelists, and elders were transformed by God this month! ATNA leaders Patrice and Jones spent 17 days traveling from city to city in the Far North of Cameroon to challenge church leaders to receive God's heart for Muslim lost people. They were inspired! Some repented with tears, saying, "I have been afraid" or "I have held hatred in my heart towards Muslim people." They are pleading for ATNA to send people to train them. They are asking someone from ATNA to come live with them so that they can learn well how to disciple Muslims to Jesus Christ. Please pray for God to provide the resources ATNA needs to travel and train these people who are eager to obey God's call to make disciples of all people.



We're so thankful to God and so proud of our son, Daniel! He graduated from RFIS this year and plans to attend the University of Northwestern, St. Paul, MN this Fall. Praising and praying!



When the director of RFIS needed to step away for a while, they asked Kristin to step up. She has been leading the administrative team at the school for several months--and she likes it! But she needs some refreshing. Please pray that she will find it in the midst of a very busy (and short) summer.

April 29, 2021

In This Edition: ATNA Events and Summer Plans



Here's a look at our home for the summer! Praising God for his wonderful provision and looking forward to a comfortable place to rest when the day's work is done.

## ATNA Events and Gerbrandt Summer Plans

Hello partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ!

**We are truly blessed to be laboring in Cameroon with you.** If we are the head of the spear here, you are the shaft of the spear stabilizing our flight, and God is the force propelling us all into his harvest field. Together, we are piercing the darkness that blinds so many to the reality of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**ATNA** is the Cameroonian ministry that we partner with to reach Muslims in Cameroon and beyond. God has used your prayers and financial support to move this ministry forward. This month, ATNA trained 30+ people in effective intercessory prayer for Muslims, hosted in ATNA's new training center! Next week, ATNA will hold its first Pastor's Prayer Breakfast. The goals are to honor pastors, mobilize prayers for Muslim lost, and connect pastors to ATNA as a resource for beginning Muslim ministries in their churches. Next month, Patrice and Jones will travel to the Far North to follow-up and encourage pastors who are committed to beginning Muslim ministries in their churches and to develop relationships with pastors and denominational leaders in the region. They will also do some seminars and trainings on making disciples among Muslim people. Please pray for these strategic and vital events.

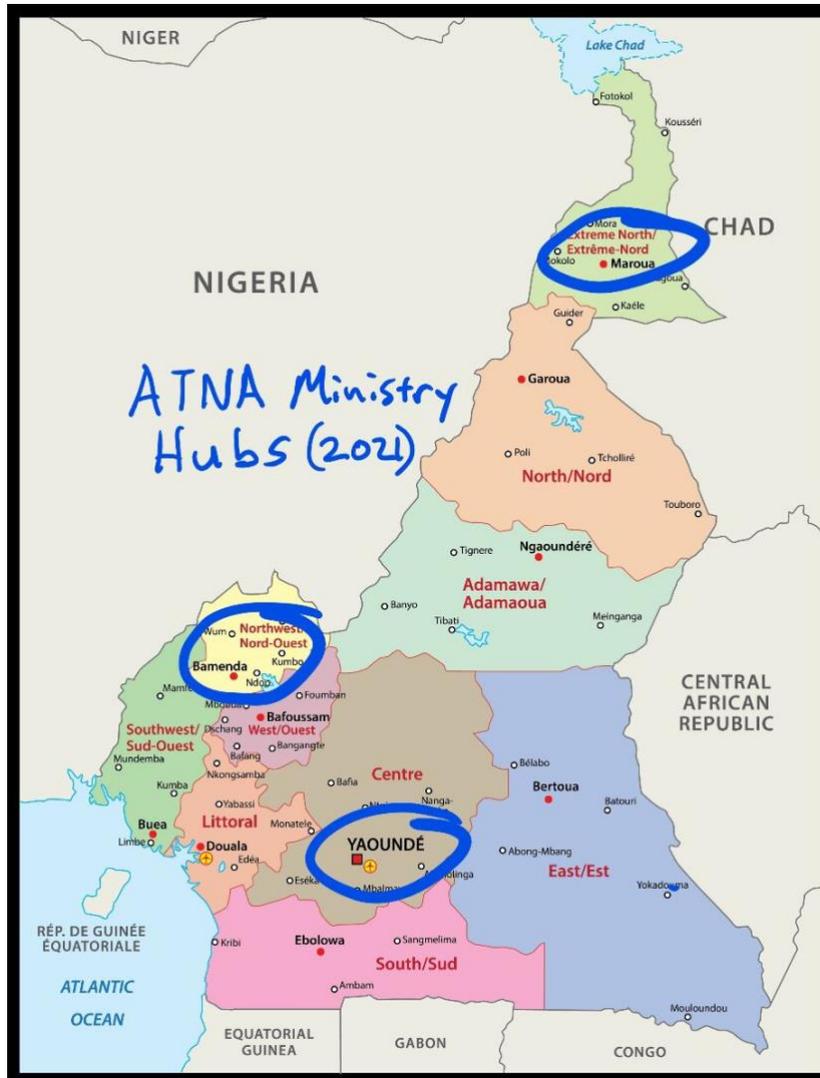
**You can get personally involved** in mobilizing Muslim ministry in Cameroon through giving towards the expenses of one of these events. We need \$200 to purchase dishes and coffee mugs for the monthly pastors' breakfasts. We also need funds to pay for Patrice and Jones' 2 ½ weeks of ministry in the Far North--the air fare (\$500), lodging (\$250), and meals (\$300). If you would like to help financially with these events, please go to [EFCA Giving](#) and designate your support for "**Gerbrandt-2006**". Then send us an email or IM so that we know you gave for a specific aspect of our ministry. ATNA and the pastors of the Far North will be so encouraged by your participation!

**Our summer plans** are coming together. Rock Point Church in Lake Elmo, MN is offering us their newly remodeled ministry home to rent for our two months in the States. Good friends from Edgerton, MN are loaning us a vehicle with A/C! Ministry partners have made a couple of cabins available that we can use to get away to the lake. We will arrive in Minneapolis/St. Paul mid-June. Kristin, Anna, and Mercy will return to Cameroon mid-July to quarantine in time for school meetings and resumption of classes—leaving them only a month in the USA. Ryan will remain in the States until mid-August when Daniel will move into the dorms at Univ. of Northwestern.

**Please continue to pray for us.** Our heads are spinning as we try to schedule vaccinations, doctor and optometrist appointments, shopping for clothes for the next two years, getting Daniel ready for university, and some time with family and a few friends—all in a month's time! Add to this how Covid complicates travel. And our primary purpose for the trip (aside from transitioning Daniel) is supposed to be rest! Thank you for joining us in prayer for this time. God will accomplish his plans!



This is why we are here! By God's grace and power, we are cultivating disciple-making relationships with Muslim people in Cameroon and beyond!



ATNA now has three definite regions of significant influence--Yaounde, the national capital; Bamenda, the key city in the English-speaking region; and Maroua, the key city in the majority-Muslim Far North Region. We're praising God for this expansion and giving thanks for you, our partners, who empower our ministry from afar!

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## Easter 2021

*In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Romans 1:3-4 (NLT)*

Dear family and friends,

Joanne and I want to wish you a very happy Easter! Jesus is risen, seated at the right hand of the Father! He is our High Priest who...

*understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. Heb 4:15-16*

Wycliffe Bible Translators and SIL exist so that this incredibly Good News will be made known to all people. To that end Wycliffe/SIL is dedicated to the task of translating the Scriptures into the many living languages in our world that do not yet have it. Currently there are:

- 3437 languages with at least some scripture
- 2745 languages with active Bible translation programs

What remains:

- 1.67 billion people without the *complete* Bible in their first language
- 1,983 additional translation programs needed (spoken and sign languages)

An update on us and our work:

- **Φαμίλψ:** As with all of you we're still weathering the pandemic storm. We continue to give thanks that our family members have remained free of the infection, that Joanne and I have been able to get vaccinated, and that our sons and daughter's-in-law now have the same opportunity. Another praise is that after a full year of the pandemic all of us are still working (mainly from home). Last year at this time we asked for your prayers that Joanne and her ESL students would adjust to a new online classroom approach. This year we invite you to praise God with us for His gracious answer. It has gone exceedingly well, sometimes with over 20 students in attendance per session!
- **Translator's Notes:** This past year I put my consultant work for the Philippines temporarily on hold to allow time to focus on completing Translator's Notes (TN) on the book of Hosea. I'm very excited to share that all the writing and editing is now complete! The book is now in the hands of a proofreader. Publication (in digital format) is just around the corner. Wait for my upcoming announcement sometime in the next couple months. Next on the docket for me (and hopefully my editor, Larry Allen, as well) may be completing TN on the book of Micah. Please continue to pray for healing and strength for Larry, who faces ongoing health concerns.
- **Hebrews class:** At our home church I've continued to lead an online class for adults on books of the Bible. Most recently we studied the book of John. Currently we are plumbing the depths of Hebrews. God continues to bless the class of about a dozen attendees each week. It has been a joy!

*Thank you so much for your prayers and support!*

**May your Easter celebration be full of hope in Christ!**

Ron and Joanne Krueger

## March 2021

Dear Prayer Team –

We are so thankful for each of you. This year has been so crazy that it has been difficult to stay on top of sending regular prayer updates. Feel free to send us an email to nudge us to get an update out with specifics.

The past month and a half have been filled with many small and large crises. COVID exposure at RFIS which led to a 2 week shut down. Our RFIS director facing burnout and us helping her return to the US for help. This also put the Admin Team in charge of the school. Kristin is on the Admin Team and has in many ways become the head of the team. More COVID exposure in the broader community and the need for specific families to quarantine. Then there are the security incidents. There have been 2 attempted robberies at the school at night, 1 armed robbery during the school day, and Saturday night we had intruders on our property going to the school and an armed robbery there. These robberies all have an inside element where detailed information is being passed to others from those working at the school.

So pray with us – I'm going to use Psalm 27 to bring to light prayer requests and praises as it fits where we are:

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear.” Praise God that He is the one who guides us. No one is more important than He. We look to him for all our strength. There is no other god with power like His. Pray that we would not allow fear to have any place in our hearts and minds. God has given Kristin a fearlessness these days as she comes up against many authorities, people, and even just ways of doing things. Pray for our children and the students at school that God would give them peace – a peace he can give. Pray that they would trust in Him and not our chariots (walls, guards, etc.).

“The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Pray for God's protection over our family, compound, things, school against any evil schemes. Kristin tore down juju (evil idol/charm/associated with power and magic) at the school in front of the workers, broke it, burned it, and scattered the ashes. She confronted those who have allowed it to be on the school property and she let them know they were messing with our God who is all powerful. Pray that hearts would hear what was said. Pray for repentance of those doing wrong. Pray that those who know anything about the robberies would have courage and come forward.

“When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall” We are praying for those who are doing evil and those who should not be at the school to stumble and for us to see it. The laws here protect workers. We cannot just fire someone or quit giving them work. We need to build a case against them. So pray that those who need to leave will stumble and fall and that we would courageously write them up.

“Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me yet I will be confident.” Pray that we would be so confident in the Lord and what He is doing that we would not fear the enemy. Pray that we would take back the territory where the enemy likes to stay. Pray that we walk in confidence without fear and it is noticed by all.

“One thing have I asked of the LORD that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.” Praise

God that after the police, gendarmes, security forces, and embassy team had all left Sunday morning, we were able to gather as a compound and sing praises to God and listen to His word. We chose to wake the kids after they were up almost all night and say – we are going to go worship. Nothing should stop us from praising God.

“For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.” We do have guards at the school and at home. They don’t have guns and must rely on just being vigilant. Pray for their safety. Some have been present for all 3 night incidents and they are afraid especially since there are now arms involved. Pray that God would hide them as they watch for evil. Pray that God would give them wisdom in how to monitor the large property. Pray that they would all turn to Him for their peace. Praise God that during the daytime robbery only 6 adults even knew what was happening – the students did not even know until we had them silently, quickly move to our property while RFIS was checked. Praise God that he concealed all of us during that time.

“And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy: I will sing and make melody to the LORD” – Pray for joy in the midst of this both in our household and at the school.

“Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! You have said, Seek my Face. My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.” Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in. Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.” -- Pray for those who have been listening to those who do evil. Some have not understood the seriousness of having people around us who do not follow Him. Pray that those who are not aware of the spiritual realm who have their eyes opened. Pray that they would see the true character of people working for them.

“I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!” – This is the verse God gave to me (Kristin) this morning. As I have been working long days and nights lately, it is time to now WAIT for the LORD. Not a time to be passive or not alert, but a time to ease off on the pushing and WAIT for God to bring everything into the open. So pray that we now stand our ground, watching and waiting while the LORD of heaven’s armies goes to work. Pray as some key people are working with Kristin to gather spiritually minded people together probably this Saturday to pray through the properties here to cleanse them and take them back. Pray that the details of this time would come together even today.

We are so thankful again as we all stand together for the LORD and against the enemy.

Nous sommes ensemble (we are together),

Ryan and Kristin

Kristin Gerbrandt

ReachGlobal, EFCA  
Rain Forest International School  
Cameroon, AFRICA

February 6, 2021

In This Edition: News of Security Incident



Impacting hearts in the classroom at Rain Forest International School.

Thank you for your prayers -- many of you take the time to let us know how you are praying for us.

We want to let you know about a security incident that occurred Thursday morning at the school where Kristin teaches and Anna and Daniel attend. Most of all join us in praising God for the safety of all who were involved and continue to pray with us that God would give us safety on the road, visiting people, in the city, at our schools, and at home from accidents, pick-pockets, sickness, snakes, and even thieves. Also pray for students, staff, and employees who are processing these events.

This is the official statement about the security incident we had on Thursday --

On Thursday, 4 February, Rain Forest International School experienced an armed intrusion and robbery. We are incredibly thankful, through God's grace and protection, that their direct interaction was limited to a handful of staff members and that no staff members or students were physically harmed!

Local law enforcement responded following the incident, and investigations are underway. Please be praying for our community as we all process today's events and evaluate what actions can be taken to better protect our community in the future.

Because investigations are in progress and to prevent speculation and the spread of rumors, please limit any social media or public discussion of this situation to the official statement above. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated