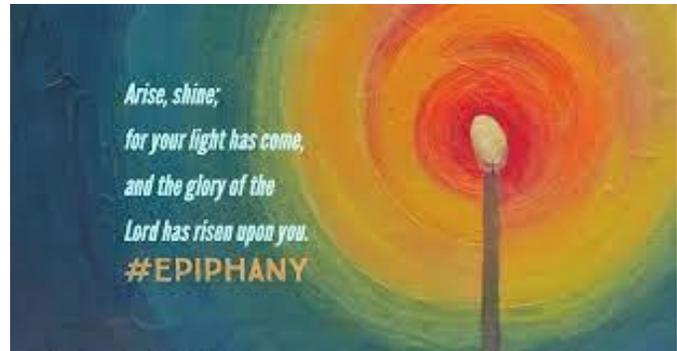


January 31, 2022

Dear friends and sponsors,

Warm greetings from Cameroon, and blessed Epiphany to all!

I hope this letter finds you well. Once again, I am long overdue for an update. Here are a few highlights from recent months:



October

The 2021-2022 academic year at the Lutheran Institute of Theology in Meiganga started at the beginning of October with our largest student body in recent history (63 students), including a new class of seven master's degree students.



Beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year at the Lutheran Institute of Theology in Meiganga.

Also, I am pleased to announce that I am no longer the only female professor at the Institute! I have a new colleague, the Rev. Dr. Jeannette Ada, one of the first women ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon and the first woman in this church to earn her doctorate.



Rev. Dr. Ada leading worship for the opening of the academic year.

November

Rev. Dr. Ada also serves as Vice-President for Africa for the Lutheran World Federation. In November, we were pleased to welcome a delegation from LWF to the Institute, including LWF's current President, the Rev. Dr. Filibus Musa, Archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, and the Rev. Dr. Elieshi Ayo Mungure, Regional Secretary for Africa. Although the visit was brief, we enjoyed an enriching conversation about Lutheran theological education in Africa.



Professors at the Institute with delegation of the Lutheran World Federation

December

Before the Christmas break, we had our annual Christmas celebration at the Institute. Along with the usual singing and skits, this year the celebration included the baptism of several children of students, including a 7-month-old little girl named Elisabeth, for whom I was honored to serve as a sponsor.



Left: With newly baptized Elisabeth and her family / Right: Children of students and professors singing in the Christmas program (Etienne in red shirt, David in white shirt with stripes)

In a previous newsletter, I had mentioned that Eric finally received a transfer from Yaoundé to Ngaoundéré, a city much closer to Meiganga. Unfortunately, his company changed their mind about that transfer, so Eric has still been in Yaoundé these last several months. David, Etienne, and I traveled to Yaoundé to spend Christmas with Eric and Schekina. David and Etienne were thrilled to meet Santa (Père Noël) at a stop along the way. Our Christmas was low-key, as Schekina tested positive for covid-19. She had cold-like symptoms, but thankfully, her case was not severe, and she recovered quickly.



January 2022

In January, the first semester at the Institute wrapped up, with final exams last week. The students were trying very hard not to be too distracted from their exams by the Africa Cup of Nations football (soccer) tournament, which Cameroon is hosting this year. Football fever is everywhere as the national team, the “Indomitable Lions,” have made it to the semi-finals.



Looking ahead...

Finally, I have some important news to share with you. After nearly a decade in Cameroon, I have decided to finish my missionary service here and move back to the U.S. with my family this coming summer. This has been a difficult decision to make, as I have truly loved my work teaching at the Lutheran Institute of Theology in Meiganga. It has been the adventure of a lifetime and has enriched my life immeasurably.

At the same time, for reasons mostly related to family, we believe it is a good time to make the move. We don't know yet exactly where we will end up, but we ask for your prayers as we discern God's call and make this transition.

I cannot thank you enough for your financial support of my work in Cameroon, for your faithful prayers, and for the warm welcome you have extended to my family and me on home assignments. The relationships formed in this partnership have been a blessing to us.

I will be in touch again in the coming months. Please know that your financial support is still needed as I wrap up my work here. When I leave Cameroon, a representative from the ELCA global mission team will contact you about transferring your sponsorship to another missionary. I hope and pray that you will continue to support the important partnerships in which we engage with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

+ Grace and peace +

Elisabeth (with Eric, Schekina, David, and Etienne)

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