Dear praying partners,

How much has changed throughout the world since my last letter in February! God is not surprised by any of it; He is still on His throne, and He is worthy of all praise. After rescheduling tickets to return to the US due to closed borders and finding the borders still closed, God provided a repatriation flight in mid-May. The US Embassy had sent out a memo the end of April that there would be no further flights, so I consider their announcement 3 weeks later that there would be one more flight out to be an answer to prayers that I could get back to the US in time to complete an online medical conference by May 31. Having only 48 hours to pack up the entire house into the sea container made for a hectic start to home assignment, but with Nelson’s help I was able to leave feeling like nothing major was left undone.

**Kingdom news… Thank you** for your prayers for Samedi [sahm-eh-dee]. He has been coming to the worship times on Sundays regularly again after a time of absence. **Continue to pray** that he will desire the fellowship of other believers and prioritize his time to attend worship and discipleship classes faithfully. He is also working to build a house for his family in Mayos. **Pray** for forward progress on this project; currently he and Pe and their 3 kids are living with Pe’s sister, her husband, 2 kids and younger sister. Too many people in a small house lead to daily tensions between the 3 sisters.

... Nestor, the Baka elder in the Mayos camp, planned and led a communion service the Friday before Easter. It was held at the training center. Since our number was under 50, we were within the law to hold the service. Several women prepared food for a communal meal to end the time together. On Easter Sunday, the believers gathered to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. I felt privileged to be able to meet, knowing that in many parts of the world in-person Easter services were not possible. Joy filled my heart as we sang together a song the Baka believers wrote during the ethnomusicology workshop in 2018: “Wake up sleeper, arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you” (Eph. 5:14b) **Pray** that the hope we have because of Jesus’ resurrection will be clearly shown in the lives of the believers in Mayos.

... Thank you for your prayers for Kinge [king-ay], Popo’s young widow. She has been coming to worship and discipleship class most weeks, and often brings one of her sisters-in-law with her. Because the schools closed due to the coronavirus, she has been able to be with her daughter, who normally stays with her husband’s sister in town during the school year. **Please pray** for Zanga (7) [zahng-ah] who is suffering after her father’s sudden death back in December. Children are not supported in their grief here. The attitude of adults is that they just need to accept the bad things that come. Worse still, often outright lies are told in the belief that this will make the situation better. For example, Popo’s sister who cares for Zanga when school is running told Jennifer that Zanga has been told her father is working out of town and will come back to see her! Considering that Zanga was present at her father’s funeral and burial, we do not understand this approach. **Pray** that Zanga will come to know Jesus as her Father, and that she and her mother Kinge can be a support for each other.

... Samedi shared a testimony in March about God keeping him calm during a confrontation with our landlord Pierre, who was accusing him of digging cocoa yams that were not his. Pierre had not seen any of this himself; he was accepting as fact a report from an unreliable “witness” who claimed he saw Samedi carrying off the landlord’s crop. Samedi stated the facts: he was digging plants he himself had planted, not plants from a part of Pierre’s plantation outside his given plot, and that he had not stolen anything from Pierre. He offered to go with Pierre and show him where he had harvested the yams. At first Pierre refused, and even threatened to turn him in to the gendarmes as a thief.

Samedi was upset, but did not get angry. He told the church he prayed for God’s help. The next day, Pierre came and told Samedi to show him where the yams had been dug. When they went together, Pierre acknowledged his error and the matter was ended. While this may not sound significant, the Baka have to deal with false accusations from non-Baka people over and over. Seldom is the matter resolved justly. Resentment builds, and although many times the Baka are guilty as charged, for those who are innocent there is no way to prove they are not at fault. Samedi gave praise to God for his vindication, realizing that He was the one who caused Pierre to change his approach to the problem. **Pray** that the believers will live their lives with integrity and that others will see the difference Christ makes in their words and actions.

**National news…** In the midst of the current rioting and looting in US cities, I am reminded that in the NW and SW regions of Cameroon, people have been living under worse conditions for nearly 4 years now. Whole villages have been burned down, schools have been closed, random violence and killing continue. Instead of government intervention to bring order, troops participate in the carnage. As we hear of emotional distress in the US from 3 months of uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus, we really cannot imagine living in fear and uncertainty for 4 years. **Pray** for an end to this conflict which is destroying lives. **Pray** protection over believers in the NW & SW, and that in the midst of this turmoil the Gospel would bear fruit and bring people to faith in Christ Jesus.
I have been asked about the effects of the coronavirus among the Baka. At the time I returned to the US, Jennifer & I had not seen any cases of Covid19. Cameroon as a whole has around 6000 known cases at the time I am writing, but the true numbers are unknown because testing is limited. The relative young age of the population compared to the US is protective, as well as the fact that people with serious health issues usually do not survive into old age. Much of Africa lives life outdoors which will also help curb the rate of spread. On the other hand, social distancing among the Baka is impossible, as is also the case in crowded urban areas. The government has restricted meeting in large groups, mandated wearing face masks, closed the borders and set curfews, as well as closing schools and businesses. Time will tell how severely Cameroon is affected, but for now the Baka people are able to continue their normal life. Their normal isolation is a favorable factor.

Medical news… Yani [yah-nee] is a 2 year old who lives in the Baka camp at Kòo [koh-oh] just down the road. His lymph nodes began swelling about a year ago. Treatment with antibiotics did not bring results. Every time he returned his neck was wider, his breathing was more difficult, and he had less energy, finally being carried everywhere on his mother’s back. His mother is an alcoholic, an unreliable caregiver for her kids, and his father works far away from home weeks at a time. We became convinced Yani had an unusual presentation of TB. Getting him into the government TB program was difficult, though, because he was too young to produce a sputum sample for testing. Finally I was able to convince the TB program director to treat Yani and in October 2019 Yani began his 6 month course of treatment. Jennifer and I wondered if his mother would come faithfully every 2 weeks to receive the medications. To our surprise, she never missed! The improvement in Yani was swift and remarkable. By the end of the 2nd month his neck was becoming normal in size and he was walking again. In April, when his treatment ended, we were looking at a normal 2 year old. We made sure the mother heard from us that God was the source of Yani’s healing.

Just 3 weeks after he finished his TB treatment, Yani’s mother appeared at the door with him in her arms. He was listless with a very high fever; the symptoms had started suddenly. He had cerebral malaria. We worked to get his fever reduced and started anti-malaria medication. Would he survive TB only to die from malaria? Four hours after sending him home, his mother was back; Yani was now having seizures. We prayed aloud for him in the presence of his mother and other relatives, then turned to getting the seizures stopped. Sending him back to his home after dark, I wondered if he would make it through the night. In the morning he was back for his next injection, still quite lethargic and unable to take medication by mouth. The next 24 hours were crucial. Praise God, Yani regained full consciousness and was talking and standing up when we saw him next. Pray that Yani will survive to adulthood and hear how God healed him from TB and cerebral malaria at 2 years of age. Pray he will become a true Christ-follower.

Team news… Abbotts are currently in the US, with plans to return to Cameroon in July. Sky will join them at their location in Ndjob, continuing with her language learning and beginning to assess what literacy efforts are happening south of their area. Pray for plans and dates to come together for the Abbotts, and pray for Sky as she transitions to a new location.

... Conrods’ plans have been greatly affected by the global response to Covid19. Nandry was unable to visit, Boaz is finishing high school without a graduation ceremony, and tickets to the US are unable to be finalized at this time. Pray that God will make a clear way for them to be together in the US for a short time, and pray for Boaz as he transitions into college life. Pray for physical stamina and contentment as they wait.

... Jennifer has been told by her US lawyer to expect at least another year until Annabella’s visa is obtained. That news is so disappointing. Jennifer is weary, and the uncertainty is really tough. Pray for renewed strength and contentment in the waiting. Pray that God will cause the immigration staff person on whose desk Annabella’s documents are parked to complete the process! There should be no reason to delay a legally adopted child of a US citizen entrance to the US. Thank you for praying the process this far along. Annabella was 9 years old in March.

... Coleman’s hope to arrive from finishing French study in France near the end of July. Pray for firm ticket dates soon, and for their initial adjustment to rainforest life. More on their ministry roles next time.

Family news...Nelson (21) has completed his gap year and plans to start a 2 year welding program in August. He was very helpful at both Baka team locations during his Cameroon sojourn. Noah (23) has completed his MBA (!) and has begun a 6 month fellowship position at HOPE International. Pray for clear next steps. Nicholas & family are enjoying their new home in York County, PA. Naomi & Scott completed Edward’s adoption on May 1, for which we thank God! Pray for me as I travel to visit my mother in IN and plan further trips during this 6 month home assignment; pray for alertness and safety on the roads.

Priority prayer items… End to the conflict in the Anglophone region of Cameroon; protection of civilians.
... Sparing the Baka population from devastation with coronavirus
... Protection physically and spiritually for Nestor and his family as he leads the believers
... Completion of Annabella’s immigration process!
... Faithful workers for the training center construction process
... Spiritual growth among the believers that will be evident in their daily lives

Grateful for your partnership in bringing hope to the Baka - Reda, Noah, & Nelson
Anderton