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Dear Friends,

Greetings from Cameroon! I am writing to you on a quiet Saturday morning. Peter is at a sleepover, and the other two kids went along with Ray on a flight to a remote part of Eastern Cameroon. There were so excited to go along with their dad and see another part of Cameroon. Ray is picking up a translator today, and it's not safe to travel by car in that part of Cameroon at the moment because of uprisings. The people are revolting because they have had no electric power for two months.

You have probably heard it said before that living in a third world country is quite inefficient and a lot of time is spent on simply living, not on working. That has certainly proved true for us this week! Last Saturday the water was suddenly cut, so we started spending a lot of time hauling water every time we needed to do the dishes or take a bath. Then Sunday night there was an enormous rainfall. Water poured down hour after hour, and the swamp behind the wall in the back of the house started rising. The swamp rose so much that the wall couldn't stand the pressure, and it fell down, allowing the swamp water to pour into our back yard.

Having a wall around one's house is a necessary security measure here in Yaounde, so after it fell down we were suddenly vulnerable. Ray had to stop flying for a while to build a temporary wall and to get the water working again. Currently a team of builders is working, without much success, to fill in the swampy area enough to build a wall there. Sometimes just living takes so much effort one can't get much work done!

These three months are turning out to be the busiest we've experienced so far, because we're both working full time for the first time. Ray is flying, of course, and I'm taking a linguistics course. One of SIL's main objectives in Africa is to offer training to Africans who want to work in translation or literacy, so I'm taking one of these SIL courses. This is a one semester graduate level course in linguistics, and I'm taking it along with 18 African men. It's been a real challenge - especially because it's taught in French. But I will be well prepared after this course to serve here in the area of Bible translation. I'm also happy to have a chance to better my French. The course will end Nov. 10, and I'm sure we'll all want to celebrate the end of a good but tough time for the family.

The children are all happy and doing well in school. Peter and Andre go to the brand new SIL elementary school. The three teachers at the school have more than 50 years of experience between them! Anneke is going to Rainforest International School, which is truly international! She is the only North American girl in the whole junior high, and at the lunch table she hears French, Dutch, Hindi, and Korean all at the same time.

In the midst of the current business, our minds are turning toward home. We'll be coming home on furlough in just three months, departing from Yaounde on Dec. 22. We plan to spend 7 months in North America. Ray, Anneke, and I are all REALLY looking forward to furlough, but the boys aren't sure what to expect. They are happy here with their friends and would rather not have to face another change. It will be the fifth move we make in 18 months. We'll be spending most of our time in Grand Rapids MI again this time.

We are thankful to God for the health and safety we've experienced here. So far we've had only one (possible) case of malaria, no major accidents (only fender benders), and no break-ins. We're thankful for God's protection and for your prayers for us. We also are finally beginning to feel comfortable in the culture and understand a little bit better how things work. God has brought some wonderful African friends into our lives, and we are thankful for their encouragement.

In Christ,

Ray and Ann Kapteyn,  
Anneke, Peter, and Andre