

June 26, 2021

Dear friends and sponsors,

Greetings from Cameroon!

It has been way too long since my last newsletter, and for that, I sincerely apologize. Already another academic year has come to a close at the Lutheran Institute of Theology in Meiganga.



Smiles after a successful "soutenance."

Each year seems to go by faster than the last!

The year closed with the usual flurry of activities in June – final exams, "soutenances" (oral defense) of final papers for graduating students, and graduation.

This year we had seven graduates from the "licence" program (equivalent of a B.A.) and one graduate from the master's degree program.



Graduation day -- June 19, 2021

One of the great joys for me this past year has been having a larger number of female students (seven) at the Institute. I have been meeting regularly with them for conversation, prayer, and mutual support. They are incredibly strong women, and they give me hope for the future of the church.





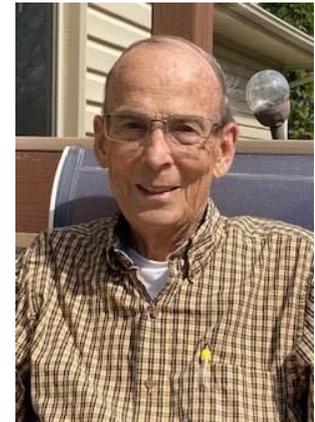
Family news

Our family is doing well. The company that Eric works for just transferred him to Ngaoundéré, so he will be much closer to Meiganga now (about 100 miles instead of 400!). Our daughter Schekina just finished her first year at the Catholic University of Central Africa in Yaoundé, where she is studying finance and management.

David and Etienne just finished kindergarten. They are both doing well in school and are growing up very quickly. David's 6th birthday was in April, and this year he wanted to celebrate with his friends at school, so we did (photo at left). Etienne will be six in August.

Remembering Jim Noss

We were deeply saddened in May to learn of the death of Jim Noss, former ELCA missionary to Cameroon and member of one of our sponsoring congregations (Mt. Calvary in Eagan, MN). Although he "retired" from missionary work over a decade ago, he was a regular visitor and tireless volunteer for the ELCA's work with our partners here in Cameroon and in the Central African Republic. In recent years, he had also done work for the ELCA in South Sudan and in Haiti. He and his wife Karen were two of the people who encouraged me to pursue this calling to missionary work, and for that, I am eternally grateful. May he rest in peace.



News about home assignment:

The ELCA decided to cancel in-person home assignment again this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. I am very sorry that I will not have the opportunity to visit you in person this year. The ELCA is encouraging us to find ways of doing "virtual" visits, however. I am working on putting together a video about my work here, which I will make available to all my sponsoring congregations. I plan to be in the U.S. during the month of August. During that month, I will be available for virtual visits in whatever format works for your congregation. I could do a virtual adult forum by Zoom, for example. Or perhaps you have other ideas. Please send me an email at elisajo@msn.com to set something up.

We remain extremely grateful for your ongoing, faithful support, especially in the midst of the pandemic and all of the challenges that have come with it. We truly hope that we will be able to thank you in person next year!

+ Grace and peace +

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