

CAMEROON MISSION TRIP REPORT

December 31, 2017-January 15, 2018

Jeff & Mary Swank, and Rebecca Wilhite



First Stop, Bamenda

Our journey began in Bamenda, where we provided programming for nine missionary kids (MKs), ranging from age 4 to 14, while their parents attended the annual Cameroon Missionary Fellowship Conference. We played games and offered lots of arts and crafts. The kids' favorites, by far, were the cool science experiments! We enjoyed spending time getting to know the kids and hearing from them what their lives as MKs are really like.

We also got to hear stories of the parents' time in the field. We laughed and cried with them as we heard how God was blessing them, even as they struggle with being away from aging parents and growing grandchildren.



Mbingo, Our Home Away From Home

Our second ministry was an innovative half-day program about integrity for 150 Cameroonian teens in the Mbingo Government High School. We were given permission to use a Christ-centered curriculum and were warmly received by all of the staff and students. We combined high-energy songs about Christ's love, visuals, and fun hands-on experiences to talk about integrity, a relatively new concept to most of them. They especially loved hearing from the world's newest superhero, Captain Integrity!

Mary and Rebecca spoke to a girls-only group about God's standards for integrity in a woman's life. Jeff worked with three local pastors, who taught the same principles from a "guy's perspective." All of the students were given the opportunity to accept Christ as their Savior. Several students made first-time professions of faith! We are praying that this will provide further ministry opportunities in this area for the local pastors as well as for Thom and Ellen Schotanus, our missionary hosts.



Making Connections

Thom and Ellen Schotanus are masters at developing relationships. They are more than willing to walk through any open door. Thom is passionate about the idea of "Integrity for Cameroon." He has been in constant prayer that God would show him people He wants to use, people who seem to know that godly behavior is important to a growing church and to a thriving society. Knowing that local police and officials would be interested in meeting an American police officer, Thom regularly took Jeff with him to help make some of these connections. These encounters helped Thom gain access to individuals that he normally wouldn't have had, and gave him an opportunity to share his "Integrity for Cameroon" initiative, which is based on godly principles that he prays will help bring peace to this struggling society.



valleyoutreach