

May 9, 2020

Dear friends and sponsors,

I hope and pray that you, your loved ones, and the members of your congregations are staying safe and healthy amid this global pandemic.

I am writing with a couple of updates on our situation in Cameroon. You may have heard that in mid-March, ELCA Global Mission asked all U.S.-based mission personnel to return to the U.S. if possible. It was not possible for me at that time because all commercial flights in and out of Cameroon had already been stopped. Later the U.S. embassy arranged for some charter flights for U.S. citizens who wanted to return. Since it was only for U.S. citizens or those with permanent residency cards, my husband Eric and our children would not have been eligible for the flight or to enter the U.S. Needless to say, leaving them behind was not an option for me, so I have chosen to stay in Cameroon. So far, the pandemic situation here is not dire, although the number of infections is growing. We are taking necessary precautions to keep ourselves as safe as possible.

Another development is that ELCA Global Mission has cancelled “home assignment” for 2020, which means that we will not be able to visit our sponsoring congregations this summer. This decision had to be made for obvious reasons, but we are very sorry that we will not be seeing you all in the coming months. We certainly hope that it will be possible to visit in 2021. In the meantime, if you have ideas for how we might do a “virtual visit” by skype or zoom, we are certainly open to those possibilities.

We are deeply grateful for your prayers for our health and safety. You remain in our prayers as well.

Grace and peace to you all.

Elisabeth and family