

Michaela's Mission

Serving the Lord Through Childcare

January 2022

Christmas in Cameroon

I hope you had a good Christmas and a happy new year. This was my first Christmas away from my family. It was different, but at the same time, the season felt familiar. The dry season starts about the time that Advent does. With the dry season comes harmattan which is very fine dust from the Sahara. It gets everywhere and causes the mornings and evenings to be cool (often between 55–65 degrees Fahrenheit when I wake up) and the rest of the day to be bearable. This reminded me of growing up in Ghana since the same thing would happen there too. It was a comfort to have that familiarity.

The expat community here in Ngaoundere had a Christmas party where we shared a meal, had a dessert buffet, did a White Elephant gift exchange, and sang carols. It was special to be able to have that fellowship with other missionaries and to celebrate the Savior's birth in a little bit more western style.

In Cameroon, it is common to have extra long church services on Christmas. The kids and I stayed for most of it and then went home so that Jubilee could have her nap. That was familiar to me since it was also similar to when I was growing up.

Depression

Around the beginning of Advent, I began experiencing what I thought was just really bad homesickness. After a couple of weeks I talked to my Member Care person about what I was experiencing. She said that I had situational depression and that it happens to a lot of short term missionaries. I was able to talk to a counselor and am doing much better now.

It is common for people to have new clothes made for Christmas. In Western cultures, red and green are thought of as Christmas colors. There are not really any "Christmas colors" here, but I still felt drawn to wearing red and green.



Jubie and I were waiting for church to start on Christmas morning. Time is not a huge deal here so church starts whenever the people in charge get there. It makes for plenty of time to take a few pictures.



I made Kara and the girls matching aprons for Christmas.



My cat, Sourdough, helped to cheer me up during my depression. He just cuddled on my lap and kept me company. I got him in October and he is definitely attached. He yells at me when I don't give him enough attention.

Daily Life

Monday through Friday I take care of my kids, well, mostly Jubilee. My day with them starts at 8:00am and I am often greeted by Jubie saying, "Mornin!" She is talking more and more now, and every day brings new words and better communication skills.

In the mornings I fold the laundry that was done the day before and then help Jubilee get ready for the day. She is learning how to brush her own teeth and hair, and how to dress herself. While this is taking place, I also make sure Tobias, Gideon, and Gloria complete their chores and their independent school work (the school work that they don't need Kara for).

Jubie and I play in the mornings. One of her favorite games is where she chases me. She also likes to play with her stuffies and pretend they are her babies. When lunch time comes around, Jubilee helps me heat up left overs and then she lets Kara know that it's time to eat.

After lunch, Jubilee goes down for a nap and I get that time to myself to nap, clean my house, or whatever else I need or want to do. I go back over to Kuhn's when it is time for the baby to wake up. Often I am there until after evening devotions and reading minutes (Kara reads a chapter book to the older three kids).



Jubilee has a teddy bear that she calls 'Baby.' Baby must go with her everywhere, even in the carrier on my back. She also brushes Baby's teeth. Jubie also loves on their cat - rather aggressively - but the cat is very tolerant.



Gloria is pretty toothless, but that does not keep her from grinning.



One of the few moments when the house is quiet. It's pretty sweet to see them together like this.

Prayers

Thanks:

- I am doing much better mentally and emotionally.
- It is about half-way through my time here with the Kuhns and it has been a wonderful experience.

Needs:

- That I would continue healing from my depression.

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