



P. O. Box 330
Rapid City, SD 57709
November 10, 2018

Dear friends of the Cameroon Health and Education Fund,

I am writing an addendum to the Annual Progress Report that Dr. Alison LaFrence, CHEF president, wrote, because there has been more media coverage about the recent election and the tragic death of Charles Wesco, a US missionary who recently moved to Cameroon with his wife and 8 children. The update by BBC <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-46044404> indicates that he was caught in cross fire, so we will likely never know exactly what happened as each side blamed the other. The pastor lived in Bambili, a small community between Bamenda and Mbingo, a place we know well.

In addition, the Washington Post reported on the current conflict and recent election: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2018/10/26/cameroon-is-spiraling-further-into-violence/?utm_term=.40affc805af6 and the Guardian reported on the abduction of 79 students from a Presbyterian School in Bamenda, all but two of whom have now been freed. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/08/cameroon-kidnapped-students-reunited-with-parents-bamenda>

Since this conflict began in 2016 in response to the Francophone government sending Francophone teachers to the schools in the two Anglophone regions and insisting that the courts use French law instead of British Common Law, the conflict has gradually escalated into two camps, the dissidents/separatists and the government with very little if any meaningful dialogue/negotiations to resolve these issues. The schools have been closed in most of the Northwest and Southwest Regions communities and there are now over 100,000 internally and externally displaced refugees. Dr. Alan Tita, one of the CHEF Board members, has been instrumental in establishing the Cameroon Humanitarian Relief Initiative (CHRI). See <http://chrelief.org/>. Whereas CHEF cannot accept donations to support the needs of the refugees, donations can be made to CHRI to support their needs.

Throughout this conflict the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services, the main partner for CHEF, has remained neutral and health workers and health facilities have for the most part been spared from the violence and been able to keep its lifesaving services functioning. As supporters of the work in Cameroon, I wanted to update you on this conflict and reassure you that donations to CHEF will continue to meet the high priority health and education needs of the Cameroonians. CHEF will continue to monitor the use of funds donated to approved projects and report to the donors as we have in the past. Please pray for peace and reconciliation for this serious conflict that has claimed many lives and displaced many Cameroonians. We encourage you to donate to support the work in Cameroon and designate a specific program that you wish to support or just note "Where need is the greatest." Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas K. Welty".

Thomas K. Welty, MD, MPH
Vice President and Assistant Treasurer
Cameroon Health and Education Fund (CHEF)
Home address:
939 Flynn Lane
McCall, ID 83638
Phone 208-989-0340