Dear Missionary Friends,

Here we are! Back in Koza! As my dad probably told you, we spent a month in Tchad. The hospital there was always busy, and Dad was always at the hospital, and Mom, being the devoted wife and doctor that she is, was always in the hospital with Dad. So naturally, they were always worn out when they finished work. What was filled with lazy days and horse-back riding. I wish I could tell you I went from house to house proclaiming the word of God and converting the whole town, but I can’t. Neither did I cure the entire village of sickness. My time there was spent with the animals and the plants.

You would be amazed about how much you can learn about God by just sitting and watching! When did time get so endangered that we must chase after it always? We are always, always moving! So now I have a message for all of you workaholics out there. This is it: SIT DOWN! DON’T MOVE! That’s the message.

So often we just need to kick off our shoes, slip on our cute little bunny slippers, and sit down. You need to watch the plants grow. I could fill up this page with all I learned from just sitting and watching in Tchad, but I’m not going to. The things I learned mean nothing in words! You have to go out and experience God’s peace yourself.

And if you want to use that I-CAN’T-SPEND-TIME-WITH-GOD-BECAUSE-I-HAVE-TOO-MUCH-WORK excuse, you can just save your breath! If God wants to spend time with you (which He does) then there will be a way to find peace and quiet. It’s there that you will always find God. He wants desperately to talk to you, but He won’t force you to talk. You have to go to Him yourself. I promise you that if you go to Him in the quiet you will never regret it.

(from a letter written in Cameroon after a trip to Bere Hospital in Tchad)

Sara Shank

INSIDE...

This issue of Global Connections features missionary kids (MKs). Previously we have talked about MKs but this time we hear from them. Some 64 MKs attended Institute programs this year and many of their pictures are in our centerfold around a poem by Bob Thayne, the husband of an MK. Several MKs in attendance at our summer programs shared their thoughts with us and we are now sharing them with you. Victor Shepherd, an MK from Costa Rica to Guam, Heathier Wahlien, an MK returning from the Philippines, and Steven Allcock, an MK from the UK to Greece, talk about the community they found when they spent time with other MKs. They reflect on the lessons they have learned from their unique experiences. Sara Shank, an MK from the US to Cameroon, challenges and entertains us with two creative compositions.

We hope you will enjoy their pictures and contributions. The Institute of World Mission is committed to serving MKs as well as adult missionaries. Will you help us by giving a hug and a word of affirmation to those special MKs in your circle?

Enid Harris

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Teen Reentry participants celebrate at the new Andrews University entrance.

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If you would like to receive the IWM Newsletter electronically, please send your e-mail address to: iwm@andrews.edu. We will be happy to send you a PDF version of our quarterly newsletter.

Cheryl Doss

Re-entry Participants (alphabetical order): Donald & Marjorie Bankhead; Joaquin & Aida Cazares; Phyllis Collins; Karla Guerra-Boutet; Hirma; Kevin & Kezia Boutet; Rasa; Joyce; Osaron; Gerald; Hwasuthum; & Rasa; Enginy; Myron; Candace; Sierra & Michael Isomring; Ronald; Jacqueline; Caroline; & Danielle Kuhn; Jagarmadzin-Rae & Kamala Minocanda; Heather Rodriguez-James; Gilbert; Kiala & Mwaya James; Aricor; Azizetta & Yanna Vismourt; Clinton; Gina; Daniel & Heather Webster; Wesley; Baby; Dakota; Madison & Katelyn Youngberg.

Institute Participants (alphabetical order): Beth; Nancy & Beth Jr. Abu-Bouyer; Graham; Pauline; Lynnette; & Stephen Azzodo; Erkin; Meals; Elwyn; Evrim; & Elcin Altinbayram; Jamie; & Harte Bakker; Kevin; Teresa; & Rachel Costello; Velda & David Cox; Richard; & Kerri Doss; Sandra Fletcher, Fady Ghafary; Sandra & Samuel Giro; Tevra Cripeua Guarna; Ruti; Caleuma da Cripeua; Henry Guzman; Garth; Timeke; & Robert Hibbert; Edylas; Katelyn; & Anthony Janieczak; Michele; Andrea; & Anita Korner; Adam; Kristi; Zachary; & Julie Roi; J. Guillermo Lizarraga; Olga Sepulveda; Ignacio; & Sebastian Lizarraga; Joseph; & Boulou Manoul; Ronald; Peggy; Naither; Sara; & Megan Miller; Andrew; Margaret; Fiona; & Jessica Munro; Ronald; Nalin; & Elisa Canovas; Stanley; Lance; Mariene; & Jason Nanger; Jerry; & Lavelle Northrup; Steven; Anna; Shaina; & Shawn Flintung; Ferdinand; Charita; Lynsay; & Snehalata Regina; Jane; Sales; Luis; & Susanne Schnitz; Troya Seaton; Cindy Simon; Blanca; & Leticia Sol Martinez; John; & Ruby Stafford; Vilfredo; & Nelta Sumagaysay; Ivan; Alias; Josef; & Amber Torres; Allan; & Wendy Valaine.

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Cheryl Doss
2008 Andrews Re-entry & Institute MKs

Clodless

Little sprouts ask, “Which is your clod?”
Little TCK sprouts don’t know what to say,
for they aren’t rooted in a clod,
not with a thick root like the other sprouts.

Despite the humiliation and confusion of being clodless,
the TCK sprouts survive.

Years pass.

Now fully grown, the TCK plants still don’t have single thick roots like the other plants, and they still aren’t sure about claiming a clod.

Yet they are the most healthy of plants in the garden, thriving on the nutrients of root systems that reach far and wide.

by Bob Thayne