

**"Idiba ja imokendε ya iti, imokεtεmε" -- Oroko proverb**

Dear friends and family,

"A stream that goes by itself, goes crookedly." We have seen the truth of this more than ever this past year -- **anyone who does not seek the advice of others, soon enters into trouble.** In other words, we REALLY NEED you, and are so thankful for you. You have prayed for us, cried with us, encouraged us, and offered suggestions. And it was one such suggestion that has led us to the answer to Jenny's illness – neuro-cognitive Lyme disease!

*The whirlpools*

But before arriving at this diagnosis, there were many difficult times, both for Jenny and our family, that threatened to "suck us under". Appointments with specialists and several admissions to the mental health ward at Alberta Children's Hospital sometimes brought temporary improvement, but no lasting solutions. We tried several different treatment regimens which did very little to improve Jenny's symptoms. And all the while, she continued to slowly but surely deteriorate. As we helped Jenny eat, dress, bathe, get to and from school, and do her homework, there were many tears and much frustration. We were very thankful for a government program that financially helps families with disabled children, and we were SO thankful for our local doctor who willingly evaluated all the suggestions we were passing on to him.



*Alberta Children's Hospital – we got to know its corridors very well!*

Lyme disease was suggested to us in the middle of January, and after a lot of research, we began getting excited because we saw many similarities in Jenny to what was described online. Our doctor contacted an expert in Lyme, who recommended lab tests for us. After a long 2 weeks waiting for results, we received a clear positive result. Was that ever a day of rejoicing! Jenny is now taking two medications often used in Lyme

treatment, and her improvement, slow at first, has now been amazing. She is now completely physically independent, able to eat, dress, bathe, and do her homework all by herself. She took part in a recent school drama production, "The Imaginary Invalid" and trained for and played in a badminton tournament. She has a way to go yet before everything is back to normal; she still struggles with some repetitive behaviors and speech problems, but the prognosis is good that all symptoms will disappear over time.



*Jenny (right) plays Louison in "The Imaginary Invalid"*

*The strong current*

With Jenny moving toward a full recovery, we sometimes feel like we are letting ourselves be carried along by the strong current of ordinary life. In April, Kenneth got glasses for the first time. Christy, Kenneth, and Laura enrolled in soccer, and they are all enjoying it tremendously; this is one sport that is very transferable to Cameroon!! Christy has enjoyed playing flute in the school band, and Jenny is interested in starting an instrument, maybe this summer. Christy and Kenneth enjoyed their 14<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> birthday parties respectively with lots of friends.



*Kenneth's fighter jet birthday cake*

## *A fixed course*

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But our goal is still the same – to glorify Christ in our lives, and to spread the Good News to the whole earth, especially the Oroko people in Cameroon! We continue to work on the Oroko dictionary and Mike assists the leadership team in Cameroon within the limitations of email. We have started to become more active in recruiting for World Team as a result of the Vision trip (more about that below). We have also found some areas in which to share the vision and gifts God has given us. Mike chaired the committee that planned our local church's missions conference, and played a part in expanding the conference to challenge even more people to obey the Great Commission and to more effectively follow up this challenge. Both of us are participating in various small groups in the church.

## *A quick dip*

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After a lot of communication and organization, Mike led a team of seven people for a two week prayer and vision tour of four World Team Cameroon ministry areas. The team consisted of church leaders from various churches which support our WT missionaries in Cameroon. We called it a Vision Trip because the express purpose was to show what God has done and to cast a vision of what we believe God is in the process of doing among these four ministry areas. We spent time in prayer with nationals and missionaries, listened to the missionaries' dreams and hopes, and saw firsthand the progress the work has made. We saw the express hand of God in the people whom He sent to join us on the trip. It was a wonderful time! Other World Team missionaries traveled with Mike as the team was exposed to church planting via medical work, Bible story-telling, water development, friendship evangelism, and literacy/translation. And they all came away challenged to do their part in the spread of the Gospel, including the potential of one of the team eventually returning to work full-time in Cameroon. Wow! Thank you, Lord! There is the chance we'll make another Vision Trip sometime in the future; if some of you would be interested in such a trip, please let us know so we can be in touch when the opportunity comes.



The Vision Trip team with some Fulbe people

## *The next leg of the journey*

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So where does that leave us and our plans? Unfortunately, we will probably be here in North America another year. Jenny needs to be totally symptom-free and off all medication long enough to prove that symptoms will not return. We need to do quite a bit of traveling to visit family/friends/supporters, as we have done none of that so far. And we need some "normal" family time to try and regroup after this extremely stressful, difficult year of Jenny's illness. So while our hearts are still in Cameroon, our bodies will probably remain in North America until next summer. Please pray that Jenny's healing process will continue and that nothing else would crop up to slow our return to Cameroon!

Thank you again for praying and standing with us especially during this last year. We were (are!) overwhelmed by the love and care of the family of God. We're privileged to be your 'sent ones' to the Oroko and we continue to pray that God will return us 'home' speedily.

*Mike & Becky Scott*



**World Team USA**  
1431 Stuckert Road  
Warrington, PA 18976  
215-491-4900

**World Team Canada**  
7575 Danbro Crescent  
Mississauga, ON L5N 6P9  
905-821-6300  
[www.worldteam.org](http://www.worldteam.org)

**Mike & Becky Scott**  
Box 1275  
Three Hills, AB T0M 2A0  
403-443-1685  
[mike.scott@worldteam.org](mailto:mike.scott@worldteam.org)

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## Scotts' Prayer & Praise

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- ☺ Praise for Jenny's diagnosis and tremendous improvement!
  - Pray that Jenny would continue to improve until all symptoms are gone.
- ☺ Praise for the progress in the Oroko translation work! The first draft of Genesis is completed, and Luke is undergoing final checks.
  - Pray that the translators would have speed and accuracy as they seek to polish the book of Luke so that it will pass the final check and be ready to publish by the end of the year.
  - Praise God for a good missions conference (at the Prairie Tabernacle) and pray for those planning a follow-up program with the aim of mentoring those moving towards missionary service.
- ☺ Praise for a wonderful, safe, encouraging Vision Trip.
  - Ask God to help the Vision Trip members to accurately and effectively share the vision with their local churches. Pray that God would raise up more missionaries through their witness.
- ☺ Praise that God touched the heart of a Vision Trip member who is pursuing returning to Cameroon with the rest of her family.
- ☺ Praise that our children are enjoying this unexpected time in North America. Praise for good friends for all of them.
  - Pray for the busy, tired missionaries in Cameroon, especially the Abbotts, who will soon finish their 4-year term.
  - Pray for wisdom as we work out the details of our next year "working from afar" for the Cameroon field.