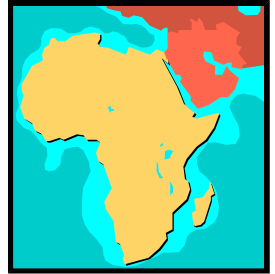
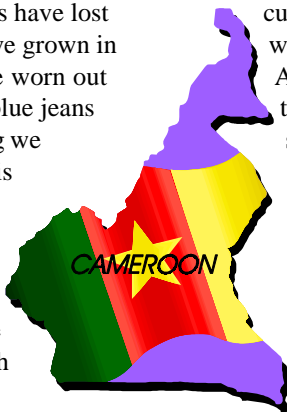


Ready, Set, Go!

SERVING TOGETHER WITH WYCLIFFE SINCE 1997



Well it came as quite a surprise. As Joe looked at the new digital scale, he marvelled at the numbers. He ran to the tiny food pantry to find something of a uniform weight. With a bag of dried beans, all was confirmed. The scale had to be reading correctly. Seven kilos (roughly 15 lbs.) had melted away over the last 18 months. Yes, it is possible to eat wonderful French food and still lose weight. But what does that have to do with what's happening to the Rider family? Well, once again we are in a time of change in our lives. Some of us have lost weight, some have grown in stature. We have worn out several pairs of blue jeans by all the walking we do each day. This hopefully means we are in just a little bit better shape. Also we have come to the end of our French study here in Chambéry and will in a short time be headed to Cameroon! Yes, we are very excited.



Many more changes ahead

We have much to do in such a short time. As this goes to print we will be in the midst of packing up all our belongings and saying our good-byes once again. Constantly saying good-bye is a part of missionary life, but that doesn't make it any easier. During our stay in France we

have made some special friends with whom we have shared some special times. On January 4th, 2001 we will be heading to Geneva, Switzerland by train and spending the night near the airport. The next morning at 7:10 am, we will be departing for Yaounde, Cameroon. There in Yaounde we will commence three months of the African Orientation Course (AOC). All Wycliffe missionaries who are going to minister in West Africa usually attend this course. This course is designed to help us transition into African culture. During AOC, we will be learning African customs, how to stay healthy, survival skills, how to take blood samples to check for malaria and how to do some of our daily tasks in an appropriate and safe manner here in Africa. We will be spending a lot of time each day

with other orientees cooking meals, washing dishes and other activities. One week we will be camping out on the coast where we will be learning some simple construction techniques for building shelters and toilets as well as participating in our normal classes. Later, towards the end of the course, we will be spending several weeks living with a Cameroonian family in a village elsewhere in the country. Also during

AOC, we will not have frequent access to e-mail. So if we don't respond quickly to your wonderful e-mails, we hope you will understand. We



will let you know when things are normal again. After AOC, we will start our regular ministries in Yaounde. Joe will jump into vernacular media and Donna be in demand as a secretary in the branch offices. We will be making a whole new set of friends and acquaintances with colleagues and nationals alike. We are looking forward to finally being able to jump into the work that the Lord has for us in Cameroon.

A special thank you!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you that have been praying for us and also for those who are supporting us financially. We are partners together in this ministry of reaching others with the Gospel of Christ. May His joy reign in your hearts this Noel as we all remember our Savior's birth.



Prayer - As we will be packing up our belongings once more and saying our good-byes to all the special French friends we have made.

Praise - We have finished our french language studies here in Chambéry.

Prayer - For us and our luggage to arrive safely as we travel to Yaounde, Cameroon.

Praise - God for His precious gift of sending His Son as we remember Christ's birth this Noel.

Prayer - For all the new transitions that will have to be made: a new school for Tyler and Austin, our ministries in Cameroon and as we start new relationships with colleagues and nationals.

Our NEW Address:

Joe & Donna Rider
B.P. 1299
Yaounde, Cameroon
West Africa

E-mail:

joe-donna_rider@sil.org

