



the RIDERS' recordings

SERVING TOGETHER WITH WYCLIFFE SINCE 1997

✧ God Never Changes ✧

Despite the hard times, great times, changes and challenges, God is always the same.

"Oh, no!" Those words still ring in my ears.

They came with a tone that said something personal and tragic had happened. Donna read the e-mail that shared that one of my close childhood friends, Ken Schoenwald, 45; had been killed in a highway accident, along with his son, Jace, 13; and oldest daughter, Jennalea, 18. I was stunned and numb.

Ken had a tremendous impact on my life both when we were teens and later as young adults at John Brown University. When things like this happen we often ask the question, "Why God?" Another close childhood friend of mine at the funeral shared with me, "This just doesn't seem right." As hard as the last several weeks have been, I am confident of this fact: God is in control. "God is love" as the Bible says in 1 John 4:8,16. Love is who He is. In other words,

Can you guess the meaning of this proverb?

"The one who fetches the water is the one who is likely to break the pot."

Find the meaning and application on the back of this newsletter.

love is part of His perfect character. So His actions, towards me and those called by Him, are always for our good and for His glory. For Janelle, Avery and Alyssa, my prayers are continually with these three sisters in the Lord. Mom and twin daughters must now carry on without half of their immediate family.

John Piper wrote in his book, Suffering And The Sovereignty of God, "...the sufferings of life have been

the school of Christ where lessons of faith are taught that could not be learned elsewhere."

As I have pondered this and some passages in Scripture such as Isaiah 46:10 and Daniel 4:35, I have come to the realization that God is still in control and He knows exactly what He is doing. Sometimes God

allows such suffering so that we can have some credibility and understanding when we minister to others in similar times of hurt.

Within a week or so of the funeral, strikes and rioting broke out in Cameroon. At the time we wondered if we



Direct Line In

Praise - God for the way that our finances has been improving over the past months.

Praise - God for good adjustments our family has made while being stateside this year.

Pray - that as we start looking forward to our return to Cameroon that we would be a blessing here.

Pray - for God to continue to provide an increase in our finances. The drop of the dollar is a real concern.

Continued Prayer - for Joe as he prepares to take on the role of personnel director in Cameroon. He will start some of the work here.

were going to be able to go back to Cameroon. What did the future hold? God is still love and is always in control. Our dear colleagues were confined into their compounds or homes. Electricity and water were cut. Many Cameroonians lost their lives during this period. By God's grace within a week or so the country had settled down.

On the heels of all this I received an e-mail and then a very important phone call from Cameroon. Our incoming General Director, Nelis van den Berg asked me to consider a possible job change. We have sought wise counsel and looked at my spiritual gifts and talents. Quite a few people have shared with us how it is evident that God is moving us in this direction. Many of you already know this, but for those who don't, I have accepted the position of Personnel Director for the Cameroon branch of Wycliffe/SIL.

So.... what does this mean for us. We will still be returning to Cameroon in July of this year. We will still live in the same apartment and my office will still be at the same building complex. My job has gotten a whole lot busier if that is at all possible. The job of Personnel Director includes in its responsibilities these 11 areas -

new missionary orientation, personnel placement and review, management training and professional development, missionary care, member finances, information flow, the Spiritual Life team, supervision of personnel in Personnel Office, budgets in seven different areas, children's education and health services. Whew, are you as tired as I am just reading this list? Missionary care will be one of the important priorities.

As our family looks to the future, we also realize God is still love and will be with us during this time of intense transition. He has expanded our ministry. It won't be easy. Where God leads we must follow. He is the one that will enable



us to do this new ministry. Pray with us as God stretches and grows us as He sees fit. We love you all and thanks for standing with us as partners in this ministry.

Recently, God gave us a special surprise. Above you will see a picture of a special gathering in San Diego we had with former colleagues and missionary kids from Cameroon. What a joy to share about what God is doing in all our lives together.

God has and will remain faithful through all the different events, times and seasons of our lives. For this we are deeply thankful. Isn't He indeed awesome and loving?

If you desire for us to come and share with you, your church or group please contact us. We are available into July. We would be very excited to be able to share the ministry that God has for us and what He is doing in Cameroon.

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Answer:



"If you cannot make any contribution to help in whatever endeavor is going on, then do not sit down and criticize those who have chosen to work hard to help, and who in doing so, make some genuine mistakes."

Luke 6:42

Make a point of encouraging those who are willing to work.