

## End of June Update: Down with Dengue!

Dear family and friends,

Yes, it appears that I've caught my first tropical sickness – Dengue fever. The test for malaria came back negative so this is the most likely alternative. The definitive proof usually shows up about one week later in the form of a rash so we'll see. My fever did reach around 103.8 degrees at one point yesterday but it has been under control since. In any case, I am doing fine. Since there is no treatment, it is just a matter of time and rest. There can be longer-term aftereffects from Dengue. Thanks for your prayers for freedom from all these.

However, this isn't the primary reason for this email. I have a second prayer request but will share the background first. Last weekend, I had several flights for the WWF (World Wildlife Foundation – a partnership that helps us subsidize the cost of flying to missionaries) to Bayanga in the Central African Republic. The flights were too long to complete in one day so I spent two nights in Bayanga along with my roommate who was also able to come since there was extra space. While there, we were able to join the group on several hikes looking for elephants, monkeys and such out in the forest. I've attached a picture of a mother and baby elephant that we found before they found us so we avoided spooking them. Praise the Lord I didn't get sick until returning to Yaoundé (the same evening in fact).

Incidentally, one thing we learned was the African jungle elephants are much more ornery than Asian elephants and that if you meet one on the trail, the best and only proper response is to run your best 100m dash directly towards the thickest forest and keep going. The folks that operate the park apparently have to flee 2 – 3 times a month. Visiting this park was indeed a unique experience that would have otherwise been impossible. Once I receive pictures from some of the other folks on the trip, I'll be making an album on my website. Check back in a week or so.



However, the highlight of the trip was very different and the real reason for this email. While in Bayanga, the Lord opened a door for a very in-depth spiritual conversation with a German gal. She grew up in a “religious” environment and who has since been secularized by her university education. During our conversation, I had the chance to present the heart of the gospel as clearly as I know how and address some of the fundamental assumptions of the modern/post-modern approach to the Bible and gospel. In spite of having “all the answers”, she does seem to be searching and I trust that by God's grace a seed was planted in her heart.

She will be in Yaoundé through the weekend and we are hoping to include her in several activities this weekend and church on Sunday. **Please pray that we would be faithful witnesses to Anke, that the Lord would open her spiritual eyes to the gospel and that she would come to a personal relationship with the Lord.**

Thanks in advance for your prayers for these requests. Your partnership is vital.

In Him, Robert

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