

"HEY KIDS, REMEMBER"



Sometimes we need to do something hard to show people God's love. Pray for the missionaries in Cameroon.

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GREAT COMMISSION KIDS aims to inspire a new generation of missionary goers and senders who will be active in the Great Commission throughout their lives.

This quarterly publication is mailed free to individual children or adult leaders of children. To financially contribute to this project or for other matters, Contact the editor at: elinor.young@worldteam.org.

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Issue 46: Cameroon, Africa

My Dog, My Neighbors, God's Love



uring the time we have lived in Cameroon, west Africa, we have lost three adult cats, three kittens, a Western Tree Hyrax, and most recently a tortoise named Jack. I was sad to see them go, especially the ones that died. But as sad as I was, their death didn't affect my life too much.

Then a Bakoum man came to my door.

Unexpected Response

I didn't know him, and I wasn't expecting any visitors. He only spoke to me in Bakoum—the language of the local

people. I'm still learning the language, but I understood he was talking about a dog and describing where he lived.

"I already have a dog," I explained.

After a few minutes, though, I understood that dog had been hit by a car in front of his house, and he thought it was mine. He said the dog had a brown collar, and no dogs have collars here except mine.

We drove over to his house in my car. And there, lying under a tarp was my dog, Rachat. Rachat whom I'd purchased from an abusive owner. Rachat whom I'd nursed back to health. Rachat who followed me everywhere I went. Rachat was clearly dead. I asked the man to help me put Rachat in my car. That was when the yelling began.

"What are you going to do with him? You're not going to bury him, are you? You know we eat dogs here, right? We came and got you; you should leave him with us! At least give us a thigh! Don't you understand Bakoum? Why are you not responding?"

I did understand. I was just ignoring them.

Not everyone in

Cameroon eats dogs. It seems to me it mainly happens in my region. My neighbors think of dogs like farmers think of chickens. They care for and feed them until it's time to eat them. I consider eating dogs to be one of those "not good, not bad, just different" things about Cameroon.

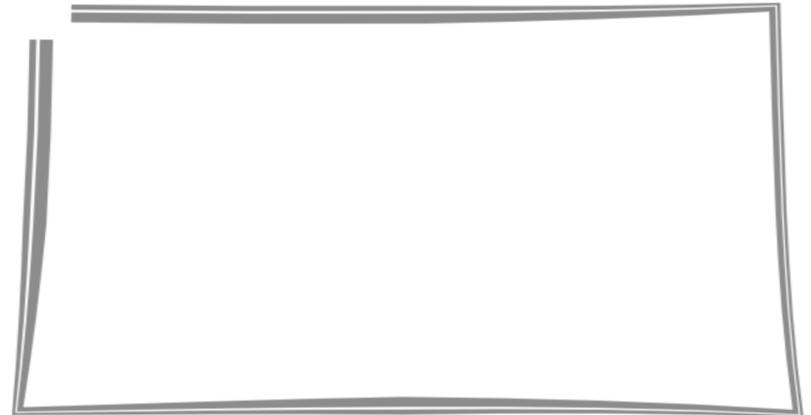
I returned to my neighborhood with Rachat and told the news to my family, who were profoundly sad, and to my neighbors, who were sympathetic. After talking about it, my family decided to give Rachat's body to one of our neighbors in exchange for a puppy.

"How could you do that?" you are no doubt asking. Not without tears. But think about this: My neighbors don't get enough protein, and most of the kids are malnourished. They do eat dogs, and they need the meat. For me to bury Rachat would be to say that I don't care about them and that I'm so rich I take the luxury of burying valuable necessities. Also, I've heard more than once that when Westerners bury a dog, villagers dig it up at night. Somehow that seemed worse to me.

☆ Think About It ☆

What did Mr. Hare (who wrote the story) do that showed his neighbors God's love for them?

In the frame below, draw a picture about that story.



To the supervising adult:

A great resource for helping kids (and adults!) learn about missions all over the world - audio dramas by **Brinkman Adventures**. 30 minutes each, they are perfect for listening anywhere. All are based on true stories that stir the imagination and aim to "Inspire another generation of missionaries." Download stories or order CDs of each season's episodes at brinkmanadventures.com/store.



The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 and more

1 Chronicles 16:24 (NIV)

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.



Artwork by Jill Davis - Facebook.com/year27 Used by permission.

Sometimes when we go to another country to tell people about Jesus, the best thing that explains God's love is when we do something hard that **SHOWS** them God's love.

Unexpected Sacrifice

Compared to Christ's sacrifice for us, my sacrifice of my dog is small. There is a cost, but I'd freely give away a thousand dogs to see one Bakoum saved. That doesn't mean we ought to consider our sacrifices as no big deal, though. Rachat's death hit me hard – even harder than it hit my kids. I miss him.

Before I came to Africa, I knew I would have to do some hard things in order to be a missionary, I thought about safety, air conditioning, and snakes. But I've found that the greatest sacrifices have been things I would never have imagined. In one sense, giving away the body of an already dead dog was nothing. But in another sense, it was really big for what it said to my neighbors.

There have been many times here in Cameroon I've felt uneasy, out of place, and unable to communicate. It was so nice to have Rachat by my side in those

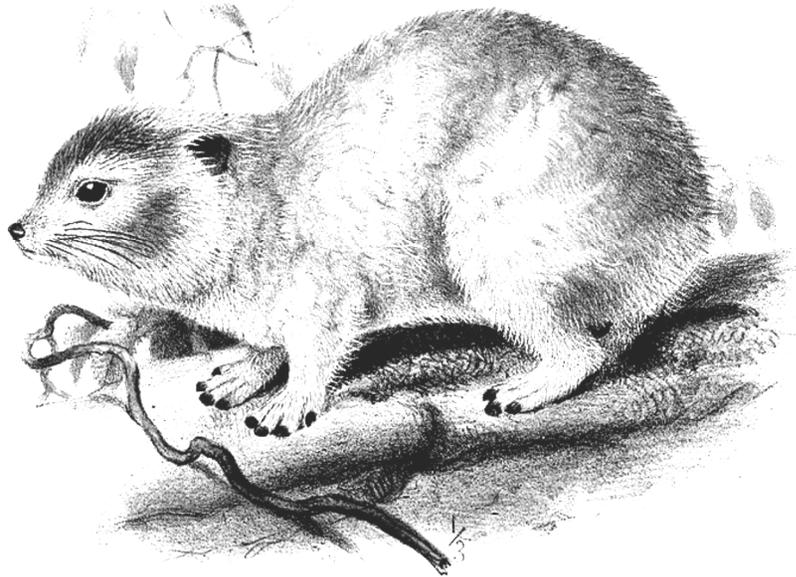
moments. He was always glad to see me. I could speak to him in English and I could have fun with him. Rachat was one a little refuge of joy during hard times.

My neighbor came to me a couple days after the whole incident. He thanked me and said the meat gave him the energy to work hard in the field, and he was thankful to God. While I don't think he understood what giving him Rachat cost me, he knew it had been an expression of love. Looking back, I see this was one of those opportunities I would never have planned—or wanted—in which to love my neighbor like Jesus.

I wouldn't say losing Rachat wasn't a sacrifice, but I'd say it was worth it. ■



By Dave Hare. Dave and Stacey Hare are Bible translators in Cameroon with World Team and are parents of four adopted children. Read more stories at haretranslation.blogspot.com



en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_tree_hyrax

A Western Tree Hyrex

is one of the animals the Hare family had as a pet in Cameroon.

Color this with something that won't soak through the paper.

Hint: The fur is brown with a few yellow hairs on top of the back.

Read more about it and see a map of where it lives at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_tree_hyrax

Besides a hyrex, what other pets did the Hare family have?

Three adult _____.

Three _____.

A tortoise named _____.

A dog named _____.



CAMEROON



The former French Cameroon and part of British Cameroon merged in 1961 to form the country of Cameroon today.



The national symbol of Cameroon is the lion. The national soccer team is nicknamed "The Indomitable Lions."

Approximately 250 ethnic groups in Cameroon speak about 270 languages.

Cameroon is famous for producing coffee, cocoa, cotton, bananas & oilseeds.



Capital city: Yaounde
Main languages: 24 major African languages, English, French
Main religions: indigenous beliefs, Christian, Muslim

Did you know?

Visitors at Benoue National Park see forest deer - bongos - which have white stripes as camouflage.



A village in Cameroon is one of the wettest places on the earth. (About 400 inches of rain fall a year).



TO DO:

Using the word bank, complete the puzzle below.

		C		
		A		
		M		
		E		
		R		
		O		
		O		
		N		

Word Bank:
bongos
cocoa
language
wet

Answer (hold up to a mirror):
ave - paubae - paubae
you job so pogour: cocos

This activity is used in cooperation with Free Methodist World Missions, from fmcusa.org/fmmissions/fun-fact-pages/