



FRIENDS OF THE DEAF MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Alone we can do a little...Together we will change the world!



August 25, 2023

Dear Friends,

The new school year will be starting in a few weeks and Rev Francois Mbe, who is acting director of the deaf school in Obala, has written asking for funds to get the school ready and to make needed repairs for the coming school year. Below is his report.

OUR SCHOOL WAS RECENTLY VISITED BY CODE ENFORCEMENT WORKERS

They listed several changes and repairs that must be made for safety. They also said a new law requires deaf schools to allow hearing students to attend. The reasoning behind this is to expose deaf students to hearing children, as it is representative of the "real world" that they will be part of when they graduate. Based on this, we will be complying with this regulation by allowing hearing students to be enrolled in the school as well.

Because our teachers are deaf and are not qualified teachers (deaf schools are normally exempt from these regulations) we are going to need to hire at least one qualified teacher - and find a way to pay him/her the required minimum wage.

FOR THIS COMING YEAR THE SCHOOL NEEDS:

- Teaching materials and school supplies**
- A worker to stay overnight at the dormitory.** Since Andre left, Mrs. Honorine has been helping us out by staying overnight, but as she is getting older, it is getting harder for her. We need someone to do this job permanently - to ensure the security of the kids, and the school property. We will need an additional \$150 a month for this.
- Construction of outdoor kitchen** - As I have told you earlier, the kitchen caught fire and burned down. We have been cooking inside on the stove but it is very expensive and produces a lot of heat. Cooking outside with wood is the African way and works best for our situation. The cost of building materials are going up daily. The sooner we could do this the better.
- Electrical repairs** The electricity is not working in various places and we need an electrician to come and do the necessary repairs.
- School Rooms** - The black boards need to be redone, more benches / tables are needed.
- Funds for advertising.** It is important to inform families that there is a school for the deaf as many are unaware that the deaf can learn to communicate.
- Railing installed on the stairs.** The code enforcement people commented on how unsafe it was to have open stairs and requested we fix the situation as soon as possible.

The estimated amount needed is \$7000 *May the Lord provide!*
May He bless those who invest in the lives of deaf children in Cameroon.

THANK YOU FROM REV FRANCOIS AND THE STUDENTS & STAFF OF THE DEAF SCHOOL,

Dearest Bishop, we ask you to convey to your collaborators, and all the people of goodwill toward The Friends of the Deaf, our deepest and heartfelt gratitude.

Our prayer is that our God will provide, and multiply a hundred fold, to all those who carry the deaf of Cameroon in their hearts. We pray the Lord would raise up new people to join you in continuing this honorable vision before the Lord God Almighty.

We pray that the Lord will increase the days of the overseer of Friends of the Deaf Mission Society, that He will bless the United States of America and that He will bless the Republic of Cameroon. Amen

OUR PRAYER LIST:

- *May the Lord bless our school*
- *keep safe, healthy and strong the children and staff.*
- *That every child would come to know Jesus as Savior.*
- *That the Lord would provide a qualified director for the school and the funds needed for the position.*
- *He would provide funds to have a school chaplain to address the spiritual needs of the students. (This is a residential school so it is home, church, school and family all in one)*
- *That our school would be beacon - lighting up the need of the deaf to be recognized as capable of full entry into society, calling people to treat the deaf with dignity and acceptance.*

TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE SEND CHECKS TO:

**FRIENDS OF THE DEAF
PO BOX 46
STARKWEATHER, ND 58377**

TO GIVE ONLINE OR TO SET UP MONTHLY GIVING: WWW.FRIENDSOFTHEDEAF.NET

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