

News from Cameroon – Urgent Prayer Request

Sister Esther Herren, Kommunität Diakonissenhaus Riehen, Switzerland, boardmember of the Circle of Friends of Emmanuel Sisters, was able to phone with the sisters in Cameroon early September. This is her report:

Greetings from Sr. Judith, Sr. MaryAnn and all sisters. They urgently ask for our prayer. Here are some information about their problems.

The situation in the English-speaking provinces, where the sisters live, is becoming worse and worse. The government does not grant more equality status for the Anglophones and since two years that led to more and more strikes and increasing volatile encounters. Governmental troops arrest and even kill large quantities of people, sometimes only according to the vague suspicion that they are rebels. But the rebels themselves also are violent. More and more people have to flee into the bush or to relatives, fear and violence are increasing and food-prices rise as well.

This is a big challenge especially for the center in Akum where handicapped young women and children live. One of the graduates, Juliette, had successfully completed her training and had opened her own atelier. She only survived because her people carried her into the bush including her wheelchair. Unfortunately her atelier burned down. Now she is very depressed and lives again in the center. They need a lot of strength for hope, which only God can give. Sr. MaryAnn, who leads the center, reports how depressing it is to hear shooting all the time and to never know what is happening next. But they hold on, for the sake of the women and children in the center. When I phoned, Sr. MaryAnn cradled a baby, who was “given to them”...

We heard from the project Agape (Sr. Judith) that they still try to bring food to groups of people with disabilities in the villages. Recently they distributed medication for people with epilepsy. Very brave!

But since September 7, the situation in the neighborhood of the community in Bafut escalated totally. Sr. Judith found no words to describe the recent violence and horror. People advised the sisters to flee. The five oldest and most fragile of the sisters, including Sr. Judith, found shelter in the monastery of the Benedictines Babete near Bafoussam (in the French speaking province). That they reached the monastery is reason to thank. They plan to transfer more sisters if possible. All others have to stay on the premises. It is highly dangerous to leave the place, there are shootings everywhere.

In June, Sr. Judith has sent the following report: