

We've arrived! This time we've arrived at our final destination at Ndu. It was quite a two day road trip from Douala to Ndu. Because of the heightened tensions in the country between the French and English we were involved in 11 different road stops by either the police or the army along the way - five on Saturday and six on Sunday. (My usually trip only involves 3 or 4 stops). They wanted to check everything from our passports, to our visas, to our yellow fever cards - even though you can't get a visa without a yellow fever card, so asking for that after you've seen the visa is simply redundant. On one occasion I was going to provide a urine sample and let the guards check my underwear as well, but the team held me back. One guard demanded a bribe from our driver (which he gave him) because we were "white men and had money."

When you experience these things first hand, and see how much the world is like this both historically and today, you realise how risky a preacher John the Baptist was.

*Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"*

*John the Baptist replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely - be content with your pay." (Luke 3:14, NIV).*

On Monday morning I taught my first four hour class on narrative preaching, focusing primarily on preaching the parables. While I was teaching, the rest of the team had a tour of the seminary, primary school and local health center. In the afternoon, I wrote up what you are now reading and went over how to approach my lesson for my 30 students tomorrow. The rest of the team spent the afternoon figuring out how paint the 22 blackboards at the seminary and primary school and Bernie jumped right in with his computer work. With the power already going on and off four times in the day we've been here Bernie always has one of the biggest challenges. That, and the fact that there is currently no internet connection; I am hoping my updates will be able to be received throughout this trip. The seminary has often been without internet for weeks, and sometimes months, at a time. I'll keep writing and sending reports, but I have no idea when they will arrive for you to read them.

Despite the police checks, dust, power failures, lack of internet and other things, we are having as blast! In fact, it is all these things that make for an interesting and adventurous trip from which all the good stories come. As well, they strengthen your trust in God and bonding as a team. There is always a lot of laughter coming from the team members throughout the day. And the Cameroon students, faculty and workers are truly encouraging. That is why I keep coming back. Not for the country, her politics, her divisions or her dust, but for the people - particularly God's people in his church. We are here to serve and be served and work towards being united beyond race, skin color, politics, food or culture. To step away from safety for the greater goal of pursuing oneness in Christ by learning to set aside the things that divide and don't matter so that union in Christ is not just a platitude, but something pursued and practiced.