



The Northington Newsletter

MINISTRIES

TRANSFORMATIONAL

Trees and Transformation...



Please check out our website and blog at:
<http://www.transformationalministries.com>

They call the Moringa tree the “Miracle Tree”. It is known both for its medicinal and nutritional qualities, and it is a hardy, drought-resistant tree that



Nursery construction begins

grows well in the tropics.

We are attempting to introduce this tree and other beneficial species to the Banyo area through the construction of a small tree nursery. It is no easy task,

though, as the only use for the soils in this area seems to be the production of dust during the dry season.

With the assistance of a Cameroonian agroforestry expert from the Northwest Province, we were able to construct a small nursery and greenhouse for banana propagation in just one weekend. They say many hands make light work, and it was proved true through the number of volunteers that participated in our nursery project.

In addition to construction of the nursery, hands-on clinics were offered by our Cameroonian instructor in the areas of tree planting,

soil mixing and banana/plantain propagation.

It is our hope that in 3-4 months prior to our departure we’ll be ready for the 1st annual tree day in Banyo, where we will hand out trees to plant around the community. Environmental and health education will accompany the event. Deforestation and malnutrition are two significant problems in (continued on page 2)



Leo demonstrates banana propagation

Yeah, they look cute now, but...

It’s hard to believe something so cute can be so destructive, but this baby goat will one day mature into a dreaded adult with an insatiable appetite for garden vegetables, flowers and your recently-planted trees.



In a few months this adorable goat will terrorize gardens

During the rainy season, goats are tethered here

because there are enough

“goodies” in a small area to feed it. The rainy season, however, is an all-you-can-eat buffet for these little monsters as they wander the countryside and your yard for anything that may resemble a digestible item. And we thought we’d have to worry about lions and tigers...

The Top Three...

Prayer Requests—Pray the Lord will provide...

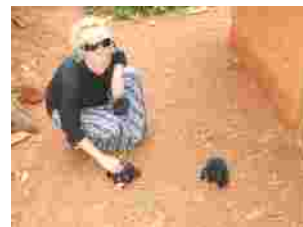
Courage for the Fulbe disciples in sharing the Word	1
Ministry project and monthly supporters	2
Direction and clarity for the future of our ministry	3

Prayers Answered

A new, supportive divisional officer in Banyo	1
Safety during many travels the last 3 months	2
Good health to continue our ministry work	3

Ministry Needs:

Well installation equipment and sponsors for community water development projects



Tiffany makes friends with our new “neighbors” - one day old baby goats.

TREES AND TRANSFORMATION —(continued from page 1)

the Adamawa Province where we live and elsewhere in Cameroon. Introducing trees that can feed families, provide forage for animals and serve as a source of fuel could change the landscape and lives of the community.

As is often the case with such things, a lack of education hinders positive progress. People are unwilling to invest in what they don't understand in any cul-



This small greenhouse will serve as a banana propagator



Tiff prepares labels for trees

ture. There are no 401K plans or mutual funds here, so investment is in those things which people know—cattle, their farms and goats. We hope that educating the community on the benefits of tree production will encourage them to “invest” in something new.

The Moringa tree, which is high in protein, vitamins A, B and C and several important minerals (including iron and calcium) is the focus of our efforts. We

hope to introduce it through the hospital by teaching Fulbe women to prepare like their local favorite, Jamajama, a bitter leaf much like spinach.

We also are propagating various fruit trees, including mango, avocado, banana and papaya, all of which can be successfully grown in the Adamawa.



Our completed nursery (minus the recently installed palm frond roof)

Please pray for the success of the nursery.

Tiffany assists with local government immunization clinics

Recently there was a confirmed case of the Polio virus in Douala, a major city here in Cameroon. The government saw this as a major public health concern and decided to act country-wide. by partnering with UNICEF to provide the people and supplies necessary to combat several health concerns. A few health care workers were gathered from every hospital in

our area, trained and then designated to an area of our town to vaccinate. Tiffany assisted in going from door to door providing the polio vaccine, Mebendazole tablet for worm infestation, Vitamin A to help combat malnutrition and diarrheal diseases and tetanus shots for pregnant mothers. It was a great opportunity to build relationships in the community.



Partners in Missions with Chad & Tiffany Northington



We are asking that all current and future supporters begin providing their monthly gift to our non-profit, Transformational Ministries, rather than submitting it to the BGC. The reason for this is that during our transition from short-term to long-term we are expected to live on support while volunteering at the Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO) in their missionary-in-residence program, but we will not have access to any support provided through the BGC during this time until our status officially changes within the organization. That cannot happen until we have completed certain organizational requirements and training.

I have modified our home page to allow for a monthly “subscription” for various gift amounts. It is done securely through PayPal, and a receipt is issued electronically. Visit our home page at www.transformationalministries.com and scroll down to the Donation section with the yellow buttons. Click on your monthly support amount to be taken to the PayPal link. If you have any problems with submitting your gift online or prefer not to do it this way, please let us know. Thank you for partnering with us!

DON'T BE CHICKEN—TRY MICROFINANCING!

In an effort to empower and encourage the local Christians in our community, we are attempting several small microfinancing projects in the areas of transformational development, including poultry and fish farming. Microenterprise, or microfinancing, focuses on employment creation and income development through small-scale enterprises and access to capital and training that is otherwise unavailable to the poor. Our intent is summed up in the old Chinese proverb, "Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime."

In missions and ministry, if we are only proclaiming the Word of God without



Local carpenters constructed our nesting box and feeder.

demonstrating it, we are not truly sharing all the Good News. By empowering the poor through small businesses, the Biblical concepts of social justice, stewardship and creative expression are revealed in a concrete, practical way. These brothers

and sisters are then able to assist others as our identity in Christ as servants is revealed through our activities and resources are made available. Our hope is these families won't have to worry about feeding their own and can begin to start feeding others, physically and spiritually.



We introduced the concepts of an enclosed runway and supplemental feed.

Reaching the Unreached—Disabled Kids

Our concept of "unreached" has continued to grow as we've had various experiences in Cameroon. During our well installation in May and June at the Center for the Empowerment of Females with Disabilities (CEFED), we saw another side of the unreached in Cameroon—disabled children. The ministry at CEFED seeks to teach the love of Christ for all people, including and especially those with handicaps.

Many disabled children are abandoned or abused in their villages, and it is up to ministries like CEFED to educate the community and sometimes take these children under their wing to provide a home and hope for the future. CEFED

currently provides food, shelter and love to 32 children with various physical and mental handicaps.

Their staff is receiving training and education from an independent American missionary, and they are partnered with various organizations, including "Joni and Friends" in the United States. Private funding allowed for the construction of their facility as well as the recently-completed well.

We are very happy to report that the well we installed is performing very well. During a recent site visit, the submersible pump was recovering about 8,000 liters per day, and the water quality was extremely good. Previously they had been

"...I was thirsty and you gave me a drink."

-Matthew 25:36



Our Spanish friend and partner in ministry, Luis, introduces us to a disabled friend in the bush who has received aid.

fetching their water from the local stream, where people bathe, wash their motorcycles and perform other unsanitary activities detrimental to the health of these children. Many of them are already in a weakened physical state, and the importance of clean water could be the difference between life and death for many.

We have been asked to develop a design to bring biogas to the facility for cooking needs. Through private funding, we hope



This little girl at CEFED has no arms and is able to do most things with her feet, even write.

to implement this ministry project prior to our departure this year. Future projects may include the installation of other sustainable technologies, such as solar power to operate both the center lights and electric submersible pump for their well. Frequent power surges and outages result in an unreliable power source that could potentially damage their ability to retrieve water for the center. Please write us at info@transformationalministries.com to learn how you can help.

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*Reaching the Unreached one need
at a time...*

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide for the material, spiritual, and social needs of those who need it most through sustainable, transformational development. The Gospel is the source of lasting transformation and offers a plan for a holistic and integrated approach to community development and world change.



We're on the web!

<http://www.transformationalministries.com>

Chad "elected" President of the Community Football Committee

Soccer, or "football" as it's known here, is one sport I really never picked up. Had I known the incredible passion the rest of the world shared for it, I would definitely have made more of an effort to learn the rules and even play a bit. Consequently, I now find myself in the awkward position of learning a new sport in my 30's that most people here have been playing since they took their first steps as an infant. This is another one of those instances where cultural assimilation has brought me back to appearing like a child again.

I ran into my friend, who invited me to another meeting where they would be electing the team committee. In Africa it seems everything must have a committee with elected officials regardless of the activity, duration or significance of the event. Soccer is no exception. I was told that if I attended the meeting, I most surely would be elected to a position. That was all I needed to hear to know I would be occupied around that time.

Unfortunately my lack of attendance did not prevent me from being elected to the football board. Despite my best efforts to explain that in order to be elected to a position you must be present during the selection of the candidates, in the end I had no choice but to accept the position

that had been bestowed upon me.

It was interesting to note that two other names had been written in the space for President. I asked about these other "presidents", and I was informed that I was their first selection and the others would only be approached if I refused. Because I had accepted, however, there would now be no need to talk to the other potential candidates.

After being informed of my duties, I was told practice would be in an hour and they would be expecting me. I figured as the newly "elected" president, I should at least make a showing. I had been interested in learning the game, but I thought I would begin by practicing with the elementary kids who were still well above my playing level. Now I would find myself among seasoned football veterans about 10 years younger and 100 pounds lighter. Not exactly how I wanted to begin my football career.

I tried to arrive what I considered would be a little late to practice and still managed to be the first one there. Thinking I may have mistaken which field we were playing on, I returned only to find a few members of the team beginning the trek. About an hour later, we finally had

enough players to start a match. To my dismay, we were picked to be the "skins", so the fat white guy stood out just a little bit.

I probably need to describe the playing field to give you a better picture of the conditions. The "field" is actually an uneven hard clay terrain littered with gravel, holes and whatever else may have found its way there. The boundaries are roughly the grassy edge that surrounds the playing area, and the goal posts are constructed of makeshift materials. It all made for a rather risky playing environment. Things did not improve when the afternoon rain arrived and the game continued. If you have had the experience of driving on what we call "black ice" in the States, hard clay becomes what I call "brown ice" when it's wet. We might as well have turned the ball into a hockey puck and started playing hockey. After an hour and a half of being danced around and looking silly at my attempts to use my feet for something that was completely foreign to them, the match finally ended and I returned home to find what pride I had left.

Perhaps my role as president will be a less physical and more supportive in nature...