



The Northington Newsletter

The End of the Beginning...



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

Our first term in Africa is nearing its end, and with it comes a sense of reflection, urgency to tie up loose ends and hope about the future of our ministry.

We began considering the many lessons we've learned this year, some of them serious, others not so serious, and would like to share some of them with you to give you some insight into how God has been shaping and maturing us through this experience.

* Cameroon is not the end but only the beginning of a long-term ministry to unreached peoples.

* We've learned much about ourselves, the world and what God is doing in both.

* We've learned how not be afraid of things like failure, finances or the future.

* We've learned what the Gospel looks like and not just what it sounds like.

* We've learned about God's

will for our lives as bridge builders and Kingdom builders.

* We've learned disappointment, forgiveness and trust in much deeper ways.

* We can have nothing or everything and it does not change who we are.

* The term "missionary" can sometimes carry with it a negative connotation and always expectations.

* You can't escape corporate America, even in Africa.

* Our strengths and weaknesses are greatest in a culture outside our own; they are exposed in such a way that they are glaringly evident.

* Passion and compassion are forces to be reckoned with.

* Expectations can be very dangerous and even fatal to the best intentions.

* Good intentions do not always have good results.

* Too much theology and too

little Gospel can be very destructive.

* A sinner can be equipped to sin better if transformation is not the goal.

* Missions philosophies are as varied as political views.

* Truth is very grey in a culture where corruption rules.

* Exposing and upholding the truth does not win many friends.

* Independence is a difficult thing to give up, and pride is perhaps the greatest single hindrance to serving God.

* If there is no ownership in a project by the community, there is no future for the project in the community.

* Coming from a goal-oriented society tends to take our eye off the goal. People, not projects, should be our goal.

* In a relational society, shaming someone can be far more severe than lying to someone or stealing from them.

Chad and Tiff Begin the Construction of Their Mud Block House

We are happy to inform you that we have broken ground for the construction of our very own mud block home in Banyo. In preparation for our future ministry in Cameroon, we have taken the necessary steps to start construction. The work will continue in our absence when the rains

stop and mud blocks can be formed. We hope to have a relatively completed home waiting for us when we return. We appreciate the doctor's generosity in allowing us to stay in his guest house this year, but we look forward to having a place to call our own.



The construction team completes the house footer

The Top Three...

Prayer Requests—Pray the Lord will provide...

More bridges to Fulbe through our resource center	1
Language learning ability as we focus on Fulfulde	2
A buyer or solution to our Florida house situation	3

Prayers Answered

Clarity regarding our next steps forward	1
Completion of a sustainable develop. demo area	2
Safe travels during our annual field council	3

Ministry Needs:

- Radio equipment as we attempt to start a local program
- Monthly supporters as we transition to long-term



Tiffany celebrated being a quarter century old last month.

The End of the Beginning —(continued from page 1)

- * We can never fully let go of our own culture and never truly assimilate into the one we are in.
- * People are NOT the same everywhere. We may all live and die, laugh and cry, but how we do these things can be dramatically different.
- * Living by faith takes a lot more work than living without it.
- * Be careful when you answer God's call because He doesn't hang up the phone.
- * We've learned how to greet people in five languages.
- * We've learned that there's no second chances when you accidentally plug a 110V device into a 220V socket. This lesson had to be learned more than once.
- * We've learned you can get fatter in Africa (especially if you live next to Ma).
- * We've learned why goats are symbols of un-righteousness in Scripture.
- * We've learned children really CAN be quiet in church services.
- * We've learned Chinese products are cheap and worthless no matter what country you're in.
- * We've learned life doesn't end when you don't have access to a phone or the internet 24/7.
- * We've learned absence truly does make the heart grow fonder, especially for Big Macs...
- * We've learned we have something in common with scorpions – we both love the comfort of our home.
- * We've learned it's OK when someone tells you how fat you look.
- * We've learned you really do get malaria when you don't take your prophylactic. Just ask my wife!
- * We've learned bungee cords don't have anything on a Cameroonian rubber strap.
- * We've learned if the Coca-Cola company would put Bible tracts on their bottles, there is no remote corner of the world that wouldn't be evangelized.
- * We've learned people can eat the same thing for breakfast, lunch and dinner and still be happy.
- * We've learned the best way to discourage a Cameroonian from asking you to help them go to America is by telling them there is no corn fufu there.
- * We've learned the hard way that my wife is allergic to mango skin.
- * We've learned weevils add a nice little "kick" to pasta and rice.
- * We've learned we will never again desire to go off-roading in the U.S.
- * We've learned cockroaches are not pleasant sleeping companions, and you should not eat in your bed unless you want to share it with mice.
- * We've learned peanuts are groundnuts, avocados are pears and you don't eat them, you chop them.
- * We've learned it's OK to have auctions during church.
- * We've learned Gasoil is not gas, and there's nothing super about Super gasoline.
- * We've learned the only way to get unbiased news about America is to leave America.
- * We've learned freshly dug fish ponds make great mud wrestling pits.
- * We've learned the first word that Cameroonian children must be taught is "Nasaraa" (white man)

Tiffany continues local outreach with nutrition clinics

Throughout Banyo, Tiffany has been reaching out to the community to teach about Health & Nutrition. She has also taught about health and nutrition in some of the local Fulbe compounds. These outreach lessons are helping educate and combat against malnutrition. Tiffany began to realize that in the community many of the necessary foods for a



healthy diet were available but due to lack of education many families did not know how to eat healthy. Therefore, they were eating plenty of corn and cassava but not enough protein to help the body grow. In turn, some of the children had stunted growth and pop bellies due to a poor diet. These lessons are improving the quality of health in the local community and are helping build relationships.

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 would officially change 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!

DEVELOPMENT DAY QUICKLY APPROACHING

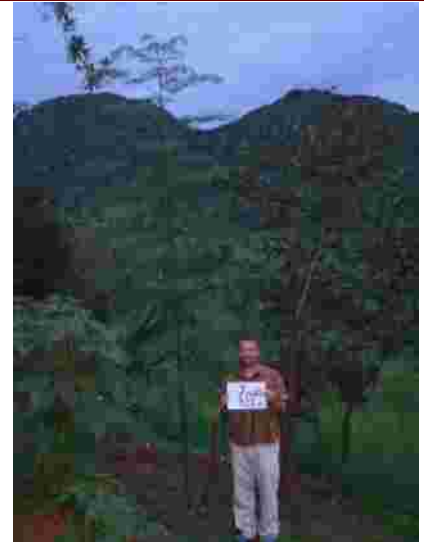
We're very excited about the quickly approaching first annual Banyo Development Day. Numerous appropriate technologies and sustainable practices will be introduced to the Banyo community, including biosand filters, fuel-efficient cook stoves, biogas, tree nursery management and propagation, malaria and HIV prevention, beekeeping, and much more.

The diversity of the Banyo community will require that we conduct 3 different presentations in the most widely spoken languages, i.e. French, English and Fulfulde. Attendees will visit individual stations for a brief explanation or training followed by a tour of our new transformational development demonstration area



Chad teaches local Fulbe men how to construct a biosand filter.

(see below). The event will be followed by a community-wide planting of trees we have been growing in our nursery, including the Moringa, or "Miracle Tree", which has many edible parts high in protein, vitamins and minerals.



Chad shows off our Moringa tree that is over 14 feet tall in 7 months!

Transformational Development Demo Area Done

We were inspired last year during a visit to the Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO) in Ft. Myers, Florida where we witnessed a "Global Farm" that demonstrated a variety techniques for growing in different tropical climates. The Global Farm also had numerous hands-on displays of various appropriate technologies for developing countries.

Following this practical approach to showing sustainable practices and technologies, we have diligently been working to create our own small transformational development demonstration area to instruct the Fulbe and others on alternatives to their current agricultural and technological approaches.

We are happy to report that the first phase of the demo area is complete. It currently consists of a tree nursery with a banana plant propagator, a small-scale poultry farm, composting bins, a small apiary (bee farm), and a tree plot for growing edible, nitrogen-fixing, live fence and forage species. We hope to add drip irrigation soon.

So far we have had much success in getting things started in the demo area. Three out of five of our hives are already occupied during a time of year that is difficult to catch swarming bees. Our trees are doing well with the exception of a couple of species that did not appear to germinate well here, namely *Leucaena*

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind"
- Romans 12:2



Our tree nursery where we're growing moringa, papaya (3 varieties), mahogany, avocado, gliricidia, and banana.



Kenya Top Bar (KTB) hives in our bee farm area.

and the strawberry tree, but that's part of the learning process. Our chickens are plumping up nicely, but we're struggling to find sustainable poultry practices that are appropriate for our area with the resources currently available.

There's a high level of interest in what we're doing, so we're encouraged that others may try some new approaches. The hard part is convincing them that they actually have far more experience with these things than we do, and if we can do it, they surely can! Please pray we will be able to provide the exposure and resources others need to get started.



Our small-scale poultry production demonstration area.

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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>

Our Vision for our Ministry Future in Cameroon and Beyond...

Time is quickly passing for us as we near the end of our first term in Cameroon and prepare for our return to the U.S. and a long-term ministry in Africa. We have begun looking ahead to life back in the States and beyond. Much has been learned during our first term about ministry, Africa and ourselves. We wanted to take this time to thank you for your continued support and encouragement this year and tell you a little about our path forward.

After our return to the U.S. in December, we will spend some time visiting friends and family prior to beginning volunteer work at the Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO) in Ft. Myers, Florida. The vision of ECHO is bringing glory to God and a blessing to mankind by using science and technology to help the poor. They support overseas missionaries and development workers by acting as a resource center for those working in the areas of agriculture and appropriate technologies in the tropics. During our time there, I will assist with development of their appropriate technologies department, and Tiffany will be receiving further education in the area of public health to improve our ability to reach the unreached. During this time,

we will also be preparing for our return to Cameroon. We have come to better understand this year how we would like to continue our long-term commitment to overseas ministry. We know that we would like to balance our time between the U.S. and abroad by returning to both approximately every other year. We also feel that tent making strategies and different support-raising efforts (e.g. Christian business and using our current professions to earn money to put towards ministry) need to be more seriously considered in times of economic uncertainty, as we are experiencing now.

We will remain committed to our ministry to reach the unreached through our non-profit, Transformational Ministries after completing our term of service with the BGC. Our desire is to maintain all of our current relationships with our ministry team here in Cameroon as well as in the U.S. During this transition to long-term ministry we will operate as an independent entity that will allow us flexibility in where we spend our time and how we raise and utilize support. Our administrative costs will be significantly reduced, which means more support for ministry projects and less for operating costs. Our ministry effort and focus will

not change during this time; we will continue to strive to demonstrate the Gospel by providing for the material, spiritual and social needs of those who need it most by reaching the unreached through sustainable, transformational development. We will also continue to partner with others, both nationals and expats, in the areas of church planting and discipleship.

Transformational Ministries is a Florida non-profit, and we have already begun filing for federally tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status. As such, you can still make tax-deductible contributions to the organization just as you were doing for us through the BGC. We are asking that all of our current supporters begin providing their monthly contribution directly to Transformational Ministries through our web page.

God calls us in different ways and different places, but He calls us all. Thank you for believing in and confirming ours!