



The Northington Newsletter

A LITTLE TASTE OF HEAVEN IN AN UNEXPECTED WAY...



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

Two months ago we set out on a mission to share the WTM vision beyond the confines of the Florida border into the great expanse of our country. It has been a voyage full of challenges, exciting encounters and, most importantly, relationships. It is this latter aspect of the trip that brought about an unexpected result and revelation that has made this trip so much more than just an opportunity to share about what we are doing with this life God has granted us.



It is difficult for our finite minds to grasp an infinite heaven and it's eternal nature. We catch glimpses of it in Scripture and perhaps you witness some of heaven's majesty around in His creation when you stand in awe of a sunset, the beauty of a flower or the joy that a child's laugh can bring to the heaviest of hearts. However, you might not realize that you can also catch a glimpse of heaven in a 1981 GMC motor home as you tour around the country sharing about how God is working in Africa.

As we have spent time with the people who mean so much to us in this world and shared our hopes, dreams and hearts, we have been



permitted a small taste of heaven. Nothing brings as much happiness as the relationships we have developed during our time on this planet. To be able to embrace so many of them in this brief period before our departure has invoked the peace of knowing we will one day not be confined by the limitations that distance and time impose upon our mortal lives.

Heaven will offer us an opportunity to eternally rejoice in those relationships outside of the difficulties, hardships and trials that have marred those relationships this side of eternity. We will one day have no days and instead toss aside time and space to be replaced by infinite fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters and our Lord and Savior.

I know there are some of you reading this newsletter today that may not believe Jesus Christ died for your sins and washed away that sin when he offered his life

on the cross, but please know that it is through Christ that we are reconciled to God and the most important relationship of all can be and has been restored for those of us who confess Jesus as Lord of our lives both here and in eternity.

If you do not know him as the way, the truth and the life, I beg you to consider inviting him into your life to accept the gift of eternity we have received through his mercy and grace. Heaven awaits all those who put their trust in him.



The Top Three...

Prayer Requests—Pray the Lord will provide...

Continued safety & mechanical integrity of the RV	1
Success w/ our Visa & resident permit application	2
Resolution to our house situation	3

Prayers Answered

Health and safety during RV 2010 travels	1
A wonderful child and traveler	2
Perseverance in the face of great trials	3

Ministry Needs:

- Partners for our "Pick a Project Campaign" (see our web site)
- Approximately \$900 in **monthly** support pledges to meet our goal for 2010-2012
- Various items for our Cameroonian home and baby items for little Chloe to account for all the stages she will go through during our second term
- More workers to join God's purpose in redeeming His people and restoring His Kingdom

To RV or not to RV (from Chad's blog)



William Shakespeare in his *Hamlet* asked the question, "To be or not to be?" Our question was far more logistical and less philosophical, "To RV or not to RV?" That was the question we posed to ourselves last year as we pondered the various ways we could share the WTM vision and raise the necessary support to continue our mission in remote regions of Africa where people remain unreached in every respect of the word. An RV trip was certainly not at the top of my wife's list, but with a baby on the way and the need to accommodate a third passenger (actually she was the fourth and our lab was the third already) an RV Tour began looking like the only feasible way to accomplish such a task much to my wife's dismay. We now find ourselves almost one month and three flat tires into what has been dubbed the 2010 WTM RV Ministry Tour (don't worry, we now have all new tires).

A lot of folks have asked, "Why an RV

Tour?" After they actually see our near-antique 1981 GMC Midas motor home, they really start to wonder, "What were they thinking?" I'll admit that sometimes it's less about thinking and more about following God's direction in our lives. It has certainly been a leap of faith to once again trade the comforts of an American lifestyle for the more challenging (yet far more interesting) mobile lifestyle we have adopted, which will later lead to an even more extreme change when we revert back to our African mode of living. This entry is an abbreviated attempt to explore the question, "To RV or not to RV?" and to demonstrate a bit how God can use these experiences to grow and mature us in unique ways.

I'll begin by providing some illustrations on how RV living is really training and preparation for the more rugged African environment. First of all there's the size of our living quarters. Housing in Cameroon tends to consist of slightly less square footage (insert sarcasm here), so the less-than-desirable floor plan of

our RV will actually make the living space in our Cameroonian home seem quite spacious and downright enormous after several months of stepping around the dog, playpen and numerous obstacles along the narrow path between the cab and sleeping area. I don't recall the last time I had stubbed my toe so many times and banged my head against cabinets, lights and ceilings.

The need to once again "downsize" and release our worldly possessions has been accentuated by the lack of storage in a 24' home on wheels. Although you may be surprised by how much you can actually fit in a motor home of this size, there are still a lot of conveniences we were forced to reluctantly abandon. Our appliances were traded for miniature versions of the same, and we're still not sure how both of us fit into the so-called bed that has been crammed into the back corner. It's quite sad when your 4-month infant has about the same amount of sleeping space as two adults.

To RV or not to RV (continued)

Traveling and breaking down in our not-so-new RV has also proved to be quite similar to transport in Cameroon. Our vehicle is of similar age to the ones often associated with "bush taxis" in Africa, so we have the pleasure of experiencing the same peculiarities that accompany a ride along African roads. For example, the lack of air conditioning and the familiar feeling of a sweaty back bring back many fond memories of voyages along Cameroonian highways. The roar of our broken exhaust and blaring radio create an environment that drowns out the squealing of fan belts and constant clicking in the front left tire. And of course traveling with our loyal lab is much like the Cameroonian equivalent of traveling with a chicken or goat next to you. The one advantage we have had, however, is the ability to be towed to the place of repair, which has happened twice since our maiden

voyage.

Let's not forget about our six-legged companions either. Travel and lodging in Cameroon is nearly always highlighted by visits from critters of all sorts, including cockroaches, mosquitoes, rodents, and, my personal favorite, scorpions. Once again the RV life has not let us down in mimicking our African living situation by offering an abundance of nature, both outside AND inside our vehicle. The visitors are so much like their African counterparts that we have already begun using the mosquito net around baby Chloe's crib. However, we also find an advantage in this area that we lacked in Cameroon, which is the ability to strategically place devices around the RV that eliminate our unwelcome companions. May they rest in peace because I know we haven't.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

I'm sure at this point you're envious of our RV trip, right (once again you may insert sarcasm here). But with all the trials and tribulations of the RV life, we have also found God working in wonderful and exciting ways we would not have imagined before venturing on this journey. We have had incredible encounters with incredible people that would not have happened if we hadn't broken down on the side of the road. We have seen the tremendous beauty of His creation across this country from the wonders of nature to the ways He has enabled the human mind to use it. We have learned patience and perseverance in ways that even Africa cannot teach us. It has become obvious to us that the answer to the question, "To RV or not to RV?" is a resounding "To RV".

Pick a Project & Change a Life or Community

We are hoping for more participation in our "Pick a Project Campaign" as we seek individuals, groups and churches to select specific projects or items in the areas of water, health care or appropriate technology and specific missionary needs in the field.

All the projects open doors and build bridges to sharing the Good News where it

is unknown or misunderstood, especially among the Fulbe (or Fulani) people who occupy most of the region where we live. Other opportunities exist to assist fellow brothers and sisters who are in desperate need of basic necessities, such as our partners in the Northwest Province who care for abandoned disabled children and other missionaries who are in sub-standard living conditions and cannot focus all of their energy on their respective ministries because they lack basic needs.



Consider raising the funds as a church for a well and perhaps sending a small team to assist with its construction!

TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIES

Cameroon:
B.P. 50
Banyo, Adamawa Region, CAMEROON

United States (currently):
P.O. Box 9691
Tampa, Florida 33674

Phone: 813-990-0981
Skype ID: cdnorthi
Email: info@transformationalministries.com

*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>

SO WHAT'S NEXT?

As RV Ministry Tour 2010 winds down and we begin the trek back to Florida, we are now making the final preparations for our anticipated departure in early September. Booking airfare, packing, completing Visa applications, language study and time in prayer and the Word will fill our days for the next few weeks.

Our current location is Montana, the furthest north and west we will go on this journey. We have officially turned our rig back towards the Sunshine State with a few more stops between here and there. Prior to our departure, however, we will be having one last "Sending Off/Tiff's B-Day Bash" in the Tampa area at Hillsborough State Park off Highway 301. This will take place on Saturday September 4th and will consist of food, fun and one last chance to say "good-bye" until we meet again in 2012. If you would like to join us, please contact us so that we can coordinate food arrangements. We will have everyone bring a dish, side or dessert. We will be camping Friday and Saturday night, so feel free to make reservations to join us or hang out at our

site for some bonfires and Tiffany's favorite camping snack—s'mores!

Our first international stop will consist of a two-month layover in France where we will be hosted by a French family and dear friends of Chad for some informal language study and submersion in French. This is vital for us to function in the Francophone Adamawa Province where we live in Cameroon. We will also work towards gaining a better grasp of the Fulbe mother tongue, Fulfulde.

Following our stay in France, we will head south to Cameroon the first week of November. After landing in Yaoundé, we will gather supplies for the trip to Banyo and materials for our Cameroonian home. The next month or so will be spent moving back into our African community, readjusting to Cameroonian living and making our home a home for our new family.

With the dry season in full effect at the time of our arrival, we will work towards completing any building projects associated with our home and ministry. This is also the season for performing water work as the water table continues to drop

over the course of this rainless time of year. This will also be a time to have the "Pick-a-Project" materials built, like beehives, fuel-efficient cook stoves and biosand filters to be taken into various Fulbe communities around Banyo and beyond where we have established relationships with refugees in eastern Cameroon during our previous stay.

As the rainy season returns, we will look towards agricultural and agroforestry projects to continue promoting new farming techniques and the transplanting of edible fruit trees around the community.

There is no doubt 2012 will arrive before we know it, and our two-year old will be walking, talking and returning to see her family in America as we will once again leave our African family until our return.

And so it will go as long as God continues to open doors for this ministry and fuel the fire that He has given us for the Unreached peoples of the world.