

A NEW YEAR AND NEW BEGINNINGS...

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<http://www.transformationalministries.com>



The Northington Newsletter

A new member of the family, a new African home and new ministry opportunities all mark the beginning of what is certain to be a year of unique cultural and spiritual encounters during our second term in Cameroon. Stepping back into African living after two years of absence has been an interesting experience. We have often wondered what the transition back again would feel like. I think it would best be described by saying that although the sense of culture shock remains in some ways, we don't feel like strangers to the peculiarities of life in Cameroon. The sites, smells and sounds have a familiar and inviting sense about them. The African foods, friends and fellowship that we have missed are again surrounding us. Yet at the same time the departure of those same things in America and the frequent longing for them as they are fresh in our minds and hearts serve as a reminder of the challenges associated with cross-cultural living in a distant land.

Three weeks have passed since we made contact again with African soil. Much of that time has been spent simply in readjusting and transitioning as we attempt to re-establish a home in Banyo. Our first priority is the completion of our new house, which turned out to be our first major disappointment upon our arrival in-country. We learned from our first term here to temper our expectations in pretty much every aspect of life.



However, this approach to surviving in Africa was forgotten during our time State-side, and we now find our *expectations* regarding the state of our home unmet. Many things were left undone by our contractor, although the picture above may deceive you into thinking the work is complete. A closer look will reveal no paint, plumbing, wiring for our solar array, toilet, sinks or any other interior features that would make the house inhabitable yet. A significant amount of masonry work remains for the retaining wall and stairs that will be necessary before the rains arrive, and rework has already begun on many things like broken pipes and misplaced drains.

But alas, all is not loss! We are thrilled to at least have a shell of a home awaiting us. Chad has begun the work with a small army of locals from

Banyo who are eager to learn new skills and help support their families. It is also an opportunity to rebuild old relationships and forge new ones as we work side-by-side with Fulbe men in our community and interact with the other people groups who live in our neighborhood because of their affiliation with the local Baptist hospital.

We are looking forward to the day in the hopefully not-so-distant future when we will be able to feel settled in one place and exit the mode of transition we have been in for nearly a year now. During that time we haven't lived in one place or slept in the same bed for more than a few months. Fortunately we have been blessed with a child who copes with change better even than her parents! We also look forward to the day maybe some of you will visit us and stay in our finished home...

The Top Three...

Prayer Requests—Pray the Lord will provide...

Our resident cards prior to expiration of our VISA	1
Successful grant applications for water/health/appropriate technology ministries	2
Continued growth of the local Fulbe church	3
Prayers Answered	
Safe travels & no major problems reaching Banyo	1
Good health and protection of our family	2
Arrival of all our bags and mailings from America, including the suitcase with our solar equipment!	3

Ministry Needs:

- Sponsors for water projects, including hand dug & drilled wells, gravity flow systems and expansion of existing systems
- A robust, mobile drill rig (DeepRock Hydradrill 700 Model)

Ministry Praises:

- Our 1995 Toyota Hilux has proven to be a strong, reliable vehicle with no major problems—a major answer to prayer
- Our colleagues in Banyo are doing well and excited about partnering opportunities

WATER WORK CONTINUES AT SCHOOL FOR THE DISABLED...

In 2008 WTM installed a drilled well with a team of Cameroonians at the Center for the Empowerment of Females with Disabilities (CEFED) for 30+ disabled students in desperate need of a clean water source. The well functioned well throughout 2009 and then encountered some problems in the dry season of last year. A recent visit to the Center on our way to Banyo revealed some potential issues with the manner in which the pump was installed after the well had been drilled. Efforts are currently underway to remove the damaged pump and retrofit the well with a hand pump if further investigation indicates the well is still performing well throughout the difficult dry season.



CEFED is a Cameroonian ministry that seeks to educate communities and families about the nature of disabilities and to provide education and love to disabled children who have been extremely neglected, abused or abandoned as a result of their handicap. The Center has also expanded during our absence to include a school for instructing future special education teachers. Future plans include the addition of a vocational training center.

While the existing well is being rehabilitated, a hand dug well project has begun to meet the Center's current water needs. WTM continues to provide consultation

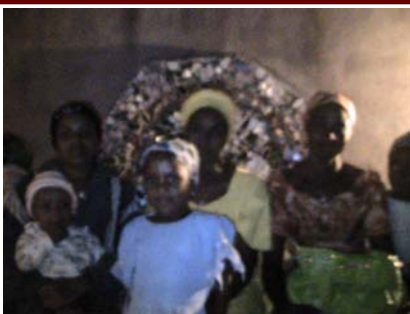
and engineering services to assist this partner provide for the needs of those who need it most. It is our hope that an existing grant application for a deeper, better drilled well will be approved so that work may begin on providing for the long term water demand expected at the Center as it continues to grow. The main building is pictured in the middle along with the hand dug well location. The cement "caissons" are shown below, which are used to construct the walls



of the well for structural stability. This well is expected to be about 18 meters deep (i.e. about 60 feet). A drilled well could go 3 times as deep and provide a better source of drinking water.

FULBE FAMILIES CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

It is very exciting to see the growth of both the local Fulbe families who have added to their numbers during our absence as well as their faith. Recently our colleagues invited these Fulbe families to their "compound"



for a Christmas celebration to rejoice over the meaning of this special holiday and enjoy the fellowship of other Fulbe believers. The night consisted of songs in Fulfulde and Cameroonian food like corn fufu and jamajama (a spinach-like vegetable).



Partners in Missions with Chad & Tiffany & Chloe! **W+M**

We are in need of both monthly supporters as well as project-related gifts.

One-time contributions or monthly "subscriptions" for various gift amounts can be done securely through PayPal on our web page. A receipt is generated electronically for your tax-deductible gift when done in this matter. Visit our home page at www.transformationalministries.com and click on the "Donate" tab at the top.

If you would like to support a specific project or missionary need, please peruse our "Pick a Project" page with descriptions of specific projects, their geographic location, people group and required funding amount.

If you have any problems with submitting your gift online or prefer not to do it this way, gifts can be sent to the following address: **P.O. 9691 Tampa, Florida 33674**

Thank you for partnering with us!

WHAT LIES AHEAD?



Proverbs 16:9 says, “In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.” We have learned to be cautious in drawing up too many plans and ministry projects as we look to the future. There is no doubt a course has been laid in our hearts to reach the Unreached through transformational development, but our steps have often been redirected by the Lord as we sought (and fought) His will for our lives. We hope this will be a time of discernment and clarity as we wait for the next step forward to be revealed. With no major water projects on the horizon, we anticipate a period of refocusing on how we can do more with less and improve in the areas where we have already ventured, such as agroforestry, apiculture, appropriate technology

and microfinancing. As Tiffany juggles the daily duties of raising a child in Africa and building a home, eventually she will seek ways to bring health and education to our neighbors and those beyond Banyo in “the bush”.

More important than any project, though, are the relationships we are strengthening and building in the community where we live. It has been a joy to see many familiar faces in Banyo, and we have seen many new ones that we hope to call our friends in time. We continue to draw upon the wisdom of local leaders, both traditional and governmental, in planning a path forward. We also seek accountability and fellowship from our colleagues from other organizations with whom

we work side-by-side in an effort to support and encourage one another.

In the near future, following the completion of our home, we hope to bring in some Cameroonian experts in the areas of small-scale tree production and beekeeping who will lead seminars among the local Fulbe and assist in the construction of facilities for demonstration. We will also be investigating ways to improve the water supply in Banyo during the dry season. Thousands of people struggle during this time of year when the spring sources in the mountain yield less.

Regardless of the project, we pray they will all open doors to sharing our faith in both word and deed.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

There are numerous scriptures that serve to motivate us as we consider our role in this particular period of man’s history where God is carrying out His plan for the salvation of mankind and the restoration of His Kingdom. As we reflect upon this Christmas season, we are reminded of the many prophecies that were faithfully fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

We are also reminded of the many prophecies and scriptures that remain to be fulfilled in which we can play a part. For example, Matthew 24:14 states, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” In other

words, we have a job to do in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth as we await the return of our Lord and Savior. We do not need to be passive observers in this great plan but can take active roles in contributing to it.

If we fast forward to Revelations, we find an image of heaven where there will be “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.” (Rev 7:9). We know that God’s desire is that all peoples come to know Him, and we see that in time that all peoples will be represented in the heavenly realms. Once again this should add a

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations”

Matthew 24:14

sense of purpose and focus to the mission at hand, the great commission by Jesus to go to all the nations and make disciples of them, teaching them his commands to love one another and love our God.

It is an awesome thought to think we can be a part of spiritual history in the making. Despite our weaknesses and sin, God can use us as instruments of His will to redeem His people and bring truth to the lost. What part will you play in the greatest event in the history of mankind?

CHLOE AND THE KING!

Not every 10-month old can boast they have had counsel with the king, but Chloe will be able to do just that—once she can talk that is. Our family recently greeted the traditional king, or laamii’do, to show our respect. The laamii’do resides in what is known as the palace, where his four wives and children live. Besides being a traditional leader, the laamii’do of Banyo also possesses governmental authority as mayor of the city. As such, he regulates many of

the public works projects. We had the opportunity to exchange gifts during our visit as I explained that this was a season in America where friends and families gave to one another as they celebrated Christmas. I offered the king a French-made knife, and he provided me with a book he had written himself discussing the history of the Lamidat, or traditional government of the region now known as the Adamawa and beyond. I was a bit speechless when the king asked if

the knife could be used to stab men who may look at his wives inappropriately. He proceeded to tell me that nomadic peoples are a jealous people, and they deal harshly with those who would place a lustful eye on their wives. All I could say was that the knife wasn’t meant for that particular use. I have to figure out if he was kidding or not. There’s no doubt I carefully consider the next gift I give to the laamii’do and how it could potentially be utilized by a jealous nomad...

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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>

CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS...

Although we didn't plan it as such, we happened to return to Banyo during the same time as our initial arrival in 2007—the holiday season. If you think the holidays are busy in America, try spending the last two weeks of the year in our neighborhood. Although we live in a Muslim region, our small *quartier*, or neighborhood, is comprised of various Cameroonian hospital workers and other people groups from predominantly Christian villages in the Northwest Province of the country, which makes our small Christian community unique amongst the other Banyo neighborhoods.

The small Baptist church up the road from our house has been quite busy these past couple of weeks. During Christmas weekend, we had the pleasure of attending not one, not two, but three services starting Friday night! And keep in mind these are not your typical get in and get out in an hour services. Oh no, we're

talking about 4-hour services, minimum, that can start late, go long and be conducted in multiple languages. The same thing is happening this weekend with the New Year celebration. How many folks in America are spending their New Year's Eve singing worship songs and listening to sermons?

My conscience won't allow me to brag about attending all these services, as it simply got to be a bit overwhelming two weekends in a row along with the other Fulbe services and celebrations we've been attending. Don't forget the constant onslaught of visitors, especially children, frequenting our door after these events. My balloon supply has nearly been depleted as our young neighbors chants for "bolabola" (i.e. balloons) have echoed at our doorstep for two weeks now. Once the floodgates have been opened, watch out!

Besides the time spent singing and dancing in church, the celebration continues late into the night at many compounds as many families

sing traditional songs in their native tongue to the beat of drums and traditional instruments. Sleep is a precious commodity these days as these events can last until the wee hours of the night.

All of this is not to say that we don't enjoy the emphasis on worship and church attendance during this special time of year. In fact, we find the example of our neighbors to be quite admirable. However, the old expression "quality not quantity" is as true here as it is back in America. As can be the case anywhere, it is easy for the true meaning of Christmas to be lost in the festivities and busyness. We pray that during this holiday season you have had time to be still and know God and reflect upon the amazing thing that has been accomplished through the birth of His son Jesus Christ and the gift He gave to us.