

MARCH MADNESS!

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



We know that for many of you the term “March Madness” invokes thoughts of basketball tournaments, brackets and lots of games on the big screen. For us in the African bush, these things neither exist nor are what the local population is interested in this time of year; the main talk of the town is about whether so-and-so’s mud block house will be completed before torrential rains wash it away!



Our neighbor, for example, started a little late this year and is now struggling to complete the metal roof before the rains really pound Banyo. To put things in perspective, our neighbor is the surgeon at the Banyo Baptist Hospital. He is a Cameroonian man in his 50’s from the Northwest Region who learned his surgical talents by observing other doctors early in his career. It turned out he was a natural with the knife in surgery and has completed countless successful operations here. Despite his unique talent and many lives

saved, he is struggling to find the means to even purchase the “zinc”, as the call it, to complete his roof.

Fortunately we have been able to complete all our “time-sensitive” projects in time, including our traditional house, or bukaarru, pictured above. Besides a place for meetings, it is also a pseudo guest house for our African visitors and we hope teams from America. Hopefully the idea of staying in a thatched mud block house is appealing to those of you entertaining the idea of visiting us in Cameroon!

The conference was a great time of fellowship, focusing and family time. It was encouraging to see all the work being done by this organization to reach other unreached people groups in Cameroon, include the Baka (or Pygmy) and Oroku. Chloe probably enjoyed the conference more than anyone as there was no lack of playmates for four days straight!



Our March activities also consisted of a trip to the capitol city 12 hours away to attend the annual World Team conference. We were invited by our colleagues, with whom we work closely here in Banyo in support of their church planting efforts amongst the Fulbe.



The Northington Newsletter

The Top Three...

Prayer Requests—Pray the Lord will provide...

Patience & perseverance in cross-cultural living	1
Strength for our Christian Fulbe friends who are now facing significant pressure from local leaders	2
Continued growth of the local Fulbe church	3

Prayers Answered

An open door for pursuing our long-term resident card through our Cameroonian NGO	1
Reconciliation with the contractor who had not completed our home as agreed	2
Perseverance of Fulbe families facing persecution from the local population in pursuit of their faith	3

Ministry Needs:

- Additional 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)

SPECIAL THANKS... goes to Four Oaks Community Church (our sending church) who raised funds for a water project last month at a church skate night!!! Check out this awesome promo video at <http://vimeo.com/19893170>

A LAND FLOWING IN MILK AND HONEY (WELL, AT LEAST HONEY...)

Thanks to our Pick-a-Project sponsors, we were able to add some new beehives to our apiary and collect honey from those we installed during our last term. One hive yielded 9.5 liters alone! African bees may be a bit aggressive, but they sure can make some good honey.

Although beekeeping is not a new concept to the Fulbe, the Kenya top bar hive (KTB hives pictured to the right and below) is. Traditionally, the local peoples believe hives must be installed far above the ground to be occupied, and their hives have only one way in and out. This makes harvest both difficult and very dangerous. Protective clothing and smokers are rarely utilized, and men are often injured as they attempt to



remove their sweet product in this environment.

In addition to the introduction of a new type of hive and method, we are also attempting to teach new techniques in regards to “baiting” the hive to attract bees, improved honey processing to develop a better product and beeswax production to potentially make candles and bait hives (see picture to the right).

In the future, we would like to begin a micro-financing project that would help interested beekeepers get started by providing them with the necessary tools and equipment to begin their own KTB hive apiary. As they produce honey, they can begin paying back the “loan”. Once

the equipment and hive have been reimbursed, additional hive “loans” can be made to grow their honey business.

If you would like to be a part of this effort, please visit our “Pick-a-Project” link on our website and click on the donate button under the KTB hive project description. Thanks again to those of you who have already contributed to helping us start this important means of supporting local families through a sustainable approach to honey production. It is an important source of revenue to the local Fulbe in an area where the opportunities to generate household income are very limited.



PYTHON ENCOUNTER

One of our neighbors happens to be a prolific hunter who often displays his most recent catch for all to see outside his door. Recently it happened to be this monstrous python. Don't worry grandparents, it



wasn't caught anywhere near the house. Although we are happy for one less snake to worry about, we also pray our Cameroonian neighbors will develop a sense of wildlife conservation as the animal population continues to decline throughout the country.



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**

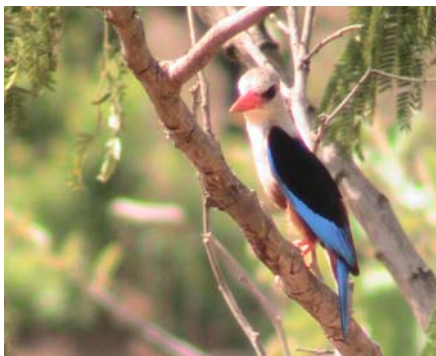
Thank you for partnering with us!

“Bees, trees, fowls and farm” has become Chad’s motto lately to describe recent efforts to find a means to help the local Fulbe believers support themselves through sustainable, small-scale agriculture. In partnership with our colleagues from World Team, our desire is to help

provide locally desirable products to stock a store that will be operated and maintained by the Fulbe in our community. These products would include our honey, eggs, fruits & vegetables and seedlings. Additionally, common local products would be available, like savon (i.e. soap), sugar and tea.



ours serving with the Peace Corps in a village we would pass on our way back. Although it was a terrible loss for our project, God had other intentions for these birds that became a massive feast for those that benefited that night in the village from our



No project undertaking goes without its share of failures, as can be seen in the picture to the right. If you don’t recognize the things under the cardboard, they are about 20 dead 5-week old chicks that didn’t survive the 12 hour ride from Bamenda due to heat exhaustion in the back of our vehicle. Although some were alive by the time we discovered the mass die-off, we still had 3 hours remaining of our trip. The decision was made to take the chicks to a friend of

(continued from above)

mishap. Our Peace Corps friend is probably a local hero now, too (:=

In regards to success stories, you will observe to the right completion of both our tree nursery and chick coop. We have already planted several tree varieties, including the nitrogen-fixing erythrina and acacia, two species of papaya, avocado, lemon and the protein-rich moringa.

Our small vegetable farm will be planted next to these once the rains arrive and make the soil tillable by hand. One of the greatest challenges in the Banyo region is the infertile soils that are prevalent in the Adamawa region. They are a highly acidic, clayey soil that lack organic content and the nutrients necessary to support productive plant

growth. We are pursuing various techniques that will be demonstrated on our small plot to encourage achievable methods of improving soil fertility, such as composting, the use of cow and “green” manures, crop rotation and agroforestry techniques.

Although the vast majority of the local population are farmers, many of these methods are unknown, and basic farming practices are not implemented as people struggle year-to-year to just produce a small crop to support their family and perhaps sell at the market in town for income. Small advances could go a very long ways towards improving the quality of life and health in this underdeveloped region.

“Give a man a fish, feed him for a day; Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime.”

- Chinese Proverb



HURRICANE FLASHBACK

If you don’t recognize the picture at the right, it’s probably because it is the twisted remains of what once was our neighbor’s metal roof. As the rainy season approaches, it is often marked by brief, violent storms where winds can approach hurricane force. We happened to miss this particular storm by about an hour as we were traveling back from the conference we attended this month. The damage throughout the community was extensive, including complete destruction of

our neighbor’s roof, partial damage to the church roof and others, and several fallen trees and scattered debris. We were blessed to find our home intact upon our return with the exception of water that had blown in through the windows and under the door. Chad was especially relieved to see the solar panels had survived their first “stress test”. Please pray for those families that are struggling to find the means to rebuild their roofs before the regular rains return in April.



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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 CORNER...

Travel in Cameroon—the pictures say it all...

