

SLOWLY BUT SURELY...

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



Time seems to move differently in Africa. Perhaps it's because we have broken the temporal chains that often bind us in America where it wasn't uncommon to have plans for the next several weeks and months laid out and every minute of our day accounted for on a meticulously ordered yearly planner. Admittedly we brought one of those simple pocket-size planners that only give you one page per a month and can be conveniently carried wherever you go. Looking at it now 6-months into our second term in Cameroon makes for a good laugh.

water table to recover from a strenuous dry season. It's quite a different approach when you consider our cultural instinct towards time is to always be looking ahead towards the next goal, the next promotion or the most highly sought after gem of the future—retirement. Although these elements are not lacking entirely from Cameroon, they don't play the same role as they do in America. We have come to accept progress as our benchmark for judging time. It's seems to make more sense to just verify that things are

The Northington Newsletter



This means "Good Store", where the Fulbe believers will sell local goods next to a small Fulbe-operated restaurant

Planning here can sometimes seem comical, if not futile. We often have a difficult time knowing what tomorrow will bring let alone next month or next year for that matter. It reminds me of the verse that says, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth." (Proverbs 27:1). That rings more true than ever as we learn to live in a culture that is very much focused on the present and today rather than what may happen tomorrow. It's understandable how this mindset prevails when we consider the daily challenges and struggles faced by the vast majority of our neighbors. We ourselves have learned not to take daily necessities for granted, like drinking water, which has become a precious and precarious commodity during this time of year as we transition into the rainy season but wait for the



moving in a forward direction in an environment where that is not necessarily the case. With progress as our guiding light, we are happy to say that much progress has been made in regards to the various Fulbe-related endeavors we are trying to support, including the construction of the youth hostel that will offer Fulbe children from remote "bush" locations to attend school in Banyo as well as the microfinance efforts with a combined store and restaurant that will be operated by the local Fulbe believers. Our farm is also moving forward but not without a few setbacks, as described in the preceding pages. Progress could probably also describe our language study, albeit at a snail's pace. And finally, we have witnessed progress in the most important area—our faith!

The Top Three...

Prayer Requests—Keep praying for...

A couple/family to take our place for 1-2 yrs during our next return State-side to continue ministry work

A good crop from our community farm to help support the Fulbe store and youth hostel

Multiplication of the Fulbe church

Prayers Answered—Thank the Lord for...

Continued financial and prayer support from our partners State-side. Thank you!!!

Deeper relationships with our Cameroonian neighbors and co-workers

Perseverance and patience with cross-cultural living

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... to those of you who have sent personal e-mails to us over the last month. We appreciate the insight and updates into your lives State-side as well as the updates on the state of the world and America!

PUBLIC ENEMIES!

When I gaze upon the half-eaten corn stalks and decimated legumes in our vegetable garden, I finally begin to understand why Jesus uses goats analogously in Matthew 25 to describe those who will go away to eternal punishment; it is the very thing I wish upon those most terrible of creatures who have wiped out weeks of growth in a single feeding. It is this behavior that has earned the local goat herd the title of "Public Enemy #1". The picture below demonstrates that this is a face only a mother could love. In Cameroon and many parts of Africa, the goat represents the closest thing one has to a retirement plan. There are



no 401(k)'s or IRA's, so the goat becomes the next best thing to playing the stock market. It is rare to see one eaten, and the milk is not something anyone would consider as a food source. But in difficult times, a goat can be sold or traded much like cashing in on a treasury note. The terrible irony is that the damage these monsters inflict on crops and generally anything that can be chewed can not be made up for through their sale. If they had a rate of return assigned to them, it would be negative.

But our reprehensible vegetable villains do not act alone; they are accompanied by their sidekicks the grasshopper and the chicken.

This year's grasshopper invasion seems to be of Biblical proportions as they ravaged both our beans and papaya trees. And then there's the scratching chicken, who loves a freshly planted bed to dig for insects and the seeds you just planted. This list of public enemies continues, but I'm sure you can see vegetable production in Africa is not something that comes naturally or easily. We may very well be eating a lot of goat, chicken and even grasshopper this year if their presence in our garden continues to be a regular occurrence!



WATER IS LIFE...

It is an expression you will hear often in Cameroon as you discuss the vital role water plays in sustaining us. The truth behind this simple statement has become painfully evident as we have continued to struggle with our water supply this month. Our community and thousands of Banyo residents are dependent upon the gravity flow water system on the mountain, and the mountain is dependent upon rainfall to replenish its depressed water table. As



the dry season has lingered and rains have been intermittent, the amount of water available has diminished. The pic to the left is the beginnings of a water storage tank stand that my helper Abel and I have begun this week in an effort to store a little extra water during those difficult times. We thank those of you who have provided additional funds to assist with these needs around our home and for our family. Water is life!

Partners in Missions with Chad & Tiffany & Chloe!

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 & FARM



Despite our encounters with the previously mentioned public enemies, work has continued in other areas of our farm co-operative. Pictured below are 16 new feathered arrivals. These 3-week old chicks will spend their days in a movable chicken “tractor”, which will allow them to scavenge for their protein while their



diet is supplemented by a little cracked corn and greens from our compost bucket. Our intent is to plump these fowl up to be sold at the Fulbe store. This method provides a low-input, low-cost alternative to the pricier layers that are being raised in a coop and fed their daily nutritional needs from a pre-mixed feed. The latter chickens will hopefully produce a steady flow of eggs also to stock the Fulbe “Kanti Jam” store.

To the right you will see the beginnings of our papaya plantation where about 100 seedlings are sprouting in our small tree nursery. We hope to add another 100 to this number to plant in a few months. We are attempting to introduce a different variety to the region, the “agric” papaya, which is popular in other regions of Cameroon. It is a smaller, sweeter variety that may offer a small niche



in the fruit market. It is difficult to get papaya started in our poor soils, so pray these little guys will grow up strong and fast to provide yet another product to support the Fulbe believers in our community.

(continued from above)

Prior to our departure in 2008, we also planted about a dozen banana trees behind the house. Due to numerous attacks from Public Enemies #1 and #2 over the last 3 years, they have struggled to survive after



continuously being eaten. With our return, we have been able to provide a little extra TLC and protection. We have beefed up our plantation with the addition of 28 plantain cuttings and 100 head of pineapple (pictured to the pics to the left and right). It will be 1-2 years before either of these begin to produce, but “He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.” (Proverbs 12:11). Pineapple is not typically grown in this region, so we are sure the demand will be great when the fruits of our labor begin to bare, literally...

**“So I saw that there is nothing better for people than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?”
- Ecclesiastes 3:22**



WTM PARTNERS WITH WORLD TEAM

The bulk of the work we have been involved in this term is in support of an existing ministry that was started far before our arrival in Banyo. The Lokker’s are our colleagues and dear friends who have faithfully grown the Fulbe ministry to what it is today. Their efforts have led to numerous advances in the spread of the Gospel among the Fulbe in addition to the various projects that help meet the felt needs of this people group. The hostel, restaurant and store are the re-

sult of their efforts, and we are honored to help support their ministry. We have recently taken that ministry partnership to the next level by pursuing a more formal relationship with their organization, World Team. We attended their annual conference in March, where we learned more about how the Unreached are being reached throughout Cameroon by the incredible members of this organization.



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>

CROSS-CULTURAL CORNER...MEET THE NEIGHBORS

Perhaps in America it is possible to live next to someone and not even know their name, but in Cameroon you know and are known by immediate and not-so-immediate neighbors. We consider this to be a blessing as we share our lives with those around us, including our closest neighbors, Meesa and Rahinatu along with their two boys, one dog, three sheep and four goats!

Meesa has served as our property caretaker both currently and during our absence. He has been vital in the sur-

vival of our trees and perhaps even our home as he has cut back the tall "elephant" grass that is burned during the dry season. If this grass is too close to homes and trees, they will be consumed in the inferno. Consequently a fire break is cut to provide a barrier between the grass and property. Meesa has also continued to provide support with the various projects around the house, too, like the construction of our mud block chicken coop, garden and bukkarru (i.e. thatched-roof round house for guests and storage). Currently he has taken on temporary work during the busy farming season where he is preparing fields "in the bush".

Meesa's and Rahinatu's thatched roof pictured to the right will be replaced with a longer-lasting and safer metal roof next year as some of the money he has earned while working for us will be put to good use in home improvements. The danger of fire igniting the grass roof weighs heavily on him, so we are happy to help contribute to this important upgrade.

