

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

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The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time and season for everything in life. This cyclical nature continues on through the generations and is common to us all. In a way, it binds us and connects us in way that transcends time and space as God unfolds His plan for our lives and the common elements that comprise this earthly existence as we know it. A time to be born and a time to die, to plant and uproot, to tear down and build, to mourn and dance, to be silent and to speak are but some of the extremes of the Ecclesiastic pendulum that have punctuated the rhythm of our lives here over the past month or so.

Certainly the most impactful event of our lives recently has been the loss of a colleague who was serving in the capitol, Yaoundé, and was very likely going to be joining our Banyo team assisting with the Fulbe ministry in the near future. However, a sudden illness that resulted in cardiac and respiratory failure ended in his unexpected death, which came as a shock to all of us.

We were also reminded of the fragility and blessing that life is when a baby of one of the Fulbe believers was brought into this world recently. Both nearly died as a result of complications during the labor, but a series of events that clearly demonstrated the hand of God led to a miraculous recovery of both the baby and mother. Without going into all the details of the story, it will suffice to summarize some of the highlights, which involved a phone that had just been given to the father and typically would not have network in his compound, an emergency “ambulance” visit by our colleagues and Tiffany to pick up the mother and child, and a missionary who passed out while trying to give blood for the mother who will remain nameless as he types this newsletter...

Chad has learned that there are many times he should just be silent rather than speak as many things have become lost in translation recently and would have been better left unspoken.

The Ecclesiastic theme of planting and uprooting has also been truer than ever as we have continued to plant in hopes of creating a Fulbe co-operative farm to support their soon-to-open store and the goats and chickens have continued to uproot! Construction of a live fence recently will hopefully end this particular cycle.

As for tearing down and building, we have seen the damage inflicted to many homes near us this year due to heavy winds and rains while simultaneously continuing the construction of our own home and the Fulbe youth hostel. With the recent departure of our World Team colleagues until next year, Chad has taken over the “project management” of several of their ministry efforts, which is a rather familiar role although quite different from a cultural standpoint in Cameroon. In some ways we find our ministry metaphorically being torn down and rebuilt as we head in new, exciting and very challenging directions that have taken quite a distance from water, health and appropriate technology.

It has also been a time to mourn as well as dance. The passing of our neighbor and friend last month after a stroke impacted many in our community and beyond. We also rejoiced and danced with our workers as we celebrated the Cameroonian labor day and hosted our own version of “worker appreciation day”.

In short, King Solomon’s words about a season for everything have been intimately lived out in our own lives in rather extreme ways since our last communication. These events have been some of the most difficult and most fulfilling times we have experienced here. Continue to pray for perseverance as we ride the ups and downs of the Ecclesiastic roller coaster.

WORLD TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIES

The Northington Newsletter

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
- Mass extinction of goats from Cameroon—just kidding, sort of. At least a hedge of protection around our farm!
- Perseverance through the extremes of African life

Prayers Answered—Thank the Lord for...

- A possible solution to our need for a mobile drill rig
- Clarity and direction regarding the next steps in ministry
- Love and encouragement that continues to flow from you all

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) - but we may have a solution...

SPECIAL THANKS... to those of you who provided a financial “boost” to us last month and helped us move forward on some projects that have been on the back burner.

REFUGEE OUTREACH

During our first term in 2008, we partnered with several organizations to provide relief to refugee villages in eastern Cameroon. Civil unrest in adjacent Central Africa Republic had driven them from their homes and lives with essentially nothing. Starting from scratch, these villages have grown in number over the last few years as they have worked to create sustainable communities with assistance from small organizations like ourselves as well as aid from international organizations, like the United Nations refugee relief arm, UNHRC.

Amongst these refugees there were some unique Fulbe who followed Jesus as “the Way” but still



lacked a fuller understanding of Biblical truth. They have continued to be taught over the last few years by Cameroonian national missionaries and evangelists and have grown immensely in their understanding of scripture and faith. Likewise, their physical health has vastly improved as they have continued to adapt to a more agrarian lifestyle. One of the villages where we had installed the well pictured to the left had grown from less than 100 to over 300 inhabitants.

The pursuit of truth for these former refugees has not come without struggles or trials. Persecution from local leaders has intensified recently. However, the believers have stood firm and even organized a regional conference last month to support and encourage one another. As an attendee of the conference, Chad was able to see how the themes of loving one another, following our faith with deeds and receiving a good education to be able to study the Bible more fully permeated the 2-day gathering. The importance of this conference is not to be underestimated as participants came from numerous villages to

openly declare that knowledge and sharing of truth is the greatest gift we have in this life.

The conference also afforded an opportunity to distribute start-up funds for several microfinance projects that had been given through NAB. The projects included grinding mills, small stores and cattle. Village leaders who had demonstrated good character, business sense and Christian values were hand-picked to begin the projects, which will not only support their families but also others in the village as needs arise. Our friends are still in need of oxen for their plough if you would like to help.



MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE FAMILY...

Perhaps the vague resemblance to Chad is identifiable in the picture to the right of the most recent addition to our family—Betsyatu, the Africanized version of Betsy. Several years ago a Fulbe ministry herd was started as a pseudo-microfinance project that would provide a source of income when necessary through the selling off of herd members. Last month we made a contribution to



the herd, this fine specimen of a local “bush” cow, who we hope will multiply the herd numbers and be fruitful. Also pray for the herd caretaker, who is not a believer but has frequent contact with us and others as he provides reports on the status of the animals and picks up medicine for vaccinations. Cattle ownership can be fairly lucrative in this part of Cameroon, but herd growth takes time. We don’t expect to have “cattle on a thousand hills” any time soon, but a few cattle on one hill

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



Few things in life are probably more satisfying, challenging and downright frustrating as farming. Our share of successes and failures seem to be divided as we strive to create a Fulbe farm cooperative to provide products to sell locally and support the Fulbe church long-term through sustainable efforts.



Unreliable rains, poor soils, “public enemies” as described in our last newsletter and illness have hindered our efforts, but the first fruits (actually vegetables) of our labor are starting to bare just in time for the much-anticipated opening of our store, Kanti Jam (i.e. the Good Store). A little cabbage, carrots and beans will join the list of products that includes rice, sugar, soap, cooking oil and other daily provisions.

The addition of the “live fence” pictured to the left will help deter some of our unwanted guests who have been the first to enjoy the crops of Ngesa Nuddinki (Faith Field). The picture to the right shows some of the papaya seedlings we have grown in our nursery that are ready to be transplanted to the papaya plantation this month to allow some



time for maturity and “hardening” during the rainy season these next few months.

We suffered another chicken loss after a bacterial infection swept through our older chickens and took out several of them. It is difficult to

(continued from above)

separate the domesticated animals from the hardier and often disease-stricken local animals that wander freely from one compound to the next, often bringing illness along the way. There is also a large learn-



ing curve as we try to instruct workers on proper handling and care of these animals that will produce better meat and eggs but require more maintenance. We hope with the next generation of farmers, like our friend pictured to the right, new methods will be implemented and understood that will improve the quality of their lives through better income and health.

Please pray for continued successes and fewer failures as we strive to both be an example of alternate approaches to the local community while trying to support our Fulbe friends.

**“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven”
- Ecclesiastes 3:1**



WORKER APPRECIATION DAY

Labor Day is also a recognized holiday in Cameroon, although it looks quite different than our own. Instead of packing up the family for a long-weekend, workers gather together at the community centers to celebrate the fact that they are actually employed as they march together with sign boards signifying their employer while dressing in coordinated outfits to show their unity as employees of the same enterprise.

We took this opportunity to have a sort of “worker appreciation day” for all those who helped make our home a home the last several months. Food and fun were had by all as we enjoyed traditional food and had a showing of “The Little Mermaid” for the many children that attended on our portable DVD player. Such celebration of employment is one of those things where we were reminded of the blessing that work is and not something to be taken for granted.



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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!

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CROSS-CULTURAL CORNER—A CAMEROONIAN WEDDING

We had the privilege this month of attending the wedding of a Cameroonian pastor friend from the English-speaking Northwest Province. We have been following and supporting his ministry since Chad's first visit to Cameroon in 2005, and it was a true pleasure to see both his ministry and family growing.

It was also an interesting cross-cultural experience as we witnessed the blending of Western and African cultures into a traditionally Western event. The "modern" Cameroonian wedding very much resembles the traditional American wedding, although it is becoming more and more difficult to describe a traditional wedding in the U.S. Even our own was on a Florida beach rather than a church, which came as a bit of a shock to some wedding guests as we described our own special occasion.

Much like today's American weddings, the Cameroonian wedding is a major financial drain to the newly weds, and perhaps even more so than what is common in the States. We have heard of

couples saving 1 to 2 years of their wages to pay for the event.

Much like other major celebrations in Cameroon, the event started neither on time nor was short by any means. We were happy that the wedding was also on "African Time" because the 4 hour journey there for us and a few treacherous spots on the road would have made us late. Instead we arrived in time to pick up the other



family members in our vehicle as there was only one other car, and that was used to pick up the bride and the bride's maids.

The ceremony itself was 4 hours long and included numerous songs, a full sermon, recogni-



tion of ALL the guests, and lots of dancing and clapping by everyone.

Our visit to the Northwest afforded us the opportunity for a small break from Banyo and a short stay at a rest house in a mountainous and lush area of Cameroon. After six months in the "bush", we agreed it was about time for a short escape to re-energize, refocus and rest. Life in African community offers few opportunities to slow down and break away as we have daily visitors that arrive unannounced at any time in addition to our normal activities. We don't have weekends like we would in America to unwind, and the constant activity can really wear you down after sometime. As you can see from the pictures, we're feeling refreshed!