

LOOKING BACK TO LOOK AHEAD...

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



There are moments in our lives when it seems the only way for us to look forward is to look back. By turning to those defining moments in our lives during times of uncertainty about the future allows us to put things back in perspective and refresh our body, mind and soul when they are perhaps weary or searching for the next step forward.

God orchestrated one of those “look back” moments this Christmas season with the arrival of our friend, mentor and fellow Four Oaker from our church in Tallahassee, Mike Andrus. Mike had previously served in Cameroon as a missionary himself along with his family ministering in the area of literacy among the Noni people of Northwest Cameroon as part of a larger Bible translation project.

Mike had returned to Cameroon this week after the culmination of 17 years of joint effort by numerous organizations and individuals had resulted in the complete translation of the New Testament in the

Noni language. This was a very special moment for Mike and many others who ventured across the ocean to partake in the Bible dedication.

For myself, it was a special occasion for a different reason. Almost 7 years ago to the week I had the opportunity to go on my first mission trip with Four Oaks Community Church. That trip took me to the very village where that dedication was now taking place. That visit had changed the entire course of my life. It marked the moment that I witnessed the fusion of spiritual, physical and social needs being met through this thing we call missions, and it started a journey that has not ended. It was in this place that the seed for WTM was planted, and the vision for meeting the needs of others through transformational development was born.

Venturing back to this part of Cameroon after a grueling 21-hour bush taxi ride from Banyo was like a flashback. The memory of being there 7



WORLD TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIES

The Northington Newsletter

The Top Three...

Prayer Requests—Keep praying for...

Arrival of our drilling rig by the end of the year and a merciful customs

Fulbe leadership in the church as they “spread their wings”

Prayers Answered—Thank the Lord for...

Arrival of our drill rig in Douala where it awaits payment of customs.

The Fulbe radio station Sawtu Jam Jamanu is officially broadcasting in the community and sharing the Gospel

The beginning of a long-awaited radio ministry in our community

Ministry Needs:

- We are seeking additional support to pay the customs for our portable drill rig that is now at the port in Douala.
- “Pick-a-Project” sponsors for items we have in our Resource Center, like biosand filters, fuel-efficient cook stoves, solar lights and Kenya Top Bar beehives. And we’re always looking for water project sponsors!

SPECIAL THANKS... to a number of people who have made this a special Christmas for Chloe through their generous presents sent via Care Packages over the last two months. Our little tree is exploding with packets of love for Chloe that will make this second Christmas in Cameroon a very exciting one for her!

years earlier brought back many of the same emotions I had felt during that first visit. I recalled the passion I had felt to put the vision in action and the sense of calling that was suddenly on my life.

Fast forwarding to the present, I felt like my soul had been refreshed by this journey back in time, and my passion had been rekindled. The time spent with Mike was also an opportunity to process some of the events of the last year with an understanding and attentive ear.

During this special season, we must also look back on the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, Jesus Christ, and also remember that defining moment in history when He offered up Himself on a cross for the sins and salvation of the world. By reflecting on our spiritual past we can move forward to another year full of vision, passion and excitement for our spiritual future—both here and in heaven. From our family to yours, have a very Merry CHRIST-mas!



Mike offers up words of encouragement and tokens of appreciation to the Noni translation team during a small celebration for them and their families.

Looking for water...

In anticipation of installing a well in the near future at our home, we attempted to find the water table before the arrival of our drill rig by using a hand auger system (see photo on the right). We were relieved to find water at 13 meters (i.e. about 40 feet). Not only that—we got a great upper body workout as we pulled up 3 foot sections of hand auger for several hours as we emptied one bucket of soil after another



as we probed deeper into the earth. Although our drill rig has arrived in the port city of Douala, we are still struggling to cover the astronomical customs costs. If you're looking for somewhere to give that end-of-year donation, we would be happy to put it to good use(= Several water projects are waiting on this drill rig to move forward before we depart Cameroon this upcoming year.

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.

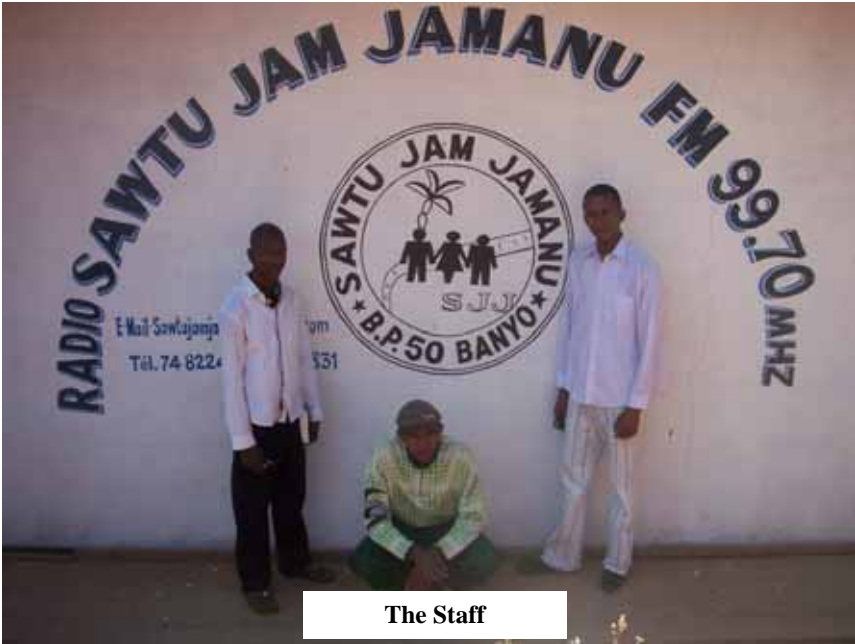
If you would like to support a specific project or missionary need, please peruse our "Pick a Project" page with descriptions of specific projects, their geographic location, people group and required funding amount.

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!

Sawtu Jam Jamanu 99.7 FM, or “The Good Voice of the Generations”, is officially broadcasting across the Banyo airwaves after the inauguration on December 22nd. This is the first station of its kind in this region of the remote Adamawa Province, and it was well received by the community and local leadership, including the king and government representatives during inaugural activities.

Now the challenge of developing community programming begins. Please pray for the men pictured to the right as they step forward in faith on a journey that will provide light in the darkness, but not without difficulties or opposition as the Gospel message begins to reach the masses in a community where Islam dominates most aspects of life for community at large. The programming will also provide a platform for discussing community development, local events, social awareness and other important topics for this region. We’re excited to see what the future holds for 99.7 FM.



The Staff

THE FAMILY’S NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE

It appears this may become a regular column in the newsletter now although we hope there won’t be any more material for this particular section. If you recall, last month’s addition included a story of a harrowing experience with a horse at a local traditional event that could have gone very bad had God’s hand not been on Chloe. Another event over Thanksgiving causes us to pause and once again give thanks for our continued health and safety in an environment that often presents some unique experiences.

This particular near-death African experience happened on Thanksgiving day. Tiffany and I were preparing to host our colleagues and three of their visitors from

the States that were staying with them for several weeks. We wanted to make them (and ourselves) feel at home on Turkey day the best we could, so we had attempted to prepare not just one, but two chickens (no small feat after all the slaughtering, plucking and cleaning) and other treats unique to the holiday.

In the midst of frantically working around our butane-fired stove (you can get butane bottles in the bigger cities here, much like our propane), one of the knobs came off as Tiffany was adjusting the burner flame while I was putting our birds in the oven. Unfortunately it wasn’t just the knob that came off; it was followed by all the internal parts and pieces

“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”
- Hebrews 12:1-2

that essentially stop gas from flowing freely from this opening. With no hindrance to flow, the flame immediately found a new exit instead of the burner and shot out like a flame thrower horizontally right at Tiffany!

I had been crouched down next to her and suddenly felt the hair on my head being singed as I stared in disbelief at the fountain of fire that was now protruding from our once benign stove. A panic ensued on both our parts as things once again entered that slow motion phase when things go terribly wrong and the next course of action is uncertain. I finally came to as Tiffany started yelling back

(continued from above)

to me across the flame, “What do I do?”. I quickly told her to shut off the gas, but she didn’t realize I meant the gas bottle under the sink. I made a mad dash around the flame and yelled for Tiffany and Chloe to leave the house. I fumbled around under the sink just adjacent to the fire and managed to turn the gas valve off and quench the fire. We stared in disbelief at the now serene-looking scene of the accident. A little investigation led to the discovery that a

small screw had come lose inside causing everything to fall apart all at once. Another frantic moment followed as we realized our guests would soon be on their way and we would have to take the stove completely apart to get it operable again and complete our feast.

Recounting the story to our guests later that night, we realized there was no explanation for Tiffany’s clothes not catching fire except that the hand, or should we say fire extinguisher, of God was involved. The scene of the latest near-fatal accident is pictured to the right.



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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—Christmas in Cameroon

