

## WATER IS LIFE!

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



Water is life—it’s an expression you hear often here when the subject of drinking water comes up, and it couldn’t be more true. However, I sometimes correct those who use this expression and say, “Clean water is life.” It is not an uncommon practice to see members in our community drinking water straight from a muddy river or hand dug well inappropriately located next to a latrine. It is difficult to measure the amount of illness and death that is the indirect or direct result of consuming contaminated water, but there is no doubt that it is significant. The connection between water-borne illness and dirty water is one that is rela-

tively unknown in this underdeveloped region of the country, and education is a slow process.

For these reasons and more, it is with great joy that I am able to tell our ministry partners that our drill rig has finally arrived after nearly a year of challenges and obstacles. The ability to reach a clean groundwater source for drinking water is of utmost importance, and this mud rotary rig will now allow us to do this. The fruits of this labor are pictured below—Fulbe youth who will drink clean water as they stay



### The Top Three...

#### Prayer Requests—Keep praying for...

Good water production in the two wells we installed this month. One of them is not as deep as hoped, but still has potential.

Continued passion and perseverance in our ministry and lives such that they would be examples to our community

Wisdom and courage as we prepare to return home the next few months with many unknowns & transitions ahead

#### Prayers Answered—Thank the Lord for...

Success in retrieving our drill rig from customs in Douala despite the great challenges

Safe return of our World Team colleagues and their encouragement as partners in Fulbe ministry

Chloe’s quick recovery from malaria this month and Tiffany’s quick diagnosis that stopped it from being worse than it was

#### Ministry Needs:

- Now that we have a drill rig, the opportunities are endless! Please contact us if you or your church would like to assist with a well installation in Cameroon.
- “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 several individuals and churches whose contributions to the drill rig made it become a reality after nearly a year of effort. Your faithfulness has brought clean water and spiritual water to places it did not exist before and will continue to bring water and the Gospel message to others

at the local youth hostel, one of the two well projects completed this month in our community. This particular well proved to be a significant challenge after we encountered a very hard and thick bedrock layer 50 feet below the surface. We were only able to go another 12 feet into the rock after two days of drilling and running out of materials. We are still uncertain whether or not the well will produce abundant water until we are able to pump from it, but there are signs that the rock layer is fissured and producing some water.

Our second well project was a great success after reaching water at 45 feet below the surface and continuing another 40 feet where we reached a bedrock layer at 85 feet down. Both of these wells are in need of a manual pump and sponsors, so please contact us if you would like to assist with this need.

The young men pictured to the right are our first well drilling team. Prior to beginning the actual work, these men spent a week in an



**The Six-to-Six drilling team who were recently trained in Banyo and successfully installed our first two wells under Chad's guidance.**

## The Fulbe Youth Hostel

The distance to reach a school is often a deciding factor "in the bush" regarding whether or not a child goes to school. There are no school buses or regular transport to ensure each child has an equal opportunity to receive an education. In an effort to eliminate this factor for certain Fulbe children in our area, our colleagues built the youth hostel pictured to the right for families that wanted to send their children to



school in Banyo but were too far away to feasibly do so. The hostel also provides an opportunity for the children to be exposed to a Christian worldview through the words and actions of those they encounter during their stay in our community. This is the site one of the two recently installed wells that we hope will help ensure good health for the children during their stay as well as a regular supply of water in an area that often suffers from water shortages.

## 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](http://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!

# Water is Life! (continued from page 2)



intensive “crash course” on drilling techniques, hydrogeological principles and other related subjects with the hope that they will continue the water work upon our departure this year. The team calls themselves “Six-to-Six” because of their reputation for working from sunup to sundown—an uncommon quality for workers here (more on that in the Cross Cultural Corner).

We can’t thank those of you participated in this effort enough. We look forward to continued projects and partnerships as we strive to bring physical and spiritual water to places in need of both.

Thank you!



## Mt. Djumbal and a Little Banyo History

The savannah-covered plateau we live on is broken up by a feature known as Mt. Djumbal, which stretches up about another 2000 feet above the surrounding terrain. Besides creating a nice landscape feature and serving as the source of our spring-fed water, the mountain is also home to a little Banyo history that can be admired after a half-day trek.

Nearly a century ago, the Germans occupied this part of Cameroon and had begun developing the region. It’s hard to imagine that there was a Western presence that long ago when one observes the state of underdevelopment that continues to persist today, but a few remnants of this European presence re-

main upon close observation. In the “Administrative Quarter” of Banyo, a mango-lined street still winds its way through the various government buildings, some of which were actually constructed by the Germans who used fired bricks that we are familiar with versus the more common mud blocks that make up the primary component in home construction here today.

On top of the mountain, however, you will find some unexpected features that date back to the World War I era. It was during that time that the Germans fled to the summit with the invasion of the allies. They fortified the area with several structures

**“Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:13-14**



that still stand today, including the machine gun nest pictured to the left that overlooks our community and beyond. There are also several makeshift rock structures that housed the soldiers during their defense of the territory, as evidenced by the small slots in the rocks where their guns would protrude in anticipation of any intruders. A rock and cement cistern still stands near the structures where water was collected.

We were able to share this slice of local history with some World Team colleagues who paid us a visit this month. Like us,

they are working to reach the Unreached in another part of Cameroon among the pygmy people in the more lush and jungle-like southeast of the country. It was an encouragement and pleasure to share a bit of our lives and ministry with these colleagues, as we don’t receive many visitors in this part of the country due to the unforgiving roads and time to make the trip. We like to think of our town as a hidden jewel tucked away in the remote Adamawa Region. We hope to one day share our jewel with some of you one day if God should put such a desire to visit on your heart.

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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—Work in Our Community**

Differences in attitudes towards work has been, and will probably remain, one of Chad's greatest struggles in cultural assimilation. Going from a place where our work often defines us to a place where it is often avoided puts us on the opposite end of the work spectrum.

The familiar "9 to 5" is not a part of the work world here, which is why the fact that our drilling team calls themselves "6 to 6" is a bit ironic; it goes to show how rare it is to have a business that puts in such long days. Their tendency to do it from time-to-time has led them to define themselves by this intermittent quality, even if it isn't true all the time. These men are actually not from this region and reflect a greater affinity towards work that is generally found in other more developed parts of the country.

You won't find folks working by the hour here or complaining about their hourly wage as this is a rather foreign concept that we have attempted unsuccessfully

several times early on in our time here. Typically work is defined by the project and treated as "lump sum" regardless of how slowly or quickly the work is completed once the project has been negotiated.

Gender inequalities are also glaringly evident in the realm of work here where the women often take on the bulk of the workload for the household and men have a lot of "leisure time". This varies from people group to people group, but is an obvious element of the Fulbe culture in which we work. Likewise, the work roles are well-defined, and there are numerous work tasks that are considered inappropriate for women. It is unusual to see a Fulbe woman running her own business although we have several prominent business women in town from other parts of the country that operate stores, restaurants, etc.

Perhaps the greatest challenge sometimes faced is the lack of accountability and liability when work is not done correctly or

even at all. There are no contracts or formal agreements that ensure there are consequences for failure to do what has been promised. And if an advance or payment has been given for the work, don't expect it will be returned. In a society that works on cash only, the use of funds inappropriately or for other purposes is not an uncommon occurrence either. Often a family situation or previous debt owed becomes a greater priority than using the funds toward their original purpose.

Despite some of these drawbacks in trying to understand work in our community, there are also numerous advantages to the way our neighbors approach their work and jobs. There certainly is a much lower level of stress that is often a byproduct of the incessant Western push for higher productivity and efficiency. Work is also very relational in nature, and the relationship often is viewed as more important than the success or failure of a particular project. I suppose this could be an advantage or disadvantage depending on which side of the project you are on...