



The Northington Newsletter

A Time of Transition



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

It's truly hard to believe an entire 3 months have passed since our return to our homeland. Africa seems distant from us most days, but it always remains close to our hearts. We have only just begun to digest our experiences over the past two years as we prepared and finally left for our first term of overseas ministry. It seems like we lived an entire lifetime in that brief window of our lives, but we know it was only the beginning of something for which God had been preparing us. Now a new chapter begins as we look forward to the future of this ministry and the hope of the possibilities.

The transition back to life in the States has not come without its share of challenges and frustrations. It's amazing how much can happen in a year. During our absence, the state of our country, and even the world, seemed to have been altered. Our own state seems to have been altered as well as we developed new perspectives during our time in Africa causing us to

look at our world differently.

Yet at the same time we were shocked, perhaps even disturbed, by how quickly the busyness of America consumed our time and thoughts. Much like our initial transition to life in Cameroon, we were bombarded by conflicting emotions as we tried to make sense of things we had forgotten about our own culture or no longer understood in light of our experiences. Although we cherished the creature comforts of the developed world, we felt shame for our wastefulness and lapse back into consumerism. The joy of smooth roads again was exhilarating, but the excessiveness of the oversized American vehicles and lack of public transport was perplexing. We struggled to understand how a country so rich and powerful now found itself on the brink of another great depression. We failed to understand how there could be so many people and so few relationships. The contrasts were overwhelming.

Our time overseas had come at

the cost of several sacrifices, including the abandonment of our jobs and depletion of our savings. These were to be expected. However, we did not expect to encounter the changed economic state that confronted us. For a brief period, we found ourselves jobless and homeless—a place we did not expect to be in upon our return. Our situation was further complicated by the fact Tiffany was pregnant, and our health insurance had ended with our term of service. When we thought the situation would not get any worse, we had a miscarriage.

I don't share these things with you because we are in search of sympathy or to depress you. We thought our greatest struggles would come in Cameroon, but we found God continuing to mature us in the U.S. as we faced some of our greatest physical, emotional and spiritual challenges right at home. We were taken to new territory as we were reminded of how much things are out of our control even in an environment where

we thought we were "in control" again. Our greatest time of instability came when we desired stability the most. Our greatest disappointment came immediately after our greatest moment of joy. Our greatest test of faith came when we thought it had already been tested.

God uses whatever circumstances we may find ourselves in to bring us closer to Him. Al-

though we may want to look at our lives as phases of God working more and then less, He is always at work in us. We were reminded that God uses our experiences to impact us just as much as He uses us to impact others through those experiences. We often tell others we are normal people following the same extraordinary call He has bestowed upon us all. We can only hope that our stories and

experiences will be an encouragement to others to step beyond their spiritual comfort zones to see how much more God can use us when we are willing to let Him. The cost is great, but the rewards are far greater. And by the way, don't worry—we are neither homeless nor jobless at the moment, and we're looking forward to the next attempt at a baby(=)

The Top Three...

Prayer Requests—Pray the Lord will provide...

A smooth transition back to American culture	1
Perseverance as we develop Transformational Min.	2
Keep praying the Lord will bless us with a child	3

Prayers Answered

Safe travels back to the United States	1
Employment as we begin tent-making for ministry \$	2
Clarity and direction for the future of our ministry	3

Ministry Needs:

- *Keep an eye out for our "Pick a Project" list on our web page Donation Page (still in the development stage) for opportunities to partner with WTM*
- *A web page specialist to help us with maintaining our web site*
- *Researchers and writers to find grant opportunities that would allow us to bridge physical and spiritual needs*
- *Continued prayer and financial ministry support*

What's Next for World Transformational Ministries? The WTM Vision

This has been a common question for us now that we're back and one we have spent a great deal of time contemplating. Our experience in Cameroon taught us a great deal about ourselves and the logistics of running a ministry. One important lesson we learned during that time is that we don't necessarily fit the typical career missionary model. We also learned that the world is changing rapidly and a need for new ministry approaches has surfaced. Our exposure to numerous ministry models has helped us shape our own, and it has taken the form of World Transformational Ministries (WTM). To give you a better idea of what WTM is all about, we have begun developing a vision statement to clarify our mission and focus. Here's a taste of that vision:

Transformation is the desired result in all of WTM's endeavors. Lasting external change in the human condition is not possible without first being preceded by internal transformation. Internal transformation through the power of the Gospel results in a renewing of the mind and, consequently, a renewing of the state of the world. Serving as servants of others and stewards of God's creation, WTM strives to demonstrate the Gospel contemporaneously in both word and deed.

Sustainable development is the meeting of a community's basic needs without hindering the ability of the next generation to meet those needs. This is accomplished through the application of appropriate technologies and methods that take the local resources, knowledge and goals into consideration during the development process. The combined effect of sustainable development through appropriate technologies implemented through Biblical principles has the power to transform entire communities and bring them to saving faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

WTM focuses its resources on the unreached. However, the definition of unreached is broader than that typically used in missions circles today. In addition to people groups lacking an indigenous church and group of nationals capable of evangelizing their respective people group, unreached peoples also include fellow brothers and sisters in Christ lacking access to basic physical needs and spiritual resources as well as fellow workers requiring support, assistance and encouragement in their respective ministries.

WTM members focus on felt needs in areas such as water supply and distribution, health care, education, agroforestry, microfinancing and appropriate technology. By providing felt needs ministries, members of WTM can:

- build bridges to communities where the Gospel is unknown in order to pave the way for further discipling and church planting efforts;
- provide for the needs of Christian communities in underdeveloped countries where members of the community can be more effective in evangelizing local unreached groups if their own basic needs are met, and;
- support existing ministries.

WTM believes that all Christians must ask themselves what their role is in accomplishing this task, whether it is in going or sending. Although local ministries are necessary, WTM believes the greatest impact can be in underdeveloped nations where access to the Gospel is limited or non-existent and physical, social and spiritual needs are the greatest.

WTM seeks strategic partnerships with organizations, churches and individuals who share their vision and passion to reach the unreached. Alliances with nationals in targeted ministry locations provide continuity and longevity to efforts overseas. Ministry partnerships with churches create opportunities to fill needs that may be lacking within the church's existing resources. Strategic partnerships with other organizations allows for the sharing of resources and expansion of existing ministries.

Ongoing Projects—Water System Expansion—Anjin, Cameroon

Although we're currently Stateside, there are still opportunities to connect resources with projects. During our first year in Cameroon, we developed an extensive network of people and projects. With the world growing smaller everyday through technologies like the internet and cell phone, we can still reach the unreached from this side of the Atlantic.



One such example is an ongoing water expansion project in the remote village of Anjin. Through a partnership with a church in South Dakota, WTM is able to coordinate the project to provide clean water to our Cameroonian brothers and sisters in the English-speaking Northwest Province. The latest addition will help bring water to their Christian schools and their students.

Partners in Missions with Chad & Tiffany Northington



While State-side, we are continuing our support-raising efforts. Donations received are collected in a ministry-dedicated account and saved for ministry projects upon our return to the field. We are in need of both monthly supporters as well as project-related gifts.

I have modified our home page to allow for a monthly "subscription" for various gift amounts. It is done securely through PayPal, and a receipt is issued electronically. Visit our home page at www.transformationalministries.com and scroll down to the Donation section with the yellow buttons. Click on your monthly support amount to be taken to the PayPal link. One-time contributions are also welcome. If you would like a project-specific project, please keep watching our web site Donation Page for a list of ministry projects needing your support or let us know of you desire to provide a project-specific gift.

If you have any problems with submitting your gift online, please contact us. Thank you for partnering with us!

If you prefer not to do it this way, please let us know. Thank

The Pick a Project Vision

Some of you may already be familiar with charitable ministries like Heifer International which offer a gift catalog to allow donors to pick specific items they would like to donate rather than just providing a monetary gift. In their case, they allow donors to choose from a variety of animals and gift baskets. WTM would like to develop a similar approach called "Pick a Project" where you would have the opportunity to choose a specific project or item in the areas of water, health care or appropriate technology. For example, an individual or church could choose a hand dug water well project in the Adamawa Province for the Fulbe people in a specific village location. Alternatively, donors could choose from



Imagine Resource Centers like this one across the developing world bridging the gap between technology and the Gospel

a vast array of appropriate technologies we specialize in, including biosand filters, Kenya Top Bar beehives, rainwater

catchment systems, small-scale solar power units, fuel-efficient cook stoves, small-scale tree nurseries and more.

Our grand vision is a network of resource centers across the developing world that combine these technologies with hands-on demonstrations, teaching and the Gospel message. Word and deed come together at these resource centers. Community members that may otherwise have no exposure to the Gospel encounter it here while simultaneously being introduced to new ways of meeting their basic physical needs. It is an especially effective tool in Muslim communities. Centers like the one pictured here would also be included in our "Pick a Project" catalogs.

Following in Paul's footsteps...

Tentmaking, in general, refers to the activities of any Christian who, while functioning as a minister, receives little or no pay for his or her church work, and supports him or herself by additional, unrelated work. Specifically, tentmaking can also refer to a method of international Christian evangelism in which missionaries support themselves by working full time in the marketplace with their skills and education, instead of receiving financial support from a church. The term comes from the fact that the apostle Paul supported himself by making tents while living and preaching in Corinth (Acts 18:3).



Chad serves as the project engineer at this hazardous waste site.

In these challenging and uncertain economic times, we believe this Biblical approach is more appropriate than ever. We have witnessed first-hand how some

"and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them."

- Acts 18:3

missionaries have been forced to leave the field or never even arrive for financial reasons. We also find many people are unaware of the costs associated with conducting a ministry overseas. In our case, we discovered it cost more to live overseas, even in Africa, than it did to live in the U.S. This was contributed mainly to things like higher insurance costs, additional taxes and organizational administrative fees.

Consequently, we have chosen to pursue a tentmaking ministry path that would allow us to raise some of our own living expenses such that a much greater percentage of donor gifts can be applied directly to ministry proj-



Large diameter augers removes contaminated soils up to 40' below the surface.

ects rather than overhead. Both of us have chosen professions that honor God by serving as servants of others and stewards of creation. Chad is an environmental engineer who is currently serving as the project engineer for a hazardous waste site in Largo, Florida where soil and groundwater have been impacted by solvents and resins disposed of in drums during the operation of a nuclear weapons component production facility. Tiffany is a registered nurse who is currently teaching licensed practical nursing students at a local college.

It is our hope that the surplus income we generate during this "furlough" period will cover our living expenses while overseas during our next term. We are also not living on donor support during this time so that gifts can be saved in a ministry account until we depart again for the field. Our desire is to be wise stewards of the gifts God has given us as well as the gifts you have given us. Please pray we will be able to balance this lifestyle between America and wherever God leads us.

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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>

Planning our course...

One of my favorite verses in Proverbs is "In their hearts human beings plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." (16:3) This time home is an important period of planning and putting things in order for our return. As our network of people, churches, ministries and resources grows, so do the number of opportunities (and decisions) that confront us.

We have sensed the direction of our ministry heading towards an increased number of geographic locations for shorter periods of time (i.e. from 3-6 month stays). Although we want to continue our ministry in Cameroon amongst the Fulbe people and our colleagues there, we have also been presented with two incredible opportunities to partner with existing ministries in Uganda

The first opportunity is in northern Uganda where a missionary couple we know personally are serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in an effort to develop a written language for the Ik people in order to share the Gospel in their heart language. The Ik people are caught between warring tribes and are often the innocent victims of the

conflict. Their proximity to the fighting has also placed this couple in the middle of the conflict on several occasions. We are taught in Romans 12:21 to overcome evil with good. This couple and community is in desperate need of a good water source, and it is our hope that we can assist with this need while building a bridge to the community through practical demonstration of the love of Christ.

Our second opportunity in Uganda is with the local church we attend here in Tampa. During our term overseas, the church became involved in a project called "Village of Hope". Decades of genocide in Uganda has resulted in an entire generation of orphans being raised by other orphans. Everyday is a struggle to survive as they seek food, shelter and water. Besides the physical struggles, they face daily emotional and spiritual struggles as they grapple with the memories of loved ones killed and families lost. The goal of the village is to become a self-sufficient center that will provide basic needs in addition to education and training for these orphans while taking them away from the hostile regions into a safe haven of

hope. WTM would like to partner with this ministry by assisting in the development of a resource center in the village that would provide vocational training in appropriate technology to these orphans so that they can become positive contributors to their communities and country while honoring God with their lives.

These are just some of the opportunities we have encountered during our ministry experience over the last two years. The needs always seem limitless while the resources of course are not. Please pray for us as we try to discern our path forward so that God may establish our steps.

In an effort to build further credibility as an organization, we are also in the process of applying for federal exemption as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are currently a Florida non-profit and are awaiting determination from the IRS after their review of our application. This will be an important step forward as we grow and perhaps others join us in our mission to reach the unreached.