



The Northington Newsletter

The Why Behind the What



Please check out our website and blog at:

For those of you who have been on this journey with us over the past several years, you probably have a pretty good idea about *what* it is we do in Africa. “Reaching the Unreached One Need at a Time” has become our motto as we use appropriate technology and health care to build bridges to sharing the Gospel in word and deed. The application of sustainable, transformational development implemented through Biblical principles has taken the form of water wells, health clinics and various technologies demonstrated through our Resource Center as the spiritual, physical and social aspects of Unreached peoples’ lives are impacted. Real, tangible encounters with the Gospel message have provided an opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with communities and people groups that are difficult to reach and lack access to the most basic physical needs and the most essential spiritual need. Through these encounters we have been given a platform to share our faith and hearts.

I have realized that although many of you may know *what* we do, you may not fully understand *why* we have chosen a path that would take us away from our family, friends, careers and the “stability” of American life in exchange for the uncertainty and challenges of living in a developing country several thousands of miles away. We often find ourselves doing things that don’t fit the “mold” and seem rather strange, risky or perhaps down-

right crazy for those standing on the outside of our lives looking in. As we prepare for our next round of ministry in Africa, I wanted to take some time to share some of the reasons, motivations and thoughts behind our actions. Whether you share our faith as a Christian or not, I believe you will find we all have some common ground to stand on. The defining characteristic of our lives, however, is how we perceive and live out truth.

I am a Christian; it is what both defines me and motivates me. By profession, I am an environmental engineer driven by a desire to preserve our planet as a steward of God’s creation. I do not draw a line between my secular career and my religious beliefs; they serve one another synergistically. I am an environmental engineer gone missionary with a heart to reach the unreached. I have come to the very simple conclusion that I cannot claim to be a Christian and not feel compelled to actively do something about the state of the world. I cannot stand back as a passive observer of the pain, suffering, corruption and injustice taking place before us and simultaneously claim to love my neighbor and God. How can I claim to know there are over a billion people without access to clean drinking water and not feel burdened to do something about it when I have been given the knowledge, abilities and resources to do so? More importantly, how can I simply stand back when I know we have been commanded by our

Creator to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, invite in the stranger and visit the sick and imprisoned? How can I not share the Good News of hope and salvation in Christ that is unknown to two-thirds of the world’s population? The answer is, “I can’t.”

We all have a decision to make. When will we stop waiting for change and instead become a part of it? I made the decision, and that is why my wife and I found ourselves living across the ocean in a small African community where basic needs, such as water, health care and food, are still a daily concern. No, they are more than that; they are a struggle. It is a place where the freedom to pursue and seek truth is non-existent, a place where you are born into an identity that has been pre-determined for you. To stray from this identity will mean persecution in one form or another, and a life that is already difficult in many ways becomes that much more so. In America, the decision to pursue or ignore opportunities to explore truth is our own. We all have our own world view, and it is this world view that determines what our “better tomorrow” would look like and how we believe we can (or cannot) achieve it. My world view describes a tomorrow where there will be no death, no pain, no suffering and no mourning. Poverty will be vanquished, and justice will rule supreme.

The Top Three...

Prayer Requests—Pray the Lord will provide...

Our residency permits for long-term stay in Africa	1
Permanent modification of our mortgage	2
Endurance on this road back to the field	3

Prayers Answered

Lessened persecution of our Fulbe friends	1
A healthy pregnancy and baby so far	2
Growing support for our ministry	3

Ministry Needs:

- *Partners for our “Pick a Project Campaign” (see our web site)*
- *\$1,000 in monthly support pledges to meet our goal for 2010*
- *Assistance with the construction of our home in Cameroon*
- *DVD players to show the Jesus film, solar panels and a “mini” notebook computer*
- *Continued prayer for a healthy pregnancy*

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There will be everlasting water, food, joy and love. That is the hope in me that fuels my passion to create such a world now to the extent possible in a place that is plagued by what Christians refer to as sin. The world has fallen and needs to be picked up again.

That sense of there must be something more, something better seems to be everywhere. Many are yearning for an escape from an intangible enemy that has enslaved us to materialism, consumerism, relativism and individualism. The threat of global disaster or annihilation seems to grow closer with each passing day. Global climate change, wars, famines, water shortages, genocide, economic uncertainty, natural disasters impacting millions – the list goes on and on. We know something has to change but what and how? What are we to do as individuals in the face of such looming peril? I say our part. If we all do our part, we can change the world together one act at a time, one day at a time and one life at a time until over 6 billion people have been cured of their illnesses and freed from their suffering. It begins with relationships – our relationships with one another, the environment and our Creator. They are all broken and need to be repaired. Every single day we are faced with the choice of how we will address these aspects of our life. A simple change in attitude, lifestyle and priorities can lead to a whole new world.

I would not dare to claim that I possess the

perfect formula for world peace and meeting everyone's basic needs. I would dare say it begins with a right relationship with God. Our entire life changes when we become accountable to someone or something else besides ourselves. When we devote our time, energy and talents to something greater than ourselves, a passion is ignited. It becomes an unquenchable fire that consumes everything around us. If we believe eternity exists beyond this life, we have no choice but to live differently. If we believe we will one day stand before our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as I do, and give an account of how we spent this life He has given us, we have no choice but to listen to how He said we should live it.

I do not expect that your idea of truth falls perfectly in line with my own. It does not have to in order to appreciate what my wife and I have experienced while trying to live out our truth in a place where we felt we could have the most impact given our prior experiences, training and passion. What is important is that you understand we are average Americans that had just as much, or little, to lose or gain by venturing on this journey to do our part. We are not independently wealthy, we did not grow up in model

families and we have made our share of mistakes. We are by no means saying that everyone should sell their belongings and head off to an unknown land in order to accomplish world change. What my wife and I would say, though, is that you need to identify where it is you can have the most impact and then go! It may be in the African bush, but it is more likely that it is next door or in your local community. It is not uncommon in our day and age to not even know our own neighbors, co-workers or even our own family well enough to impact their lives in a positive way that can ultimately lead to world change and a better tomorrow. Whatever your situation or your idea of truth, making the world right is a calling we all share. What good is knowledge of any truth if we do not live it and share it? The very essence of truth is that there can be only one, and some of us will be closer to it than others. As a Christian, I believe that truth was revealed and is in the person Jesus Christ through whom we came to understand what perfect humanity could look like. The time has come to stop waiting on the world to change and to start changing it. It is time we devoted our life to something greater than it.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD...

It's a girl! Baby Chloe is now about 27 weeks old and doing great, as is mama. We have had a wonderful pregnancy so far with no major problems. Chloe is due on February 22nd (two days after Chad's birthday). After 3 months of adjustment to parenthood, we will be hitting the road in our 1981 GMC RV in May to show Chloe the world and introduce her to our

family and friends across America. Our itinerary is listed on the last page of the newsletter. Chloe is actually a name from the New Testament briefly mentioned in 1 Corinthians 1:11. It



means "young sprout". A middle name is yet to be chosen. Chad gets this privilege after selecting the middle name after yielding to Tiffany's choice for the first name. Chloe had been on our short list, and Chad decided it was a good name after seeing Tiffany talking to her belly using it. That's O.K., though, because Chad will get to pick the name of their next child...

Partners in Missions with Chad & Tiffany Northington **W+M**

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 to support a 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

'Tis the Season...



Yes, it's that time of year when non-profits like ourselves get to remind folks like yourselves of the opportunity for end-of-year giving and tax-deductible donations. It is not often that I get on the donation bandwagon, but I think it is important to clearly communicate our needs to you as we ramp up for the next term in Africa.

Like any other non-profit, we are completely dependent upon your financial generosity to keep us in Africa and fund ministry projects. During our time home this year we have been working to support ourselves so you don't have to, and we have also been building a financial "cushion" to cover our debts. What this means is that your donations go to ministry work and ministry alone.

We have the advantage of being a small organization, therefore we don't have the overhead and administrative fees that much larger organizations tend to have to keep the "machine" running. We have been able to reduce our annual budget significantly in this way (see the "About Us" section of our web site for a detailed breakdown of our annual budget).

Our estimated monthly support is approximately \$2,200 for a total of about \$28,000 for a year of ministry in Africa. This includes the cost of travel, living, insurance, taxes, etc. What it does not include is anything above and beyond us just getting to and living in Africa. That means we need additional donors to fund the ministry projects we are there to do,

like install water wells, conduct bush clinics, and demonstrate appropriate technologies. This also does not include the funds it will take to build a permanent residence in Banyo. All of these things are explained in our *Pick a Project* brochure on our web site.

Currently we have about \$1,200 in firm monthly pledges and are about \$1,000 **per month** short of our goal. **This is our primary need as we are unable to even go to Africa if we don't reach this minimum goal.** The majority of these costs are tied up in travel, insurance and living expenses.

Our second most important need is ministry project funding. Our desire this year

'Tis the Season (continued)

is to really focus on our local community in Banyo where we would like to install 1-2 wells, conduct numerous "bush" clinics and continue operation of our resource center where the Gospel and appropriate technology come together to meet physical and spiritual needs.

Water projects are the most costly (from \$4,500-\$10,000 depending on the nature and scope of the project). Bush clinics and various appropriate technologies offer the opportunity to tangibly support a real need at a reasonable cost.

Our third greatest need is a home. We have already constructed a foundation

and hope to complete the rest upon our return in the dry season when construction can continue. We anticipate \$7,720 remain to complete everything. This is in addition to our monthly support needs.

It does not take much to achieve \$1,000/month in additional support. If everyone we reach through e-mails and letters only gave \$5/month, we would be well over this. You can see that very little given by very many can go a very, very long way.

There are lots of small sacrifices that can be made to come up with an extra \$5 or more a month, like no Starbucks, taking

"Each man should give as he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

- 2 Corinthians 9:7

public transport, cutting out a visit to the restaurant, skipping one meal (fasting is a good thing), or whatever small thing you could give up once a month to help us meet our goal.

Contact us if you would like to hear more creative ways to give to WTM (and don't forget volunteering). Please consider how you can help keep this ministry growing and impacting so many lives.

Pick a Project & Change a Life or Community

We are hoping for more participation in our "Pick a Project Campaign" as we seek individuals, groups and churches to select specific projects or items in the areas of water, health care or appropriate technology. 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 are also included in our "Pick a Project" brochure (please see our web site).



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

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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>

Northington's Coming to a Town Near You—RV Tour 2010!

We realize many of you are unable to come see us in the Sunshine State or Africa, so we have decided we are going to come see you before our anticipated departure in September. We will take the next step of faith in our journey back to Africa as we travel the States in our 1981 GMC RV with an infant. Besides the opportunity to see what it's like traveling with a 4-6 month old child and introducing baby Chloe to the world, the purpose of our journey also consists of the following:

- Seeking partners for our **"Pick a Project Campaign"**, where you can participate directly in selecting a specific project in transformational development to support as an individual, family or church, like hand dug wells, medical clinics, tree nurseries, sand filters and more (see our web site for specific projects) ;
- Sharing the WTM vision with those who will offer us a driveway, church parking lot or campground to stay at;
- Closing our remaining *monthly* support gap of \$1,000 we are still lacking in current monthly support or pledges.

Our current itinerary includes the cities listed below. If you see your hometown on the list, it's probably because you've been involved in our ministry and we would like to visit you, your church and others who might be interested in partnering with us in reaching the Unreached. If your town is not on the list but is along the way, let us know and we'll add you to the itinerary. If your town is on the list, we also ask that you confirm you're interested in hosting us via e-mail or a phone call. Our current agenda is as follows:

5/29-6/2: Jacksonville, Florida
6/2-6/7: Tallahassee, Florida
6/7-6/14: Pensacola, FL
6/14-6/16: Talladega, Alabama
6/16-6/18: Dunlap/Chattanooga, TN
6/18-6/21: Lexington, Kentucky
6/21-6/23: Findlay, Ohio
6/23-6/25: Detroit, Michigan
6/25-6/28: Bay City, Michigan
6/28-7/5: Hale/Petoskey, Michigan
7/5-7/8: Houghton, Michigan
7/8-7/12: Port Washington, Wisconsin

7/12-7/14: Canton, South Dakota
7/14-7/23: Travel between SD and MT
7/23-7/26: Darby, Montana
7/26-8/2: Seattle, Washington
8/2-8/8: Travel between WA and CA
8/8-8/11: Pasadena, California
8/11-8/14: Travel between CA and CO
8/14-8/17: Denver, Colorado
8/17-8/20: Santa Fe, New Mexico
8/20-8/23: Fayetteville, Arkansas
8/23-8/25: Memphis, Tennessee
8/25-8/26: Mobile, Alabama
8/26-8/29: Pensacola, Florida
8/29-9/03: Tampa, Florida

