



The Love of a Father

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



There are some things in life we cannot understand until we've experienced them ourselves. It requires an experiential encounter to achieve certain revelations about life, the state of the world and the state of our being. Our time in Africa has certainly been an example of that. I can never fully communicate the experience of living in a Third World environment without someone experiencing it themselves. Even then, the interpretation of that experience is likely to be quite different than my own depending on what that experience entails for them, their background, their world view, etc.

So I have recently come to learn that fatherhood is one of those things in life that cannot be understood fully until it is experienced. With the arrival of our first child, Chloe Danielle Northington, my life, my priorities and my purpose have been rearranged, reorganized and realized. My purpose in this life has been redefined in unique, extraordinary ways that does not take away from who I was before parenthood but instead adds to who I am as a human being and as a Christian. There is a greater sense of duty, accountability, and, most of all, of love as I embrace my own flesh and blood.



Chloe Danielle Northington, born 2/23/10, 5 days old here

A perhaps unexpected consequence of this incredible parental metamorphosis is a better understanding of God the Father. As I regard the dependency and helplessness of our newborn daughter, I envision myself in her place with our Holy Father holding us in his arms in our own state of dependency. I comprehend in new ways the unconditional way He must love us as I ponder what I would be willing to sacrifice for my own child. I reflect upon the sacrifice of His Son for our sins in exchange for our souls, and I see salvation and the cost of it in a new light. These are old lessons taught anew through an experience that isn't written down anywhere but must be manifested in our lives through the act of creating another human being.

I look at Chloe and want her to grow up "in our image" reflecting those positive qualities in us that I want her to incorporate into her character (while leaving out our faults of course). I imagine God the Father looking down on us and desiring us to also reflect His image in our lives – His holiness, love and truth. As we will teach her the right way to live, He is always teaching us through His Word, Spirit and Son. As I go through my new routine of changing a dirty diaper, however, I am reminded of how we, too, like infants, will still inherently make a mess of things without someone there to clean up after us.

I can think of no greater joy I've experienced in my life than seeing the baby girl we've been blessed with enter the world healthy and beautiful. I know how great my love is for that child, but I cannot even begin to fathom the infinite love God has for us. The human love of a father for his child is great, but it does not even compare to the love God the Father has for His creation as demonstrated on the Cross at Calvary and in His promises to us of eternal life through His mercy and grace. God help me to be the Father you have always been...

The Top Three...

Prayer Requests—Pray the Lord will provide...

Wisdom as parents and good health for Chloe	1
Safe travels during our RV Tour of the U.S.	2
Resolution to our house situation	3

Prayers Answered

A healthy and beautiful baby girl!!!	1
Construction of Cameroonian home thanks to a gift	2
Peace about the path forward	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*
- *Hand-operated drilling rig (see our Pick a Project Page)*
- *Flexible solar panels for our home power (<http://www.millionsolarroofs.com/uni-solar68wpvmoduleamorphousslaminat-black644wcec12vpvl-68.aspx>)*

PHASE II—OPERATION RV TOUR

With the safe arrival of baby Chloe, we have now ramped up preparations for our summer RV Tour and return to Cameroon in the fall. This means VISA/resident permit applications, passport updates, immunizations, packing, address changes, gathering supplies, legal paperwork and many other activities that go along with leaving the country for over a year.

As part of these preparations, we will also be taking 3-months to visit those who have participated in this ministry and those of you who are interested in hearing more. I have posted our current itinerary on our web site on the home page if you haven't contacted us yet and would like to see if we're passing your way. Many thanks to the positive responses we have had so far for individuals, small groups and churches that will host us.

Of course we have also had some re



The 1981 Midas RV that will hopefully get around the country. Also pictured is our nephew Gavin and loyal canine, Chien

sponses like, “Are you crazy!?” or “How are you going to raise an infant in an RV?” The answer to those questions are “yes” and “we don't know”. If you happen to find any good parenting guides on raising infants in an RV setting, please let us know (:=

In all seriousness, though, we know that traveling the country in a 1981 RV that is nearly an antique with a 4-month old does not typically fall under the “normal” category for most people, but neither does going to Africa. As I mentioned at the beginning of this letter, there are some things you just have to experience to understand. As with all we do, we do our best to prepare and then faithfully step forward knowing God will protect us and care for us when we are in His will.

If you ever saw public transport in Cameroon, you'd also realize that travel on American roads in any vehicle is far safer and far more comfortable than what we experience on a daily basis in Africa. It's all about perspective...

HOME CONSTRUCTION BEGINS!!!

Thanks to a very generous gift, we have been able to begin construction of our home a year ahead of schedule so that it will be awaiting us upon our arrival in Cameroon. We cannot describe what a blessing this is in light of being new parents and desiring stability and security for our infant. The construction is mud block on concrete slab with a metal roof.



Partners in Missions with Chad & Tiffany & Chloe! **W+M**

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

If you would like to support a specific project, 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, please let us know. Thank you for partnering with us!

So Where are We Going from Here?



Our first term overseas was a bit of a “shotgun” approach. In other words, we wanted to do as much as we could in what time we had with what resources we had at our disposal. Consequently, we accomplished numerous projects throughout the country among many different people groups and regions. That experience developed numerous relationships and imparted various skills that are vital to continuing our mission of reaching the Unreached. However, our desire upon our return is to narrow our focus both in scope and people.

First of all, we want to strengthen the ties we have in our own community. Having spent so much time “on the road” in 2008 left us less time to develop relationships

in our local community to the extent we would have liked. Consequently, more time will be spent at home where we now have a permanent residence in Banyo and many opportunities to reach out to our Muslim neighbors right next door. Bridges will continue to be built through water projects, health clinics, community education and microfinancing projects in the vicinity of our community and adjacent villages.

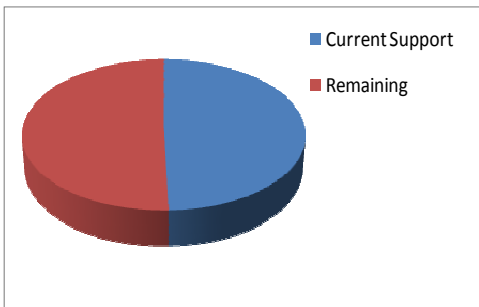
We also plan to spend more time with the local Fulbe, learning more about their customs, language and culture. Language study certainly fell to the wayside during our first term but is recognized as vital to sharing the Gospel message as well as teaching others how to provide for their own needs. French is useful, but it is in your heart language that the heart listens.

We would like to see improvements in

the local community water supply and quality. One project that remains to be funded is the refurbishment of an old German steel tank (yes, the Germans occupied this area pre-World War I) that is tied to the King’s palace. It would provide water to many people during the dry season when water has to be rationed. Also, plans to host a community-wide “Development Day” were put on hold when Chad came down with malaria. It would serve as an opportunity to demonstrate appropriate technologies to the masses in various languages.

Regardless of what projects we succeed or fail in, nothing is more important than the relationships we build and the example we portray as ambassadors of Christ.

Support Update



Our monthly pledges for our 2010-2012 term remain at about 50% of our \$2,200/month goal. What this means in practical terms is that our planned 18-month term will be only about half that, or 9 months, without an increase in support. Regardless, we are committed to do what we can with what resources God has

entrusted to us. We fully understand the impact the Great Recession has had on charitable contributions, and we will do our best to adjust accordingly. This support does not include ministry projects; it is comprised of our travel, living, insurance and basic expenses to live and serve in overseas ministry. Please consider what you can do if you are not already a WTM partner, either as a monthly or project supporter. Currently 42% of our support comes from individuals with the remaining 58% from supporting churches. Every little bit counts, so please consider some creative ways you may be able to make small sacrifices in your personal finances or church budget to help us reach our goal. If you believe

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. - Matthew 28:19-20

everyone should be entitled to basic needs, like access to clean water and health care, and that everyone should hear the truth of the Gospel message, then please join us as we continue our mission to provide for the spiritual, social and physical needs of those who need it most through sustainable, transformational development and appropriate technologies. Help us to demonstrate Christian love through compassion, generosity and good works. If you cannot go yourself, please help send those who can.

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.

All the projects open doors and build bridges to sharing the Good News where it

is unknown or misunderstood, especially among the Fulbe (or Fulani) people who occupy most of the region where we live. Other opportunities exist to assist fellow brothers and sisters who are in desperate need of basic necessities, such as our partners in the Northwest Province who care for abandoned disabled children and other missionaries who are in sub-standard living conditions and cannot focus all of their energy on their respective ministries because they lack basic needs.



Consider raising the funds as a church for a well and perhaps sending a small team to assist with its construction!

TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIES

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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>

So What Exactly Goes in a Care Package Anyway?

We recently decided that may defy missions etiquette and sent ourselves a care package to Cameroon. Now this may seem odd considering we're not even there, but keep in mind that packages sent to our home address in Banyo typically take a minimum of 2 months to reach us. The last one we sent took 4 months! However, it seems that packages do eventually make it to us intact albeit a bit tardy.

With that in mind, we decided to ship some items we didn't want to carry over that would not be a terrible loss if they didn't make it ahead of us. Many people have asked us what exactly they can send to us in the middle of the African bush. To give you an idea, I've included our "manifest" for the items in our USPS priority boxes:

BOX #1:

1. Flavored coffee (hazelnut, French vanilla)
2. Black/White & Color Printer Cartridges
3. Pocket knife and multi-tool
4. Mag light with AA batteries, case and spare bulbs
5. Men's multi-vitamins
6. Solar lights
7. Steak sauce
8. Solar shower
9. Mosquito net 32"x78"59"
10. Herbal fruit teas
11. Seasoning salt (Lawry's)
12. Beef jerky
13. Jiffy peanut butter, creamy

Box #2:

1. Women's Multi-vitamin
2. Taco, chili, sloppy joe seasoning packs
3. Fajita and Ranch seasoning packets
4. Alfredo and white sauce packs
5. Coffee creamers, powder
6. Italian, garlic, and chili powder seasoning bottles
7. Fructis conditioner, Baby shampoo, Body wash

7. Nutmeg, ginger, cream of tartar, ground cinnamon and ground cloves small seasoning bottles
8. Various herbal teas (chai tea latte)
9. Maple flavoring for making syrup
10. Chocolate chips, almonds and pecans for baking
11. Bar-B-Q sauce
12. Peanut M&M's

Of course a care package doesn't actually have to be a package. Receiving a letter or card in the mail in Cameroon is infinitely more exciting than receiving one in America. Of course we don't receive any junk mail, so the presence of any parchment in the mailbox is a welcome site. In this category, I have to extend a special thanks to Tammy who seems to always have a letter in the mail for us whether in Cameroon or America. Our sincerest thanks to her and all of you who took the time to send us a note or package while serving overseas. Our overseas address remains the same as before (see top left of this page).