

# ONE DOWN, ONE TO GO



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



If you have been following us over the last couple months, then you know we've been diligently working towards the completion of two wells after receiving our portable drill rig back in February. It is with great excitement and many thanks that I report the completion of the first of these two wells pictured below. This well is actually located on our property and will be managed under a pump co-operative comprised of our immediate neighbors. During our absence, this committee will make all decisions regarding the pump use, maintenance and repair. All of the pump co-op members contributed to an initial account that is to be used in the event of a repair. Annual contributions will be made by the members to ensure the longevity of the well.

This is a relatively new concept in this area, so time will tell if it is a good model. It is not uncommon for a well to be completely abandoned because of a minor problem and a reluctance by the community members to contribute to the repair (more on this in the "Cross Cultural Corner"). With the money given in advance and the responsibility for the well lying with all the members, we hope that there will be a greater sense of ownership in the well and responsibility for its upkeep.

As suggested by the title of this section, there is still work to be done. A second well was drilled at the newly constructed Fulbe youth hostel, which is located in the background of the picture below. If you recall,



WORLD TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRIES

# The Northington Newsletter

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

A good finish to our remaining time in Cameroon. The days are passing quickly as we wrap up projects and prepare for our return

Clear direction for the future of this ministry. Although it seems there is much to do still, our role in it is still not entirely clear

Peace in our minds and hearts about the transition back and finding work, a permanent home and adjusting back to American culture

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

A temporary home upon our return to Florida thanks to the incredible generosity of a couple in our home church

The arrival of clean water in our neighborhood because of the gifts of many individuals and churches this past year

Continued support and encouragement in the form of care packages, donations towards ministry projects and assistance with our transition back to the U.S.

The Top Three...

### Ministry Needs:

- A manual hand pump for completion of the well at the Fulbe youth hostel in our community. The total project cost, including the pump, labor and materials is \$950. Please contact us if you would like to provide the gift of clean water to these children.

**SPECIAL THANKS...**to Judy and Dave for their assistance with our State-side housing needs and Jessica for her generous gift towards the water work. Also, many thanks to Mike and Kay for their continued assistance with our transition back to America and all those who have been praying in that regard.

this hostel was built to provide an opportunity for Fulbe children who live in the “bush” to attend school in Banyo when they would otherwise not be able to receive a formal education. The hostel also provides the children with an opportunity to be exposed to a Christian worldview and experience the love of Christ firsthand as they are cared for and loved by Christian volunteers.

The drilling of the well at the youth hostel proved to be much more challenging than the first one after encountering a very thick bedrock layer. Consequently, there is only about 12 feet of water in the well, and it is all in the rock. Sometimes when water is encountered in a rock layer, it can be an abundant source if there are water “veins” and cracks in the rock formation. Other times, however, the formation can be very “tight” and slow to recharge. Unfortunately we won’t really know until the well can be pumped, but we are hopeful that the well will provide sufficient water to meet the needs of the youth hostel children and perhaps others.

We are looking for a donation of \$950 to equip the well with the same pump. Please let us know if you, your church or small group would be interested in bringing clean drinking water to this very important ministry project.



**Chad works with two technicians to install the recovery pipe and steel rods for the manual pump. This well will provide clean water for at least five different “compounds” and over twenty people in our area of the community.**

## **Now that’s a mushroom...**

With the arrival of rainy season this month also comes the arrival of one of our favorite Cameroonian delicacies—mushrooms! The one pictured to the right is a bit exceptional in size but not at all uncommon. With the texture and taste of a portabella mushroom, there is no end to the various uses of this culinary



delight, including mushroom soup, mushroom burgers, mushroom dumplings, mushroom spaghetti sauce (I know, I’m starting to sound like that line in Forrest Gump)...you get the point.

## **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!



Our time in Cameroon has offered us opportunities on several occasions to partner with American Peace Corps volunteers in various health and water projects. Over the last few months Chad has been working to connect our Peace Corps friend Hunter with the right resources and Cameroonians to assist with one of his projects to rehabilitate two pumps in his village about 3 hours from Banyo.

This month two pumps were “rebuilt” with the assistance of Cameroonian technicians, and Hunter organized a large education campaign to implement a new system of well management that we hope will ensure the pumps will continue to provide clean water long into the future. Prior to his arrival, the wells had sat for nearly a decade without use because of some parts that had failed due to normal wear. For a few hundred dollars, the wells are once again functional and serving the community. Much like in our own community, there is resistance to the idea of contributing to a pump fund by the community, but with continued education and good health, we pray that the mentality and priorities of villages will change with time.



## A Panoramic View of Banyo from Mt. Djumbal

*“For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.” - Matthew 17:20 ESV*



It’s certainly hard to believe that Chloe has now celebrated two birthdays in Cameroon, and more than half of her life has been spent in Africa. We often wonder how these years in Cameroon will impact her view of the world even if she doesn’t recall all the things she has done or places she’s been by the age of two. We are thankful everyday for the time we are able to spend together as a family in this environment, which is perhaps one of the greatest advantages of being on



the mission field. We look ahead with some trepidation at the loss of that quality family time, but pray Chloe (and ourselves) will adapt well to life in America again. Despite her time in a small African community, she still demonstrates a lot of American qualities, such as a strong independent streak, a love of all kinds of food and an addiction to movies! I guess we can blame some of that on her parents (:= We look forward to catching up on all the movies and music we’ve missed and foods we have lacked during our time here.

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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—What Is a Gift?**

Without a doubt, one of the most challenging and frustrating aspects of living in African community is the perception of what a gift is when a Westerner is involved in the giving. Cameroon and other African countries have a long history of receiving aid and assistance in various areas. The world's generosity, however, has had some unexpected consequences, namely the creation of dependence, the loss of dignity and an absence of responsibility and ownership in the "gifts" that have been received.

These consequences play out nearly daily in our lives here in various ways. The most recent example involves the rehabilitation of a well in our neighborhood. In the 1990's, my predecessor installed a hand dug well with the assistance of Cameroonians and equipped it with a Vergnet foot pump, a common pump in this part of the world. The well and pump installation probably surpassed \$5,000 USD.

Over the years, several repairs have been made to the pump. These repairs are always accompanied by long periods, typically on the scale of years, where the well is simply abandoned because the community is not willing to

contribute to the maintenance of the pump. Instead they wait until the next "Good Samaritan" comes along to make the repair. When the pump breaks again, the cycle repeats itself. In the case of the pump in our community, a mere \$14 part left the well in a dormant state since my departure in 2008, when it was repaired the last time for \$10.

This is an all too-common story not only in this community but throughout the entire country and continent. Everywhere we travel in Cameroon we see abandoned wells that costs thousands of dollars to install and probably would only costs tens of dollars to make operational again. In some cases we have assisted with their rehabilitation, and at other times we have left them feeling defeated knowing the fate that would soon await the pump.

Numerous efforts, programs and models have been implemented to try and overcome this ubiquitous challenge but to no avail based on our experience and observations. Time and time again the gift from the Westerner remains the Westerner's responsibility and

burden. Regardless of whether or not a water committee was formed, or if funds were collected initially to put in a well maintenance account or a new method of well or pump design was tried, the result is the same—abandonment of the "gift".

I don't have an easy answer to this problem that is preventing Africa from moving forward, but I would say it begins with the perception of what a gift actually is in their minds. I had the opportunity this week to speak at the local Baptist Church to explain the definition of a gift based on the greatest gift ever received—our Salvation. We know from Ephesians 2:8 and other verses that it is a gift from God, its acceptance requires a change in our attitude, behavior and actions, the gift of salvation was undeserved by sinful humanity, and that it came at a substantial price, paid on our behalf by Jesus Christ. Likewise, the gifts that have been given to our African brethren were purchased at a price to others, were not necessarily deserved due to their own actions, and require a sense of responsibility on their part. It is for these reasons and more that development alone will never bring the change we seek in Africa, but only true transformation of hearts and minds.