

An Indescribable Gift

Easter will be here before we know it. As Easter hovers into view, my heart is filled with joy and anticipation at the astonishing grace of God in sending His Son to take upon Himself your sins and mine. I cannot help but think of the words of the Apostle Paul: *"thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."* (2 Cor 9:15) God became flesh in Jesus Christ. It is just that – indescribable!


The union of deity and humanity in the person of Jesus Christ is more than just a piece of Biblical trivia. It is both vibrant and vital to our experience of the Christian life. Since Jesus is God, He is able to authentically forgive sins (Mk 2:7); to understand our deepest needs and weaknesses (Heb 2:17; 4:15); and to be a mediator between God and man (Gal 3:20; 1 Tim 2:5). What a powerful and indescribable gift!

As we celebrate Christ's resurrection, I hope you would find time to look at the nail prints in the hands of the risen Savior and fall on your face before Him, as did Apostle Thomas, proclaiming through tears: *"My Lord and my God!"* (John 20:28). The resurrection assures us not only that Jesus is God, but that we are forgiven and will also resurrect to live forever in His presence. As undeserving as we are of His love, He is unfailing in covering us in His grace and in loving enough to fill us with His power and presence. May you have an indescribable Easter!

With Easter dawn set to rise across Africa in just two weeks, **I come to you with great urgency to enlist your help** with several pressing needs at our special needs school in Douala. We now have 46 students and 18 full time staff at the school. Monthly salaries are \$3,531. So far, we have ran the school this year (September to February) through tuition collected from students who are able to pay and from a grant from Orange Foundation in France. We have ran out of money and trust God to provide for us to pay our teachers through August before our students start paying tuition for the next academic year. We must also secure an additional \$14,736 by July 1st to advance our landlords for rents for the next academic year. Our contract stipulates one year rents in advance.

Would you join us in believing that that same power that raised Jesus Christ will quicken the hearts of those He wants to give towards these needs? Please also feel free to share about our school needs as you are led.

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!


Ernest Ehabe

*At the Coming King Sculpture Prayer
Garden in Kerrville, TX.*

Epilepsy: Bringing Hope & Wellness

"...and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness..." — Isaiah 58:10-12



Our Regional Coordinator, Hilary Wamey and Pastor Bernard Pangmasi with some epileptic patients.



A group of women suffering from Epileptic seizure gather to hear Hilary and Pastor Pangmasi bring encouragement

Some things just don't make sense. They are just beyond belief or description. How do you tell someone that a vast majority of inhabitants from a certain geographical area suffer from epilepsy? This is the perplexing reality of five villages that we have recently had the opportunity to serve alongside **Harvesters Ministry** – an indigenous ministry that is seeking to do similar work like BFL but doesn't have the resources. This ministry is headed by Pastor Bernard Pangmasi. He has such a heart for the people the Lord has called him to serve. Together, we recently held outreaches and provided treatment for several dozen people suffering from epilepsy.

During a visit to Cameroon last year, one of our board members was saddened and burdened by the news of several villages in the NW Region of Cameroon that were affected by an unusually large number of epileptic cases. He decided he would do something about the situation. He raised and sent \$750 which became the seed to alleviate the suffering of dozens of folks. The cost of providing medications is under \$15 a month. This is however beyond the reach of most of those we ministered to.

We took a medical doctor with us to administer medications. We also brought a message of hope from the Bible. It was a great time of encouragement for people who are seen and labeled as "imbecile" and taken advantage of by drunks and other villagers. Most of the girls are vulnerable to rape when they have seizures. The result is unwanted pregnancies and many such children suffer the same fate as their mothers.

The villagers look with suspicion anyone affected by this ailment. Many believe the sickness is contagious. Whenever a person has an epileptic fit everybody takes off in full speed instead of helping the person. That is why many of the sufferers have injuries from fires because of lack of care. So education is going to be a very important part of this endeavor. The patients are so poor that they can't afford drugs that would curb the number of seizures and consequently reduce brain damage.



The temporary meeting place has brought the village together for worship and community work



Many have injuries from fire because nobody helps them during seizures.

PROPOSALS:

1. **Provide enough drugs** to as many people as possible; enough to last one month at a time. These drugs will curb frequent seizures. About \$15 will provide drugs for one person a month.
2. **Provide a makeshift clinic and a nurse** to monitor and administer drugs.
3. **Do some research to see why** people in this particular area are suffering from this disease. This could help bring a lasting solution to the plight of these villagers.

Like every other aspect of our work, we never set out to do this. Our team saw a HUGE need and were driven by the compassion of Christ to step in. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough drugs to take care of everybody. Our team started and ended with encouragement from scripture and in-between administered drugs. Proposals were sent to me by our regional coordinator and we are praying on what, when and how God may have us involved

– Ernest Ehabe

BRIDGING THE GAPS. CHANGING MINDSETS. TRANSFORMING OUR CULTURE...to the standard of Christ!

Nutrition for Women and Children

*"Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back;
lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes."*

— Isaiah 54:2



Two out of three children under 5 years suffer from anemia and other micronutrient deficiencies. Up to 45% of children's deaths are linked to under-nutrition



In a village, ministering to an expectant mother



Mercy Ships recently organized a training for farmers. Caleb was asked to give lectures on nutrition



Caleb with some village children

For a long time I have sensed God calling us to "ENLARGE" our "tent." For many years, we have had a small nutritional component to our medical and agricultural outreaches. This year, we are hoping to prioritize this aspect of ministry. We are thankful for Caleb Yengo who has come on board fully to lead this aspect of ministry. Prior to going to Ghana to work on a Master's Degree in Nutrition, Caleb served as our Director for church and community Relations. Since returning, Caleb has been focusing on developing and adding a nutritional component to our outreaches.

If all goes well, Caleb will visit the USA this year to network with friends and family in an effort to raise his support and support for this aspect of our ministry.

Despite the efforts made towards nutrition in Cameroon a significant number of children are still affected by acute and chronic malnutrition and many more are suffering from sub-optimal health and development due to micronutrient deficiencies. In Cameroon up to 31% of the children are stunted, while two out of three children under 5 years suffer from anemia and other micronutrient deficiencies. Up to 45% of children's deaths are linked to under-nutrition and only 21% of the children are exclusively breastfed. This creates a huge nutrition chasm that needs immediate attention.

OUR APPROACH:

Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture:

Through our agricultural programs, we work to improve access to and utilization of high-quality, affordable nutritious foods. We also work to promote home gardening of vegetables for rural households especially because the health of these farmers and their families is critical to the success of a nutrition sensitive agriculture system.

Nutrition Education:

Through our nutrition education program, we raise awareness on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding and dietary diversity in order to address the high levels of stunting and micronutrient deficiencies among mothers and children.

Nutrition Provision:

At various outreaches, we also offer vitamins, food supplements and ready to use therapeutic foods for children, adolescent girls and women. Understanding the complexity of malnutrition and hidden hunger, we also seek opportunities to integrate the focus on dietary diversity with critical interventions such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

At Bread for Life, we envision a world where every child has the opportunity for life, health and wellness, linking nutrition resources to needs across West and Central Africa

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Autism: Caring for Children • Supporting Families

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." — Genesis 50:20 NIV

We often hear the question "why do bad things happen to good people?" I think the question should be rephrased to: "what happens to good people when bad things happen to them?" The discovery that our son had autism almost four years ago changed our lives. The rest, like they say is His-story. An all-inclusive school has started as a result of this challenge. It is the only school of its kind in Cameroon and probably in the region. It is a model school that brings children from all walks of life with various learning abilities. We now have 46 students and a teaching staff of 15 with three auxiliary staff. Lisa and I are also actively involved in the day to day activities of the school when we are around. We could use a few more teachers. Our biggest need is for a speech and an occupational therapist to work with our autistic children.

When we started, I felt very strongly that God would want us to go beyond our present pre-k to 6k level. I felt the need to develop a major multi-purpose campus – a spiritual and educational "camp." A place that would provide our older special needs children supported and supervised living; residential support services; supported employment as well as a recreational and educational camp. This was just a burden. A dream I believe was from God. It is fast becoming a reality. In an unprecedented gesture, the government of Cameroon has asked the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC—an agricultural parastatal) to cede at least 125 acres of land to us. 50 acres has already been granted to us and as we start developing it, they have committed to giving us more land! We will be sharing more about this development in future newsletters.

Ray of Hope Academy and our future Camp may well be part of the solution. We are just at the beginning stage. Very challenging stage. We need prayer support as we look to God to meet needs at the school.

WE ARE IN NEED OF:

- **a decent van or bus** to transport our kids. A decent used van/bus would cost about \$20,000 in Cameroon.
- We are also in dire need of **four classrooms** as we enter the next academic year. Each classroom may cost us \$4,000 to build.
- We will also need **\$3,531 each month to meet the salaries of 18 staff** at the school (March through August). Hopefully when school resumes in September, we will have enough paying students to become sustainable.
- We must also secure an additional **\$14,736 by July 1st to advance our landlords for rents** for the next academic year. Our contract stipulates one year rents in advance.

Thanks for joining us in lifting this need to the throne. God is able!

Tax deductible gifts to Bread For Life may be sent to:

Commission To Every Nation:
PO Box 291307, Kerrville, TX 78029

• (830) 896-8326 • www.cten.org/breadforlife/

Visit us: www.breadforlife.org www.cadacameroon.org
email: ernest@breadforlife.org



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