The phenomenal growth of the church across Africa brings with it many challenges. One of these challenges is how to sustain the numerical growth while ensuring that the faith of Christians is firmly grounded in the revealed word of God – the Bible.

For more than a decade, BFL has ‘watched’ and sought to address challenges that come with rapid growth. We have done so through informal training that brings pastors and church leaders together. We are doing this with intentionality.
The thrilling proliferation of churches in Africa is one of the most hopeful signs of our times for world evangelization. Yet these growing churches and their leaders remain desperate for training that will equip them to reap the largest possible harvest and become a mission force to unreached peoples.

Any attempt to mobilize the Church in Africa for deserving projects such as, evangelism, church planting, community development, the struggle against HIV/AIDS etc., will in the long-term yield a poor harvest because of an untrained and a scripturally and theologically unsound workforce or disciples.

If the local church as we all know, is God’s instrument for transformation, then pastors are the key in helping churches fulfill this vision. Sadly, Pastors are the most neglected ‘professionals’ in most third world nations, and, because of the lack of proper and balanced training, scandals that rocked the American church in the 80s are becoming Africa’s scandals today.

Within the present context, pastors who are the custodians and have the disciplining responsibility of the large numbers of new believers, need training themselves. They need the discipline of training brought to them. Many are keenly open to the spiritual renewal that the Lord of the Church brings to them when they gather across the impractical traditional barriers existing between them. They need the refreshment that a change in the environment brings within their own national context.

Before leaving the leaders of the church in Ephesus for the last time, Paul wrote, “...after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after themselves. Therefore watch...” (Acts 20:29-32 NKJV).

For more than a decade, BFL has ‘watched’ and sought to address challenges that come with rapid growth. One of such challenges is the deficient knowledge of and faulty application of the teachings of the Bible. While the African church is a mile long in terms of quantity, it is only an inch deep in terms of quality.

We have been blessed with a great partnership with Westside Chapel of Jacksonville, FL, and their senior pastor (Dr. Kenneth Mitchell). For the past four years, together, we provided training to over 1,000 pastors and church leaders. Each year we provide training to over 400 pastors and church leaders across our region. These conferences are unique as they focus on expository teaching and preaching. Our hope is that leaders who go through this training will acquire skills to use in interpreting scriptures to their congregations in familiar language, using colloquial metaphors, African thought-form and nuances and practical applications that fit their context. The fact is, sound scriptural teaching will produce sound communities.

While we are not polemicists who believe their task is to combat every false teaching, I still believe, we must be passionate about preserving the integrity of the gospel of Jesus Christ, else we will see a repeat of some of scandals that date back to the Thyatiran church (Rev., scandals that are becoming prevalent in some quarters, today). Sadly, a vast majority of these scandals come about because of unbalanced teaching and personality cults. Teachings that promoted self and breed greed and avarice. These sorts of teachings and lifestyles are in the increase in the African church and leadership today and are affecting the holistic growth of the church at large.

Interestingly, the government of Cameroon recently closed quite a number of churches that it believed were taking advantage of church members. While we do not believe it is the role of the government to address church or theological matters, it sends a message to all of us when the government begins to close churches not because of persecution, but because these churches are deemed by the government for being abusive!

Like every other thing, there are costs associated with our Rightly Dividing the Word Conferences. We are always looking for folks or businesses to help us underwrite the costs which usually cover logistics, meals and materials. Would you join us in our efforts to build a better Africa, as together we are taking Jesus’ unchanging message to a rapidly changing continent through words and practical deeds?

For Christ & His Kingdom,
Ernest Ehabe

In Loving Memory

Mr. Michael Ewane Ehabe
1930?? – November 14, 2013

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of my dad, Mr. Michael Ewane Ehabe, who passed away on Thursday November 14, 2013. Even as my family and I try to come to terms with his passing, I rejoice that he made a decision for Christ, and I am reminded of the words written by the Apostle:

“Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” 2 Cor 5:15
Points for Praise & Prayer

A forty foot container full of donated items (Toyota Tacoma truck, over 100 fold-able chairs, sound equipment for new church plant, bathing soap for prisoners, clothes for orphanage, more than 1,000 backpack for our ‘bags to school’ outreach, replacement engines for vehicles, uniforms and jersey for school and village outreaches, tires, etc.) was shipped from Atlanta recently.

Thankful for a donation of a set of brand new tires for our ministry 4Wheel Chevy Suburban. On time for our September container shipment!!! This will break the vicious circle of replacing used tires, almost every month at exorbitant cost!

Gideon 300: Get involved • Get others Involved

For more than a decade, the ministry of BFL has mostly been supported through “special gifts” and “speaking honorariums.” With a growing family as well as increasing work and team demands, it has become difficult for me (Ernest) to be on the road all the time. A good support base would allow my indigenous team and I to spend more time in Cameroon and West-Central Africa with our families and focus all our energy on ministry and relationships. Maybe you can’t leave your job to travel on a mission trip to Africa, but you could contribute, so others (my indigenous team and I) could go in your place. Would you consider becoming a Gideon 300 Partner with Bread for Life? $25 or more each month.

As many of you who have visited our work in Cameroon or who are familiar with it already know, your dollar is stretched to the max at BFL. A typical ministry doing exactly what we do will require more than 20 times our present funding level.

We are looking at bringing in three new staff before the end of the year. Caleb Yengo has volunteered with us for more than a year and we are looking to bringing him on staff full time to serve as Director of Training as well as Church & community relations. Additionally, we will be hiring two other full time agricultural staff to come alongside our Agricultural manager in our farm in Dimako. This will require an additional monthly expense of $600 in staff stipend.

Pray for the clearing Process for our container and for favor with customs. We will need the equivalent of the value of the donated Toyota Tacoma for custom duties!

Donated Tacoma Truck and some items from Tim Nix of Hope, AR, Believers Community church of Batesville, & First Baptist Church of Redwood, TX. Several other truckload of stuff came from ministry friends from Jacksonville, FL.

Pray that funds will come in before the end of the year to enable us pay off the land in Dimako for our Agricultural, training and ministry base. We need $15,000.

End of the Year Taxes

T axes! Each year many folks are looking to give end-of-year gifts as a possible way to help reduce their tax liability. If you are one of those folks, here are some things to keep in mind! Contributions mailed to CTEN must be post-marked no later than December 31st. Online credit card donations must be posted through the CTEN’s website (www.cten.org/breadforlife) no later than December 31st. CTEN is also able to receive contributions of stocks, bonds and mutual funds, which are then sold and the proceeds provided to Bread For Life International.

Remember that any year end gifts of stocks, bonds or mutual funds must be received in the CTEN’s brokerage account by December 31st. Call 800-872-5404 for more information. Gifts to Bread for Life are Tax deductible, please send all gifts to:

Commission to Every Nation
PO Box 291307
Kerrville, TX 78029
(830)896 8326
www.breadforlife.org
ernestehabe@gmail.com

Please do not reduce your level of giving to your local church in order to support this ministry

Bridging the gaps. Changing mindsets. Trans
Mission & Vision Trip

We received a team from one of our supporting Churches (West Conroe Baptist Church of Conroe, TX). It was a great week with several hundred receiving glasses and medical attention. More than 300 made decisions for Christ during the evening evangelistic crusades.

If you, your church or someone you know will like to come on a mission or vision trip, do not hesitate to contact ernestehabe@gmail.com

Beulahland Farms

Beulahland farms is already taking some baby steps and can use some prayer and support. If you are a farmer, know a farmer, or have a heart for farming and community development, we have several short and long term positions to fill. Please contact us. We have been blessed with over 500 acres of virgin forest land in Dimako and Muambong and are looking for those who can partner with us for its development. Each property will serve as Regional Base for our work, providing ministry and much needed employment opportunities while simultaneously generating revenue for continuity.

Beulahland Farms: Adopt an Acre Project

If you want to make an investment that will have multiplying effect, this may be it. It cost about $200 to develop each acre of our forest farmland. $200 will cover land preparation to planting and harvesting (felling of trees, clearing, raking and stomping). We are now focusing on crops that can be harvested between 3 to 12 months. We will progressively move to cash crop that takes 2 to five years to produce and then to animal husbandry and fishery to provided needed protein in the communities we serve.

Next Visit to the USA

As some of you already know, I make two trips to the USA each year to share in churches, homes and to groups. These trips are used to bring awareness about the ongoing effort of BFL as well as raise mission and vision teams from the USA. These short-termers have been very crucial to our work.

While trusting the Lord to raise “Gideon 300s" to underwrite our monthly operation expenses, I have to continue to make these trips. It would seem “a necessary evil” for now, but, God has used each trip to meet ministry needs. I want to be intentional and strategic with each visit and desire to be a good steward of my time and resources God provides. To do so, we are beginning to plan ahead. If you or your church or a church you know will like to have me or one of my team member come share, please contact me at ernestehabe@gmail.com. My next trip will be in early March 2013. My schedule is wide open.

New Church Plants in Buea & Yaoundé

Wherever the gospel has impacted cultures, it inevitably has been through the local church. As a Para-church ministry, we believe we find our validity to the degree that we are working alongside other indigenous ministries to plant vibrant reproducing churches. We have planted 18 of such churches in the last 7 years and trust the Lord to strategically plant four new churches next year: One in the University Town of Buea (University Community Chapel) and three others in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon.

God has already provided for the Buea Church plant with an $8,000 commitment from a church in Batesville, AR. We have also received chairs and a sound system from the same church. We usually need a 12 month commitment of between $600 to $1,000 for major city church plants. These amounts usually cover the pastor’s stipend, his rents as well as rents for temporary rented hall. Most churches become self-sustaining within the first year of their existence. If you are interested in sponsoring a new church plant or being part of the launching of one, let us know: ernestehabe@gmail.com

Beulahland Farms worker, shows off a patch of developed forest land.

Family Friend, Sheryl Cox gives Nathan & Kisheri a tour of the Elementary School Library in Rogers, AR. The kids could not believe what they saw!

Welcome message at First Baptist Church of Redwood. My kids and I were welled received there!

Godlove Nsuli, Beulahland farms worker, shows off a patch of developed forest land.

Short Term Team, from West Conroe Baptist Church, dressed in native NW Region Clothes.

My next trip will be in early March 2013. My schedule is wide open.