



## AGRICULTURAL EVANGELISM: HELPING FARMERS—GROWING HIS CHURCH



*"...that they may have life, and have it to the full." – Jesus Christ, in John 10:10*

**M**issionary statesman E. Stanley Jones once wrote: "An individual gospel without a social gospel is a soul without a body, and a social gospel without an

individual gospel is a body without a soul. One is a ghost, the other is a corpse."

I am convinced that if our message is going to make a decisive impact in Africa and amongst its people, we'd have to preach it not only in words, but to demonstrate it in social action and concerns and in a compassion kindled at the flame of the charity of Jesus. This has been BFL's distinctiveness - our willingness and ability to combine evangelism with social action.

Almost two decades ago we launched what we dubbed "Agricultural Evangelism". We were motivated by both the Great Commission and what we saw and experienced. Through this unique ministry thousands of farmers have been taught, given needed tools, and exposed to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The result has been spiritual and community transformation. Communities that were almost impossible to reach with the good news have opened up to us as a result of this unique approach. We have also seen the standard of living of many elevated. It only goes to show – people don't care how much we know, until they know how much we care!

From its inception, our agricultural ministry has had a four pronged objective:

1. **SPIRITUAL:** To have a spiritual impact in the communities

we serve through personal relationships and evangelistic activities.

2. **NUTRITIONAL:** To ameliorate food supply to the population, increase food variety and ensure a balance diet.
3. **SOCIO-CULTURAL:** To revitalize agricultural activities in rural communities, create jobs, prevent rural exodus and bring modern agricultural techniques to rural farmers through teaching as well as demonstration farms.
4. **ECONOMIC:** To help generate funds to meet ministry objectives.

For me, finding sustainable solutions to our continent's woes has been a personal quest. I have had a strong sense that God has called us to come alongside and help the many hardworking folks living on \$2 or less a day and who continue to suffer the consequences of our economic failures. Again, the uniqueness of our approach is our ability to address both physical and spiritual hunger – body, soul and spirit!

Almost three years ago, we were led to buy over 250 acres of land among the marginalized Baka Pygmy community outside Dimako in the Eastern Region of Cameroon. I am thankful for a very supportive board, and especially Dr. Roxanne Cheek who has given her LIFE (Labor, Influence, Finances & Expertise) to make this vision a reality. I am also grateful to my team of indigenous staff and to you our faithful supporters for the progresses made so far. Thank you for your part in this vision, I pray that we will continue to do it for the glory of the ONE who came so we may "have life, and have it to the full" –John 10:10.

For the African harvest,

Ernest Ehabe



*Celebrating 20 Years of paving on the BREAD*



Refuge camp where we  
are privileged to help

## Points for Praise & Prayer

**AN "OPEN DOOR"** – We have had several invitations to assist and address the plight of over 24,000 refugees (mostly Muslims) in the eastern part of Cameroon. Our team has made multiple trips to evaluate the problem and our response. Be in prayer with us to discern God's direction and the level of our involvement.

**GUEST HELPER & SHORT TERM MISSIONARY** – Walter Morris, a 21 year old young man from Jacksonville, FL spent almost six months as an intern with us. We are so thankful for the great contribution Walter made in the office as well as in the field. Walter spent his last three weeks at a related orphanage in Bossa in the NW Region, where he tutored kids, and helped in building etc.



Summer worker Walter Morris and Ernest



Summer worker  
Loveline Fon

**FRI LOVELINE FON** – A graduate student from Pan African Institute of Development spent two months of internship in our Yaoundé office. She and Walter worked closely with Asanga Fon. We had a send off for them together in mid June.

**TWO MINISTRY VEHICLES NEEDED** – We are still in need of two ministry vehicles with the trips we make monthly and the rough roads. Our 1996 farm truck and our 2005 Chevy Suburban have both been of great service to us, however, it looks like the wear and tear on them is taking its full toll. We are now spending hundreds of dollars on repairs almost every month with constant breakdowns on the road. We would like to replace both vehicles. Be in prayer with us for provision for these.

**CHURCH PLANTS** – We are also still in need of \$12,000 to use for land and for two makeshift buildings for two new church plants.

**BEULAHLAND FARMS** – We are thankful for two used tractors that have been donated to us for use in our Dimako farm and Regional base. Both tractors are being repaired and may be available for us to ship before the end of the year! We are trusting God for provision to ship both by the end of the year!



## Ways You Can Get Involved With BFL



**BEULAHLAND FARMS:** We are looking for folks with a farming or agricultural background who can volunteer with us for a month or a few months at a time to help with our agricultural ministry base in Dimako. This is one of our self-sustaining projects which we envision will house several ministries while simultaneously creating needed employment and generating income for continuity. We are also looking for farm equipment and carpentry tools. Adopt an acre.

**GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING:** work is in progress at Beulahland Farms. Just \$200's will help in fully developing an acre of virgin forest land.

**GIVING TO BFL:** Giving to BFL is much easier now than before. Go to [www.cten.org/breadforlife](http://www.cten.org/breadforlife) or to [www.breadforlife.org](http://www.breadforlife.org) to see the various giving options. Social media: please join us on our Facebook page to see more pictures and read more stories about what God is doing through BFL as a result of your support. Search for "Bread For Life" and click, "join" and you'll be added to our page.



*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.cten.org/breadforlife/](http://www.cten.org/breadforlife/)  
[www.breadforlife.org](http://www.breadforlife.org) • [www.cadacameroon.org](http://www.cadacameroon.org) • Email: [ernestehabe@gmail.com](mailto:ernestehabe@gmail.com)

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



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## Sharing God's Love Through Agriculture

*By Dr. Roxanne Cheek, DVM*

**A**bsolutely nothing can be more physically helpful to the extremely poor people of this world than knowledge and assistance with food production and nutrition. There is the obvious - more food to eat and better health, but also the possibility for more disposable income for education, medicine, better housing and entrepreneurial activities. Think HOPE here. I will circle back to this in a minute.

Unfortunately, this kind of help and information is not available unless it comes from us! Bread For Life has a vision to establish a trio of regional training centers and demonstration farms, and the first farm is well under way in Dimako, in the Eastern Region of Cameroon. Farming, of course, is hard work and it has been a learning process. We have suffered with the same issues that all of our neighbors face - drought, illness, shortage of money, shortage of labor, transportation issues, lack of information, corruption and thievery. God prepares us to minister to others this way.

Crops have been planted and harvested, a farmhouse has been built, and a well is in the works. The next phase will include a chicken house and a guest house. We need volunteers, money, and desperately need a staff person who can supervise, and be trained to teach others appropriate farming methods. Please pray for this. I know God will work it out for us in His way and with His perfect timing.

The Bread For Life staff has been doing an amazing job taking turns living and working at the farm, and under very difficult circumstances at times. We are all committed! At Bread For Life we believe that by addressing these important physical needs we can develop relationships that allow us to also meet even more important spiritual needs. We love to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the people we meet are eager to hear it. We love to replace their sense that no one cares about them with a sense that they are loved, and replace their sense of despair with true HOPE. It's a life-changing experience for all of us. It has been for me!

Dr. Roxanne makes yearly trips to Cameroon to work with Bread for Life. She has been an integral part of our work for many years. She joined the board of BFL last year. She is a veterinary doctor who lives and work in Jacksonville. She is married with two grown children.



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# POVERTY AMIDST ABUNDANCE

## Agriculture for 'wholistic' development

"Africa has 30% of the world's natural resources and some of the best climate, rainfall and soils in the world. Africa has an abundance of arable land. Yet, 35% of the population is chronically undernourished and the whole continent of Africa only contributes 1.3% to the world's produce – it has the same GDP as a small country like Mexico." -Kofi Annan – World Economic Forum on Africa, February 2008

In the last 50 years, Africa is said to have received more than \$300 billion in aid, yet the number of people living in poverty has increased. According to the World Food Program (WFP), 25,000 people die from hunger and poverty everyday in Africa. Worse, the UN Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) has concluded, Africa is the only continent lagging behind in achieving food sufficiency by the end of this decade! Experts believe that food shortage threaten one-third of Africa's population!

Former UN Secretary General, Kofi Anan underscored this during a speech at a 2008 World Economic Forum on Africa (see quote above). The question invariably asked is: why should there be hunger amidst abundance, amidst suitable climate and arable land? WHY CAN'T AFRICA FEED ITSELF? The answers are varied and numerous: bad government, corruption and mismanagement, illiteracy, drought, tribal and civil wars etc.

Life in most of Africa, especially in the rural areas is often characterized by:

**Brevity;**  
**Limited opportunity;**  
**Poverty & disease, and;**  
**Subsistent economy.**

About 70 percent of the people of Africa are rural dwellers who live largely on subsistent farming. Development therefore must be construed as rural and specifically as agricultural. That is, if the people are truly the agents, the means and the end of all development, it is in agricultural activities that they can immediately participate in economic development. This is the sphere in which they have skills to offer and in which they can most profit by enhancement.

Sadly, one of the most critical challenges of development in Africa and indeed most of the 'Third World' is the lack of sustainability. Programs and projects are often ill-conceived, ill-designed and ill-deployed. Time and again, the people for whom these projects are designed for are not consulted and when they are, their inputs are not seriously considered as an integral part of the development success.

What we have sought to do as an organization is put both "felt" and "perceived" needs together to come up with what the REAL needs of a community are and then begin the development process or strategy. In 20 years of existence, we have moved from programs of betterment (feeding and clothing the poor) to a shift in individual development (teaching how to fish) and, of late, we have taken a more radical approach, moving from community betterment to community development (that is, teaching how to refill the pond or "sustainable" development). Development is not a matter of simply drawing up an ideal blueprint, but, rather one of pragmatically devising a way of

proceeding within the constraints and possibilities of the realities on the ground.

**Our values in this regard can be summarized as:**

- Empowering people vs. enabling them
- Preserving dignity vs. creating dependency
- Doing things with people vs. just doing things for people

Africa has enormous potential, not only to feed itself, but to eliminate hunger and food insecurity. Our Lord has given us a model to accomplish His work efficiently and has blessed its reach exponentially. Many of you have been witnesses to His grace at work through BFL. The 250 acre base we are developing in Dimako is an example. Martin Luther King Jr, said it well: "True compassion is more than flinging a coin at a beggar; it comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars need restructuring."

While I view our partnership with churches and church planting as the fulcrum of Bread For Life, I am convinced that strategically developing ministry bases across our region will be our legacy, if Jesus carries. Through these regional bases or campuses, we envision seeing thousands of young people trained and released as transformational leaders and agents of change. We envision these bases as ministry bases, but more than that, we envision them as models that will serve multiple purposes year round:

- **To model with Sustainable Demonstration Farms** (Beulahland Farms)
- **Vocational Training Centers**
- **Small Model Medical Centers** used as launching pads for regional medical outreaches

• **A Spiritual and Educational Youth Camp (Camp Peniel) to expose young people to the gospel at an early age**

• **A model Family & Community Based Orphanage where kids can be raised in a Christ centered environment**

• **Outcome: Ministry and Job Opportunities year round!**

You can be part of this legacy. For details, please send an email to [ernestehabe@gmail.com](mailto:ernestehabe@gmail.com)

*"...to preach the gospel in the regions beyond... and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment..." 2 Corinthians 10:16; Romans 15:20*



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