

## Agricultural Evangelism: INCARNATING CHRIST IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

*"That they may have life and have it to the full" John 10:10*

St. Augustine once wrote, "Preach and if you must, use words." As Christians we are called to engage – to create culture that aligns with reality as God created it – to witness to the truth. To love our neighbors sacrificially, just like Jesus!

Over the years, we have been involved in a variety of ministry activities. Apart from our special needs school and church planting efforts, leadership and discipleship trainings, youth development etc, we have had a very strong sense that an important focus for us in the coming years would be in developing sustainable agricultural teaching/ministry bases across a few regions of Cameroon. We started with developing the first in Dimako among the marginalized Baka Pygmies a few years ago. It is finally taking off!

It's been our firm conviction 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.

Motivated by both the Great Commission and what we have seen and experienced, Bread For Life Ministries launched what it dubbed "Agricultural Evangelism" over 20 years ago." For the first two decades, our focus was on teaching rural communities and farmers and providing them with seeds and tools. Through this unique ministry, thousands of villagers and farmers have been taught and exposed to the gospel.

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 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:** Ameliorate food supply to the population, increase food variety and ensure a balanced diet.
- 3. Socio-cultural:** 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:** Help generate funds to meet community & ministry objectives.

Finding sustainable solutions to Africa's woes has been the core of BFL's vision. Helping the many hardworking folks living on \$2 or less a day and who continue to suffer the consequences of Africa's economic failures has been BFL's mission. BFL's uniqueness is its ability and willingness to address both physical and spiritual hunger – ministering to the body, soul and spirit! We believe God wants us to be relevant, practical and effective in reaching our communities and sphere of influence for Christ. 'Agricultural Evangelism' is a key to this. Thank you for being a HUGE part of what God is doing through agricultural evangelism.

Merging vision with innovation,



Ernest Ehabe



Cutlasses (machete) distribution to a group of farmers after an Agric seminar



Relaxing with farm workers at Beulahland Farms after a long day of work



Teaching rural farmers in the village of Muambong



Celebrating 23 years of Passing on the Bread!

# When Helping works . . .

*Enabling Dignity through Agricultural Developments*

The issue of poverty alleviation in developing nations has been a hot topic on the global platform for a few decades. The famines in war ravaged Ethiopia and Sudan in the 80s and 90s and images of individuals dying of starvation created a moral imperative for people to help the poor.

The efforts to help the poor in "Third World" nations can be categorized into three helping models: the **GOVERNMENT Aid Model**, the **GRASSROOT Aid Models**, and, the **ENTERPRENEURIAL Aid Model**. At Bread For Life, we have focused on the last two.

**GOVERNMENT Aid Model** is simply giving Foreign Aid to Governments. The outside donors usually start with a needs analysis, develop a plan with specific goals and targets, and then initiate and drive change with a stream of funding. The outsiders assume that they understand the needs of the poor, and they know how to fix them. This is often driven by 'perceived needs.' We all know how woefully this model has failed!

In the Grassroots Aid Model, the people being helped are actively engaged in the process of building and maintaining development initiatives in their own communities. They develop their own services, and establish their own efficacy and control. The **GRASSROOT Aid Models** approach utilizes human capital and the expertise of the beneficiary.

**ENTERPRENEURIAL Aid Model** on the other hand engages the market. In the words of Peter Drucker, "every single social and global issue of our day is a business opportunity in disguise..."

Africa has enormous potential and opportunities, not only to feed itself, eliminate hunger and food insecurity but to use its fertile land to bless its people and beyond. Our Lord has given

us a model to accomplish His work efficiently and has blessed its reach exponentially.

Four years ago, Bread For Life Ministries (BFL) purchased over 250 acres of land among the marginalized Baka Pygmy community of Loussou in the East Region of Cameroon to use in developing a major ministry base for ministry and sustainable development. We are delighted to announce, we are making progress.

In over 22 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 individual betterment to community development (that is, teaching how to refill the pond or "sustainable" development). We believe 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. doing things for people**

We encourage you to join us in this journey of enabling dignity through agricultural and community development. In August, our Medical and nutritional team will spend time in the area helping families and teaching them how to combine what they have for the right nutrition. Almost all the kids in the community we are serving suffer from malnutrition.



*Serving together and giving dignity with our June team from Kerrville, TX. Our farm workers range from 19 to over 60 in ages. For many, this is their first reliable job!*

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



# HOPE

## Beulahland Farms: Reducing Hunger • Improving Lives



We experimented on a small scale with tomatoes, watermelon, corn and okra and discovered the land was very fertile. We are trusting God to open more land to plant on a more sustainable & profitable scale in the September planting season.



### ADOPT AN ACRE:

Give A Gift that keeps giving

*"If we all did the things we are really capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves..." Thomas Edison*

We are thankful for all our partners God has raised to support His work for over 20 years. We want to make a special appeal through this newsletter for individuals who would like to give a one-time donation towards our Agricultural Evangelism and base. Any fund given towards this will go to help in developing the 250 acre of land God has blessed BFL with. Our desire has been to build in such a way that if Jesus tarries, we will be positioned to be at a 'giving end' too and not just on the receiving end as is the case in mission. We are developing several social businesses that will serve multiple purposes: Ministry base and ministry, provide numerous services and training opportunities, create much needed jobs while simultaneously generating income for continuity. Our desire from our inception has been to build in such a way as not to perpetuate dependence on Western benevolence. Your gift towards this BAM (Business As Mission) or "Social Business" will go a long way in making a lasting difference in generations to come.

The difference between "charity dollar" and a "social dollar" is the life span of the "charity" dollar and that of the "social" dollar. One is short lived and the other, like the "Energizer" commercial puts it, it keeps going...

#### Ernest & BFL:

- ☐ will help you develop an acre of land
- ☐ I will help you build a poultry House
- ☐ I will help you build a Rabbit house
- ☐ I will help you start an Aquaculture
- ☐ I will help you buy: \_\_\_\_\_chicks \_\_\_\_\_ Rabbits \_\_\_\_\_ Cattle \_\_\_\_\_goats \_\_\_\_\_ Fish... to start with.
- ☐ I will sponsor a farmer for \$100 a month for \_\_\_\_\_ months until harvest.
- ☐ I will plan a trip to come serve with you for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks, \_\_\_\_\_ months.
- ☐ Please send me details of what it will cost to \_\_\_\_\_

We are finally seeing sustainable results at our demonstration/ ministry base among the marginalized Baka Pygmies. With the right investment and the right people we will see a lot of difference in the farm in the coming year. We experimented with tomatoes, watermelon and okra, pineapples and corn on a small scale and they all did amazingly well. We are looking at developing about 20 to 50 acres of this virgin forest land in the next few months so much more planting that can yield sustainability and profit. Profits and abundance will be used for community nutrition. Estimates for developing an acre using manual labor is around \$400 (this includes felling trees, cross-cutting, planting practical trees, and seeds for planting).

Our goal is to develop a fully integrated farm that will include animals, birds, fish and plant. We will be adding a poultry and rabbits by October and aquaculture by the end of the year or in early 2019. Our major needs now are funds to do land preparation, build temporary houses for staff, poultry and animals. Please email [ernest@breadforlife.org](mailto:ernest@breadforlife.org) for written project and details of what is needed at each stage.



Our water tank is up. We are working on plumbing and irrigating the farm houses and farm in the next few months. It will cost us \$4,500.



Over 15,000 pineapples suckers were planted recently in a small land developed. We would like to plant 100,000 before the end of 2018 to make it sustainable by harvest.

### Help us FUNDRAISE

Whether you have raised funds for us before, or are new to BFL, could you help run a fundraising event? Do it on your own, or gather your friends and family – the opportunities are endless! Garage sales, car wash, bike rides marathons, sponsored walks, quiz nights... there are so many ways you can have fun and help us bring hope to life!

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/](http://www.cten.org/breadforlife/)

[breadforlife.org](http://breadforlife.org)

[cadacameroon.org](http://cadacameroon.org)

• Email: [ernest@breadforlife.org](mailto:ernest@breadforlife.org) •



Celebrating 23 years of Passing on the Bread!



## A MISSION FIELD *Today*

## A MISSION BASE *Tomorrow*

By Scott Remer, PhD

Do missions trips accomplish good? I can't tell you the answer to that question for the whole world, but I can tell you, after a week on the ground in Cameroon, that Bread for Life Ministries does. I am not new to missions trips nor to secular foreign aid efforts, but my years in graduate school made me question the long-term good that such efforts actually provide to their beneficiaries: rich westerners travel to poor places in the world, give some money and do a little work to salve our post-imperialist consciences, then buy some souvenirs and head home, giving ourselves a holy little pat on the back for presumably carrying out the Great Commission.

So when Ernest invited me to Cameroon to volunteer with Bread for Life, I was skeptical. "Do you think they're legit?" I asked Grace in a swanky coffee shop in central Virginia as we pored over BFL's pamphlets. My girlfriend replied that she couldn't tell—the only way to know for sure would be to visit. A couple months and several thousand airline miles later, I arrived in Douala, two chainsaws for BFL's farm in tow (yes, for the record, you can fly with chainsaws).

The ensuing week in Cameroon showed me that Bread for Life stands in stark opposition to any self-inflated and hypocritical aid organizations or missions groups. Ernest and his team of local young men and women are rooted in their communities and determined in their efforts. They understand the needs of their countrymen and are committed to using their skills, time, and resources to meet them and to build the Kingdom of God.

Bread for Life's school, **Ray of Hope Academy**, is a pilot project in the nation to provide special-needs children with an integrated education, an education that far exceeds any mandated government standards. **Beulahland Farms** is, after years of effort, nearly set to become a revolutionary employer, food producer, and template for holistic agricultural production; production that stewards God's creation and feeds the poor and needy. Ernest and his team's connections in their country range up to the highest levels of government; connections they are hoping to leverage to bring sustainable electricity to some of the nation's poorest **Pygmy villages**. I am hoping to use my solar industry experience and connections to support them in this.



*After a hard days work, Scott (accompanied by my 13 year old son, Dr. Tita and Joseph) hauls wood to the farm house*



*Scott exhorts a new church plant that meets at BFL Guest house.*

Please continue to support Bread for Life and tell others about it as well. A little truly goes a long way in Cameroon. As the Church in the West struggles against modernism, the Church in Africa grows stronger, more joyful and powerful. I believe the time will soon be upon us when Africa will send their missionaries here, and we will need them to encourage us to keep going. While we have the means, let us support Bread for Life in their mission to lay a strong, Christian foundation in their country so that, when we need them, they can do the same for us.

*Dr. Scott Remer is an engineer who resides in Charlottesville, VA. The son of my friends from my days at Arkansas Tech University in the 80s. He works for a major Solar Energy company as Development Engineer. His visited and served with us in Cameroon in June. If you have been inspired by His-story or encouraged by any aspect of our work, why not get involved. BFL has been able to achieve all of this work through the loving support of people like Scott Remer.*

*As a small non-profit organization, we rely entirely on the efforts of people who decide to stand with us and make a difference.*

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