



**BREAD
FOR LIFE**
International
Changing hearts • Changing lives

JUNE 2018
Newsletter



Power Boats & Sail Boats: Navigating Two Cultures & Two Approaches

Having lived in both Africa and the USA, I find myself caught between two cultures; so is Bread For Life (BFL). BFL is a cross-cultural ministry as well as a multi-tribal ministry. Our indigenous team comprises people from various tribes as well as various denominations.

I am very aware of the complexity of a cross-cultural work. Although Christians are called to influence cultures often it is the contrary, and as a result there is a tendency to see and interpret through cultural nuances.

"Westerners" and "Third World" people are inclined to decode information differently; one culture is direct, the other culture is indirect, one culture is "task" oriented, the other is "event" oriented, one culture is driven the other is laid back, one culture is time conscious, has structure and documents while the other culture sees time as elastic, has no structure and is an oral culture (information is passed on through stories and word of mouth as opposed to written), one culture is more relational (everything happens in the context of relationship and trust), the other culture, although relational is more of a goal-oriented culture.

I am caught in between both cultures. It can be very stressful. When there are "failures" like we have experienced in our sustainable demonstration farm (I prefer to call them "delays"), I feel the pain, perhaps more than any other person. I take on the pains and frustrations of our "Western" partners. I also take on the pains of the indigenous team as well as that of the beneficiaries. It is a tough place to be. But that is part of the package of leadership. I think one of the most essential elements in all of our Lord's teaching on discipleship is "abandon" or "abandonment" – no calculation or trace of self-interest.

"Powerboats" and "sailboats" are perhaps the best analogies to use in describing the "West" and the rest of the world. Powerboats have everything they need on board; all they need is piloting, managing, and scheduling. Sailboats, on the other hand, depend on - or are at the mercy of external elements such as the wind. So

whereas Westerners may look upon a mission project as a business proposition, where the end result is all important, most third world people and agencies like BFL view a mission proposal more as a journey, with the trip being as important as the destination.

A typical Westerner from a highly developed nation where the electricity is always on and the water always runs may think all that is necessary is to appraise the task, set the goals, acquire the equipment or necessary tools and materials, and like the Nike commercial puts it - "just do it."

Indigenous missions and agencies like BFL, often never know whether the electricity will be on, or when it will quit. They live in a world of unpredictability and are used to bumps in the road or no road at all. Their circumstances force them to make adjustments as they go and seek God's provision and intervention. That exactly has been the situation with BFL getting many projects off the ground. We are however thankful for the impact we are making. In the last 15 years, amidst limited resources, we have planted over 25 new churches, sponsored dozens of underprivileged students through universities, given dignity to a number of folks by helping them with start-up funds for small businesses, dug wells, made multiple awareness trip with team members to Europe and the USA and of late, initiate sustainable development through demonstration and teaching farms. We are glad to report our sustainable farm is 'FINALLY' beginning to yield tangible results! We will be sharing more about this in the next newsletter and how you can pray and be involved.

Henry Ford once said, "Don't find fault, find a remedy." A German proverb says, "Begin to sew and God will provide the thread." Thanks for being a part of this journey... together, we are making a significant, positive and lasting difference as together we take Jesus' unchanging message to a rapidly changing continent through words and practical demonstration.

Optimistically,

Ernest Ehabe

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

reaching **FURTHER**

Pastors Conferences in Five towns/cities & four regions

The thrilling proliferation and the phenomenal growth 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. For more than two decades, we have brought pastors together for informal training. 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.

For almost ten years, God has blessed us with a great partnership with Westside Chapel of Jacksonville, FL and Dr. Ken Mitchell whose ministry focuses on Expository preaching, a much needed aspect in Africa. Dr. Mitchell was recently in Cameroon for the ninth time to teach and train pastors across four regions of Cameroon on Expository preaching.



Inspecting progress at our Dimako base with Dr. Tita and Rev. Goris



Former Board member and supporter Stan Jackson and his son visited in June.



Dr. Tita with Dr. Scott Remer who visited in June.

Dr. Sama Michael Tita, DVM

Dr. Mike Tita began volunteering at BFL early this year. After realizing our mutual passions for sustainable development and the impact of agricultural outreaches, we asked him to prayerfully consider joining our staff on a full time basis. In April, he joined our team as Director of Agriculture and Rural Development. Prior to joining us, He was a lecturer at the Catholic University of Bamenda and he also served as the university's farm manager for four years. Dr. Tita graduated from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria in 2012 with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). Upon graduation, he worked for a veterinary clinic and at Guga Farms in Nigeria. We are excited to have Dr. Michael on board and look forward to seeing how his education, experience and passion will benefit the kingdom as we accelerate the gospel through words and practical demonstrations.

New Church Plant in Yaoundé

We set an ambitious goal of planting three new churches as well as help in the construction of two others in 2018! We are seeing God honor our steps of faith. We have started molding cement blocks for the church among Baka Pygmies and we will start doing the same for the church in the NW by December 2018.

In Yaoundé where we envision planting two new churches, we have started putting a core group together of new believers. A young pastor has been called and BFL is supporting him with about \$200 monthly, while our friend, Dr. Daniel Shu is housing him. The group currently meets at the Bread For Life Guest House while looking for a permanent site. We will officially launch both church plants at the end of the year.



Core group for the new church plant

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SHIPPING FROM THE USA TO CAMEROON

Business for the Glory of God: Merging Vision, Integrity & Innovation

"How do you ship much needed donated items from the USA to Cameroon, affordably?" This is the question we grappled with for many years. We were getting tons of needed donations from friends, churches and corporations but faced the challenge of shipping these items to Cameroon. The typical cost for shipping to Cameroon is \$40 or more a cubic ft. We made a number of attempts but realized we just couldn't continue and it wasn't good stewardship of the resources God was entrusting to us.

After much prayer and contemplation, the idea of shipping as a "Business As a Mission" (BAM) was birthed. We are actually not new to BAMs. Our Guest House in Yaoundé was rented to meet another need and for many years was sustainable and actually brought in extra income for the ministry.

A few years ago, we decided to do some research and investigate what it takes to ship a forty foot container out of Dallas and Atlanta to Douala. We found out it takes about \$5,000 from Atlanta and about \$6,500 from Dallas. The typical clearing related charges in Cameroon are usually \$4,000 and duties are anywhere from \$5,000 to over \$20,000 for a forty foot container.

We figured if we could get enough Cameroonians and missionaries wanting to ship and could coordinate a container, we could ship for them at a fraction of the prevailing market rate and in the process our donated items could go for free or for a fraction.

Several new church plants, schools and communities across Cameroon have benefited from this "social" venture through the last seven years! The challenge we now face is getting more people to know what we do and to get them to put their stuff in our yearly containers. Most of the missionaries in Cameroon are already shipping with us. Our last two containers generated more than \$16,000 but we will need a bit more than that to break even. The good news is, more than half of each forty foot container is full of items donated to us and related ministries in Cameroon! We have developed a major partnership with Baylor & Scott Faith Initiative that allow us to get church, school and office furniture, medical supplies etc. Through the years, we have also gotten donations of thousands of school bags to meet our "Bags to School" outreaches! Hundreds of prisoners across our country have received much needed sanitary supplies, and much more! Keep this BAM in your payers. Apart from the shipping, a lot of relationships have developed across the ocean and we are seeing God glorified!



With this BAM we are able to pay for the shipping of donations for our many ministries like this playground equipment.



The Ekkelusia Assembly received some of the donated chairs we shipped



EXPERIENCE the "GO" in 2018 & 2019

Let God use **YOU** to change the world!

A mission trip with Bread For Life International (BFL) means just one thing --- **bringing Good News!**

BFL has several opportunities for individuals and groups interested in experiencing the "GO" in the Great Commission.

Short Term Mission Options include:

- VBS
- Evangelistic crusades and church Planting
- Internship in our Office in Yaoundé to work on grant search/grant writing
- Vision Trips
- Church Partnerships
- Teaching at our Special Needs School in Douala
- Professional skills placement
- Agriculture/farming
- Construction/Building
- Preaching/teaching etc



BEGIN PLANNING YOUR MISSION in 2018 & 2019

You can either join an existing team or we will work with you to build a team.

Contact us: info@breadforlife.org

Dr. Julie Black: 210.569.4610

Ernest Ehabe: 770.778.9335

breadforlife.org

Ways YOU can be involved with BFL

PRAY: Please be in prayer for the two English speaking regions of Cameroon where so much senseless carnage and burning of villages happens every now and then. So many innocent people are dying and more than 20,000 are now refugees in Nigeria. Sadly, leadership on both sides are not doing much to address the atrocities. At this level, it will take a miracle of God to stop this crises. Continuous prayers are coveted!

PRAY: for our June and July missions' teams from Texas, Missouri and Virginia. They will serve mostly in the French speaking parts of the country.

BEULAH LAND FARMS: We are looking for folks with farming or agricultural background who can volunteer with us for weeks or months at a time to help with our ministry base among the marginalized Baka Pygmies in Dimako. We are seeing results from crops we have experimented with: Corn, watermelons, tomatoes, Okra and pineapples. As funds become available we will be exploring developing more land and planting in larger scale for sustainability and profitability. By September, we will be adding birds and animals to make it a truly integrated farm!

CONNECT With Church/Community Leaders & Business Owners:

In mid-September through Mid-October, I will be in the USA with one or two of our Cameroon Team members. Our itinerary is wide open. Any introduction to speak/share will be appreciated. It is our desire to spread our vision to other church bodies and to the Business Community. A word of introduction/endorsement from you will go a long way in opening doors.



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

Commission To Every Nation:

PO Box 291307, Kerrville, TX 78029

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