



May 2018
NEWSLETTER

What Does the LORD Require ?

For almost two years, Cameroon, where I live and work, has faced some upheavals in its two English speaking regions. The "Anglophone Crises" as it is called, began with Teachers and lawyers' strikes on grounds of being marginalized. A segment of this region is determined to secede. Another segment thinks "federation" is the solution, and the rest are okay with status quo.

In the face of the ongoing crises and disruption from those advocating separation, the government has responded with a ferocity that has shattered the lives of ordinary people. An estimated 20,000 people in the two English regions have become refugees in neighboring Nigeria that is dealing with similar uprising.

As I have pondered on Cameroon's crises and our leaders' inability to resolve the matter swiftly, two questions have kept coming to mind: "*What does God require of us*" (Micah 6:6-8) and "*What task has he assigned us to do*" (Acts 9:6)? Incarnational presence and compassionate dialogue are two basic values that should guide us as we discern intrinsic qualities that should shape our lives and work on earth. That is, examining our world through the lens Jesus used in his ministry.

Jesus' mission was developed through deep engagement with the world in which He lived (John 1:14; Heb 4:15). He encountered, together with the Father, the sorrows of the world in light of its needs, and applied the healing and controversial balm of kingdom values to the world's situations. His responses were consistent with the merciful will of the Father who sent him to "...seek and to save what was lost." (Luke 19:10). Seeing the world clearly and 'showing up' in the very midst of its anguish and fears is integral to our witness of faith. This is what motivates our work at BFL. Acknowledging the sorrows around us and tackling it 'holistically.' Sorrows that are increasing exponentially every day in a continent where more than 70 percent of its population is under 25 years of age, unemployed and uncertain of its future!

"*What does the Lord require?*" Prophet Micah summarizes God's requirement into a capsule of three: "justly," "mercy" and "humbly." He begins with an appeal to history ("*He has shown you...*"), indicating God has always been interested in making His people aware of His desires.

DO JUSTLY: We are required or commanded to act "justly" to everyone (those over you, those equal to you and those who serve you), what is due them.

LOVE MERCY: God wants us to go beyond showing mercy, which is a delightful expression of kindness and compassion. We must actually love showing mercy. This is the crux of the New Testament admonition: "...not forget to do good..." (Heb 13:16).

WALK HUMBLY: While the first two aspects of Micah's counsel concern conduct involving one's peers, the third, "*walk humbly with your God*" refers to a relationship with the Creator. We don't have the strength and internal will to obey Micah's counsel until faith begins to direct our pathway. Once the faith question is settled (Hab 2:4; Rom 1:17), the obedience challenge can then be met. Can you imagine a world where the Savior and Lord directs our every move? Would you join us in standing (and kneeling) in the gap for Cameroon?

Every blessing,

Ernest Ehabé



*Above: Area of Cameroon affected.
Background: Protests in Cameroon
Courtesy of aljazeera.com*

reaching **FURTHER**

USA Visit

I was in the USA for more for almost ten weeks from late February through early May. Much longer than I envisioned or would have loved to. So thankful for the many doors and opportunities that God opened up. Several strategic relationships were developed. I spoke at four supporting churches in Texas and had several meetings with ministry partners in TX, AR, AZ, VA, MD, FL, NC, SC, CT and MA. Two containers with donated items were shipped out of Dallas and Atlanta respectively! My next visit will be in September, possibly with two of my Cameroon team members (Caleb and Ebenezer). I am hoping they can begin to do the US visits while I focus on ministry in Cameroon and more time with my family. This visits are very essential in our efforts to bring awareness and network with like-minded folks. A lot of partnership and resources are developed through these visits.



New Church Plants

We are working on planting three new churches this year. One in the village of Bamoughoun in the West Region where our team is discipling a small group of new believers. We will launch the church within the next few weeks or months and would name it "Believers Community Church." This village is an unreached village with little witness. Another church was launched in Yaoundé in February (Lead University Chapel). In December, we will be partnering with Berean Baptist Church in Yaoundé to plant a new sister church. We planted Berean in 2006 and they have outgrown their building and need to plant somewhere else.



Encouraging Church plants

Early in the year, we made a visit to the NW Region to encourage BFL related churches and to speak at a denominational bible school. I preached on "vision in times of crises" at Calvary chapel where BFL donated a much needed generator for electricity. Spent a day with the leadership of Antioch Baptist Church in Bambili as they explore building an edifice and facilities for their growing ministries. Also spent two days in Yaoundé with more than 20 key team members of BFL in our Annual Team Building Workshop.



You Won't Regret It . . . *by Gary Finley*

Have you ever thought of going on a short term mission trip (STM)? If not, begin to think about it now. A short term mission trip is one area of service every Christian should experience at least once in their lifetime. Are they easy? Most are not. Are they worth it? Yes, every one.

My first STM trip was in 2001 to Mexico. The first day of the trip, I thought to myself "I will never do THIS again!", but God worked in my heart that week and I was hooked. Since then I have been on at least 18 trips to 8 different countries. Two of those trips were to Cameroon through Bread For Life. The first with a medical team in 2013 and the second a solo trip in 2016.

We in America are spoiled in so many ways and even though we see pictures or news reports, they are not enough to prepare you for the experience. But that is why you need to go, to gain a little understanding of life in countries not as developed as ours. Modern conveniences we take for granted at home, such as dependable electricity, running water, and yes, even working toilets, are luxuries here. You will survive, I promise. The key to any STM in Cameroon, or any other country for that matter, is flexibility. Take off your watch and put it away, you are on Cameroonian time now.

Okay, you may be asking yourself at this point, why would I ever want to go someplace like that? The answer is a simple one - the people. The people of Cameroon are some of the most hospitable people in the world. The first thing they say, when you meet them, is "you are welcome." They are very receptive to the gospel and eager to learn. We could learn a few things from them as well. Without the burden of modern conveniences, they are a very social people. They are not cooped up in their houses, they sit outside with their neighbors. They share with each other and take care of each other. Everybody seems to know everybody. Can you say that about your neighborhood? I can't.

Cameroon is caught between their primitive culture and the modern world. People there take you at your word. What they want is not a hand out but a hand up. The fruits and vegetables here are amazing. Are you an agricultural engineer with the knowledge to help make farms more productive? Your skills would be very useful in Cameroon!

I understand that putting your practice on hold for a week is challenging, but I have yet to meet a person who has regretted the sacrifice.

No matter what your background, I promise you can be useful on a STM trip. You just have to get out of your comfort zone and let God use you. Talk with your church about planning a trip. If that isn't possible, then contact BFL to join a team already scheduled to serve. Start living the great commission. You won't regret it.



buildingHOPE

A RAY OF HOPE @ Ray of Hope Academy

ORANGE FOUNDATION - FRANCE VISITS RAY OF HOPE ACADEMY!

We were recently blessed with the visit of Francoise Cosson (General Delegate of Orange Foundation and Director of Philanthropy and Solidarity for Orange Telecommunication - France) and her team from France.

Our prayers were answered last year with a \$25,000 grant to our School from Orange Foundation! This grant did so much: Paid all the expenses for three experts from Texas to come and provide much needed training to our staff and also provided scholarship to many of our special needs children and family. Our staff, led by Ebob Mpame Ashu (head teacher) and Jochebed Ambe (school administrator) were at hand to welcome our guests, so were our students as well as parents whose children received scholarship as a result of this grant.

Be in prayer with us as we plan for the future of our kids as they move into adulthood. The government of Cameroon in an unprecedented move has ceded over 100 acres of land to us. Our desire is to develop this land into a community where our adult with special needs can develop skills, enhance their self esteem through meaningful and supported work environment.

POINTS FOR PRAISE & PRAYER

- **Pray for Cameroon:** For stability & peace in the NW & SW Regions.
- **Pray for the needs at our school in Douala.** That all that is needed will be supplied.
- **Pray for our sustainable demonstration farm** and ongoing efforts. That crops planted will do well and pay stipend for all farm workers
- **Pray for wisdom** as we add **new board members** and for **direction** of the ministry
- **Praise** for recent visit to the USA and for **great responses**.
- **Praise** for a recent addition to our **Gideon 300 support**. A friend of the ministry has committed to giving \$500 monthly for a season!
- **Thankful** for \$8,000 that has come in towards the \$14,000 **school building rent** for the next academic year.
- Continue to **pray for the school:** good enrollment, sustainable growth and team spirit among teachers/staff

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A very special day at Ray of Hope Academy with the visit of Francoise Cosson (General Delegate of Orange Foundation and Director of Philanthropy and Solidarity for Orange Telecommunication - France) and her team from France.



Our sustainable farm