



WHY ANOTHER SCHOOL?

With the high birth rate and unemployment across Africa, schools have become a BIG "BUSINESS." The proliferation of schools across Cameroon and across Africa causes any thinking person to ask, "Why another school? Do we need more schools?" If "yes" "what kind of schools do we need?"

BECAUSE OF AJ...

Our son, AJ, born in 2012, was a vibrant, affectionate child, the life of our household! Then, in 2014 we noticed he was regressing. He became quiet and withdrawn, preferring to wander around the house by himself.



He wouldn't make eye contact, or play with his siblings anymore. These signs and others led us to seek medical help in the USA. It was recommended that he undergo speech and ABA therapy.

OUR EXPERIENCE...

We returned to Cameroon only to discover such services are practically non-existent, with only two French and no English speaking speech therapist in the whole country.

For AJ's sake, relocating to the USA or another country where we could find help and support seemed to be our only option, but we had mixed feelings about such a move.

We were referred to a school in Douala - the only school in the country that offered some services. The cost was over 500,000 CFA (about \$1,000) monthly. We believed our son would get help there but what they offered was limited and we saw little progress. We began looking for other ways to help our son, including hiring private tutors. In early 2016, we prepared a room in our home in Douala to provide specialized tutoring for our sweet son. To our surprise, this rapidly evolved to include several other special needs children, many from families that could not even pay 5,000 CFA (about \$10) monthly. Without advertising at all our home has now turned into a school.

PURPOSEFULLY DIFFERENT



Cultivating The Minds of Tomorrow-

TODAY



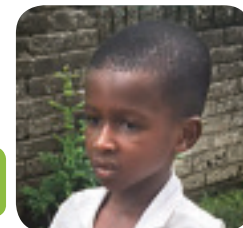
AN EPIDEMIC?

According to the USA Center for Disease Control (CDC) statistics, 1 in 50 individuals are now diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. These disorders are characterized, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, and repetitive behaviors, in varying degrees. The recent sharp rise in numbers of Autism has been described as an epidemic among children. The cause of Autism is heavily debated. Researchers are looking into genetics and environmental causes.

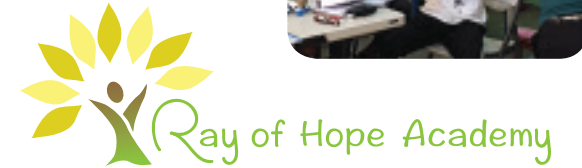
A CULTURAL DILEMMA

In Africa, where most people are still very superstitious, autism is often attributed to witchcraft and the children are seen as a bad omen. Consequently, special needs children are seen as a drain on a family's limited finances and a nuisance. In some circles, they are neglected and mistreated. This explains why there is no provision or acceptance for this segment of society. These families must deal with this situation alone with no support network, no programs or centers for these children, and no hope for a functional future.

There is only one school in Cameroon that has attempted to integrate autistic children in their system. Sadly, these children are all lumped in one classroom, and services are minimal and rendered by people with little or no training. The monthly costs are above 500,000 CFA (\$1,000) per month (over three times the average monthly income). This leaves the average person without options, without HOPE!



A SOLUTION...



PURPOSEFULLY DIFFERENT!

My wife and I are hoping we can make a difference by creating a model **INCLUSIVE** school in Cameroon that provides quality care and education for special needs children while being affordable to the average family.

OUR VISION

We envision a school and a community where the emphasis will not be on head knowledge alone, but where special needs children can acquire skills and knowledge to help them function in society.





A UNIQUE SCHOOL FOR UNIQUE SITUATIONS

We are motivated by our belief that EVERY child can learn and has the right to be taught in the way that he or she learns best. Our desire is to take special needs children and work with them one on one. We purpose to provide an environment and specialists who can address their unique situation. Their education will take into account the impact of remediation, social and emotional growth, and self-awareness and self-advocacy skills, and work at their pace.

A WORLD CLASS & WORLD ROUNDED EDUCATION

With government approval, we hope to formally launch in September 2016 what we have named RAY OF HOPE ACADEMY. Our vision is to start with a nursery (kindergarten) and primary (elementary) school that is all



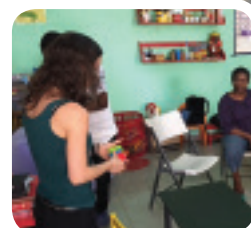
inclusive and where children from various backgrounds receive a world class and world rounded education that will give them the skills, strategies, and tools to transition to secondary schools and other educational environments.

WORLD CLASS TEACHERS EDUCATORS & SPECIALISTS

We intend to surround these students with highly trained and skilled teachers and specialists, led by an administrative team who will set high standards of excellence and who see the value of ongoing professional development. Our team will be drawn from Cameroon, the USA, Europe and other countries.

WHERE WE ARE

We are presently meeting in our home. We have hired five teachers and are providing them with training and skills as we also learn. We are networking with experts in France & the USA via Skype and in person, and working on recruiting others in the USA and the Europe to join our team in Cameroon.



NEXT STEPS

We have found a suitable house to rent for 500,000 (about \$1,000) per month in a quiet neighborhood in Douala and intend to move into it by September 2016. We plan to add a nursery (kindergarten) and class 1 – 3 (1st – 2nd grade) so special education children can interact with others.

FUTURE PLANS

CAMP PENIEL

We are idealistic! We are also realist! From what we have learned, we know many of these children may not be able to fully function in "normal society." Consequently, we desire to create a campus and a community for them, and children with other disabilities, that will provide an educational environment that creates meaningful jobs, builds a sense of belonging, and demands dignity and respect for them as they move to adulthood.

We have applied for land from the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC) and the government of Cameroon. We are asking the government to grant us 50 hectares to 100 hectares (250 acres) of land to develop a multifaceted campus base that will house the autistic and disable, a place where we can render the following services to families and children with various disabilities:

- Respite & Temp. Habilitation
- Supervised Living
- Supported Home Living
- Residential Support Services
- Supported Employment
- An educational camp
- etc etc.



FUNDING

Some may ask, "how is this being funded, and how will it be funded in the future?" My wife and I have put in all our resources and will continue to do whatever it takes to make this a reality and a model in Cameroon. This is personal to us because of our desire to provide a solution for our son and in the process help countless other children and families desperate for a place and some kind of hope. We intend to devote our lives and resources to help special needs children and their families.

We are hoping and praying that as we proceed, other like-minded individuals, churches, and corporations will join us. We intend to operate the school under two non-profit organizations, Bread For Life International in the USA, and CADAC in Cameroon (founded and operated by me). All financial support will go to these two organizations, under which these programs will be run.



THE HOPE OF A NEW DAY.

The Promise of a better tomorrow.

About the Ehables

Ernest Ehabe wears many hats (an Ordained Minister, an Inspirational Speaker & a Social Entrepreneur). Ernest is the Founder of two NGOs and serves as President & Chief Innovation Officer of Bread For Life International and CADAC. Ernest did his undergraduate and graduate studies in the USA as well as at CERIS (University of Paris 11) in Brussels. He is presently enrolled in a PhD in Integrated Rural Development at the University of Dschang in Cameroon. His vision is to see Africa and Africans become spiritually, socially and economically vibrant. His wife Elizabeth has served with the Cameroon government as a Translator/Interpreter and at the US Embassy in Yaoundé in project management. She now heads Orange Foundation-Cameroon.



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