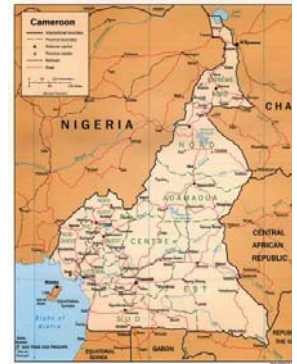


“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.”



CAMEROON 2005



REPORT ON THE
NEW COVENANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA
EVANGELISTIC MISSION TO
THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON IN WEST AFRICA

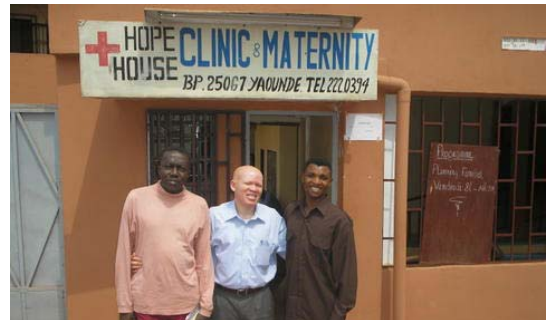
With Reports on the Mfou Festival of Hope, the Buea Festival of Hope and Visits of Orphanages, a Prison, a University and Several local Dignitaries

*Submitted by Julius Esunge
January 2006*



Wednesday, December 28, 2005

In the morning, I had a final meeting with our technical crew in anticipation of the Buea Festival of Hope (FoH) taking place from January 4, 2005 – January 8, 2005. While on the street awaiting a taxicab, I met 2 important persons, all unplanned. First was Patricia A who was my student a few years ago at the University of Buea. We talked briefly about her life, studies and plans. Convicted of God's good plans, Pat will be at the Buea crusade and is well on the way to living for Christ. Next was Ernest, who surrendered to Christ 7 years ago at one of our crusades in Dschang, where he was a student. Today he is the local director of Campus Crusade for Christ. Following these two meetings was the 7-hour trip from Buea to Yaoundé, then Mfou, where I had the privilege of speaking to the Cameroon Youths for Jesus (CYJ) team of over 50 gathered for the Annual Evaluation and Planning Meeting.



Right from the Top: Zachary, Julius and Favour at Hope Services Clinic; Organizing gifts for children at the orphanages. Left from the Top: Too excited about his new toy to fall asleep; At Soa Orphanage; Each child received a bag with school supplies and toys, thanks to your love and generosity.

Thursday, December 29, 2005

My travel companion in Yaoundé is Brother Simon Tata who is typing up this report. Our 1st stop this morning was at Hope Services Clinic (HSC) where we witnessed and participated in the bi-weekly Faith Clinic led by the Clinic Chaplain Pastor Johnson. This Faith Clinic is held on Tuesdays and Thursday between 9 am and 12 noon, and receives an average of 10 persons each day. Today there were 11 persons. Pastor Johnson works with a team of 6 which includes the HSC Director Esther Ndichafah. During Faith Clinic, the word is shared and the sick are prayed for. People are ministered to one after the other. Today, the first person ministered to was a 4-year-old with a speech problem. Next came a former HIV patient who is now expecting a baby with due date of January 10, 2006. The third case was Zachary, an ex-convict who received Christ in prison, got baptized on November 13, 2005 and was released on December 28, 2005. Finally, Pauline – who had suffered from depression and lived with restraints for 21 years and received ministry at the Clinic – came by to greet us; she blessed us with several choruses testifying to what Jesus Christ has done in her life. After Faith Clinic, Simon and I had a 3-hour briefing with Mrs. Ndichafah during which we discussed Hope Services, orphanages and prison ministry.

Tonight we begin the Mfou FoH.

Thursday, December 29, 2005 PM

After the meeting with Esther, her husband Donald (a Baptist Pastor) showed us around the various rooms and facilities at HSC. With a full time staff of 30 (who are all believers) and a few part timers, HSC is fulfilling its mission of ministering to the total man. Clients receive proper medical and spiritual care in spite of limited space and resources. This clinic receives medication from Germany. In the past, Esther has been offered funding by some several organizations, including a French corporation and the wives of Rotary Club International members. Unconvinced that she could partner with such bodies, she has repeatedly turned down their offers. Her long term dreams include:

- Operating a skills center for orphans and desperate people.
- Providing grants to widows and orphans (mostly resulting from HIV-AIDS) to enable them to launch business ventures that will sustain them economically.
- Paying for the education of orphans.
- Expanding the Yaoundé Clinic and opening an annex in Bamenda.
- Providing portable water for villagers in Bangolan – Ndop (in the North West Province).

The Mfou FoH began tonight with Rylance and me bringing the word. The local pastors tell us it is the first time the churches in Mfou are holding a joint program. Located nearly an hour's drive from Yaoundé, Mfou is a rural community and I am thrilled that we could hold this crusade with the local churches. Well, over 400 persons attended tonight's opening meeting and 37 made first time decisions for Christ.



Left from Top: Cameroon Youths for Jesus at Mfou FoH; Praying before the start of the festival; Inquirers at the Mfou FoH – Day 1. Right from the Top: Marquise serves as interpreter; Opening of the festival; Decisions for Christ.

Friday, December 30, 2005 AM

Simon, Rylance and I returned from Mfou at 11:00 pm and spent the night at HSC. Every day, between 7:30 am and 8:00 am, Clinic staff and clients assemble for morning devotion (bible study) during which time they sing, pray, share the word and listen to a health talk. Esther had asked me to speak this morning. I did so from Mark 1:40-41, emphasizing the Lord's willingness and ability to cleanse us from the leprosy of sin. Of the 37 people present, 10 prayed to receive Christ and are being counseled by Pastor Johnson and other clinic counselors. Continuing a series on health hazards of this festive season, Dr. Shiso spoke on the dangers of smoking. His previous talk was on alcoholism. At 8:05am, patients began lining up for compassionate care from staff members who are ever-so-ready to serve. At 10:00 am today, Esther, Simon and I will visit some of the orphanages where parties were held on Wednesday, December 28, 2005. The kids received gifts and bedding, and the visiting crew made up their beds and served a common meal. Rylance left us to go get French Bibles requested by the inquirers in Mfou.



Left from the Top: Children's counselors at work; The Mbalmayo orphanage includes a handicap and adult community. Right from the Top: Faith Clinic at Hope Services; A health talk given by Dr. Shizo; Faith Clinic; Distribution of gifts at Mbalmayo orphanage.



Esther, Simon and I visited the Dan and Sarah Orphanage. We were welcomed by its founder – Joseph Zingui – who gave us a tour of the orphanage. Strategic sections of the orphanage include the library for children, 4 dormitories, 4 classrooms and a play ground (lawn tennis and soccer courts). All of these facilities make the children feel at home, Zingui says. It is worth noting that most of the construction work is done by the orphanage (workers and children) with little assistance from outsiders. There are 17 ladies and 21 gentlemen in the orphanage. They range from 3 to 20 years-of-age. Since many were on holiday, a total of 17 were present when we got there. Still under construction is the external dormitory and the health center which are major projects of the orphanage. Some major needs for the children are exercise books, pens, clothes and medication. We also had an opportunity to interact with the children and see the bedding and mosquito nets donated to them thanks to your generosity.

Friday, December 30, 2005 PM

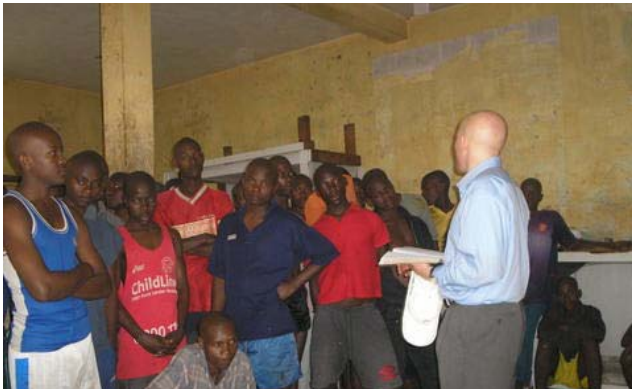
The second day of the Mfou FoH continued with Madison and I sharing the Word. The harvest this second day was amazing with 69 adults and 15 children receiving Christ as their Lord and Savior. Over 500 persons were in attendance. The sick were prayed for and the Lord was glorified in all. Simon, Rylance and I returned from Mfou at 11:00 pm and spent the night at the Hope Services Center (HSC).



Anticlockwise: With Joseph Zingui – Head of the Soa Orphanage, signing the guestbook on behalf of mission supporters; Using the orphanages' water pump, which is also used by its neighbors; Counselors (wearing blue badges) at the Mfou FoH; Inquirers at the Mfou FoH – Day 1; Mfou FoH – Day 2.

Saturday, December 31, 2005 AM

Simon, Esther, Rylance, Pastor Johnson, myself and five others left for the Yaoundé Central Prison at 9:15 am with 40 boxes containing soap, with at least one tablet for each inmate. Every single quarter of the prison was visited and in each case, the gospel was preached, reaching out to over 4000 inmates, with a total of 800 making a commitment to follow Christ. Rylance, Pastor Johnson, Brother Guy (one of the inmates) and I ministered simultaneously, making it possible for us to cover the entire prison in 3 hours. The sick inmates were also prayed for and we listened to several complaints regarding the living conditions, feeding and health of the inmates. The believing inmates worked closely with us and their leader, Pastor Achu, provided excellent coordination. The guard who accompanied us into all the wards pulled Esther and Pastor Johnson aside and requested that we pray with him, as he had decided to surrender his life to Christ. On our way out, we stopped at the office of the guards and everyone on the team knelt as we prayed for this guard and all others. In a brief visit with the Prison Director, we were encouraged to continue with the good work. He made mention of the fact that the inmates need God in their lives and promised to facilitate our ministry to them whenever we felt like coming. Follow up meetings were held immediately by the inmates. Pastor Johnson will be at the Prison on Monday for another meeting.



Left from the Top: Headed for the Yaoundé Central Prison, this van is filled with supplies for the inmates; Speaking to the juveniles at the prison, I encouraged them to use their youth to serve Christ; After speaking to inmates in one of the wards, prayer. Right from the Top: This ward had over 1,000 inmates and we had enough soap and literature for all; Esther Ndichafah speaks to some inmates; We shake hands with the (inmate) head of each ward.



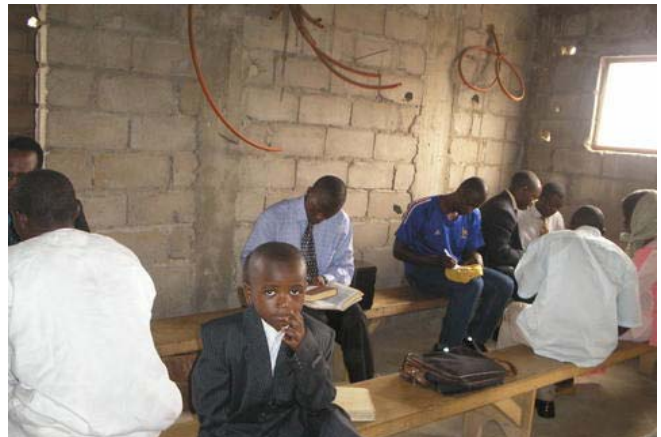
Top Left: The first in a series of 10 sermonettes given at each ward; Top Right: A bowl of half-cooked corn is all that inmates are given as their afternoon meal. The first time Esther saw this, she wept, and has since provided a full meal for the inmates once or twice a year; Second Left: This prison guard said to us: "I need Jesus"; Second Right: We knelt with him in prayer, and also prayed for the entire prison staff; Third Left: Mattresses at the prison's health center were donated by Hope Services; Third Right: Inmates sing with us after hearing the Word; Bottom Left: The gentleman in a white shirt is a medical doctor serving time in jail, where he met the Lord.

Saturday, December 31, 2005 PM

We arrived at Covenant Baptist Church at 6:00 pm, where I shared the word, encouraging all in attendance to stay committed in their service to the Lord Jesus Christ and keep their focus on Him. Thereafter, we headed out to Mfou for the closing night of the FoH. Madison preached the word to an audience of over 175, with 50 making decisions to follow Christ. We also took time to pray for the churches, the pastors and the city of Mfou. We distributed Bibles in French and English to those who indicated a need for one. The crusade chair – Reverend Thadee Appolinaire – led the local Pastors in praying for the crusade team and all our partners. He also treated the team to dinner at his home and some of the brethren ministered in the churches on Sunday morning. The crusade team returned to Yaoundé after midnight, celebrating the New Year on the road. Simon and I arrived at HSC at 2 am for a rest, while trusting God's grace and leadership for the morning service at Covenant Baptist Church where I was to present the New Year message.

Sunday, January 1, 2006

At 9:00 am Simon and I arrived at Covenant Baptist Church Tsinga in Yaoundé where we participated in the worship meeting and shared the Word, calling all present to a life of commitment and a serious walk with Christ. In response to the moving of the Holy Spirit, 8 persons stood up to make a first time commitment to Christ and many others rededicated their lives to Christ. After the meeting, counselors went to work immediately assisting each of the young converts. At 2 pm, Simon, Rylance, and I were at the Ndichafahs for a fellowship meal after which we rushed back to HSC to freshen up and then visit two widows and some of our ministry partners in Cameroon. Our last stop was at the Ngafeesons from 8:50 pm, where we met and celebrated the New Year with over 15 brethren. I encouraged the disciples to stay true to their commitment to follow Christ, as well as make new disciples. Being a hectic day, Simon and I returned to HSC at 11:30pm for a rest, planning to leave for Buea the following day, Monday, January 2.



Left: Giving the message at Covenant Baptist Church; Praying with church members after the service (the church is currently under going renovations); Right: Counselors get to work immediately following the sermon; A counselor speaks with a couple.

Monday, January 2, 2006 AM

We had a brief meeting and prayer with Mrs. Esther Ndichafah and finally left Yaoundé on Monday afternoon for Buea where I will retreat for 2 days and emerge on Wednesday, January 4 to begin the Buea FoH. Meantime, follow-up meetings are being held today in Limbe, Mfou and at the Yaoundé Central Prison. We have received a list of items needed at the orphanage and have left Esther with some money to get these items for the kids. Counselors for the Buea FoH are undergoing a 2-day training today and tomorrow. Eunice and I wish each one of you a very blessed New Year and we are grateful for all your love, prayers, support and encouragement.

Monday, January 2, 2006 PM

Simon and I arrived in Buea after a 7-hour bus ride from Cameroon's political capital Yaoundé, through the economic capital Douala. Our bodies were crying out for some rest, but this will only come after a 2-hour meeting with Lucas, Joseph and Melody who were spearheading the plans for the Buea FoH. This meeting gave us the opportunity to review the level of preparedness and to finalize plans for follow-up during and after the crusade. We all retired for rest by 11 pm after listening to reports on the day's counselors' training meeting.

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

Today was a day of rest and spiritual preparation for ministry during the Buea FoH. My teammates had worked very hard in Limbe and Mfou and they all needed some rest and ministry as well. It was therefore clear that I would have to

minister during all five nights of the Buea FoH, and we were all looking forward to the challenge. My time of retreat was interrupted by another update meeting with Lucas and Joseph at 9 pm today.

Wednesday, January 4, 2006 AM

I'm rounding off my retreat time with a visit to our family home in Buea. All signs point to a rather hectic time. Simon, who worked on most of the reports in Yaoundé, will be directing the first 2 meetings amid busy days at his job. Joseph (the crusade Director) has worked very hard with his team and seemingly, all is set for a great start tonight.

Wednesday, January 4, 2006 PM

One thing everyone doing missions knows is the need to be flexible. Missions in Africa present unique challenges and our team has worked hard to stay on top of things. However, this opening night presents us with several growth opportunities. Two hours into the time the meeting should begin, we have no power and no sound. It is now 8:30 pm and our desire was to close the meeting by this time, but electricity only just came on. A quick consultation with one of the leading Pastors and here is the decision: go ahead and speak without a microphone. The last time I addressed a crowd in a stadium without a microphone was 7 years ago, but alas, the "preacher voice" comes on quickly and before we know it, the message is on and the delivery is smooth. Then the sound is on and in less than 30 minutes we give the altar call. Amazingly, 53 adults and 14 children say yes to Jesus. We pray with them and for the sick. Counselors get to work and I retire for rest, after dinner at the Gwanmesias.



Left: A very young soloist performs at the Buea Festival of Hope.
Right: Decisions for Christ at the Buea Festival of Hope.

Thursday, January 5, 2006 AM

Joseph accompanies me to the University of Buea (UB) for meetings with the senior authorities. This is the only Anglo-Saxon University in Cameroon. Eunice and I did our undergraduate studies here and our relationship started here in Buea. On campus, most people we meet are overjoyed, they recall our meetings of yesteryears and indicate their plans to be with us at the Buea FoH.

Our first stop is at the Math Dept where Professor Shadrach Kwalar greets us warmly and we visit for nearly half an hour, discussing my research, the gospel and the challenges and need for staff. He gladly receives his copy of the NIV Bible Promise book and shows us round the Department. We are then welcome by Professor Fanzo-Free. He is the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Sciences. After a brief chat, we present him with a promise book. A lot has changed since I left UB 5 years ago. Most of the people who stop us are either faculty or staff members. The current student body was not here when we left and they present a unique mission field. As we head to our next stop, we ask ourselves what God has in store for us and for this campus.

We are now at the Central Administration Building where we meet in turn with Professors Lambi, Endeley and Ngoh, respectively the Vice Chancellor (VC), the Deputy VC and the Registrar. Each one of them receives a book on leadership by Dr. John Maxwell, some NIV Bible Promise books and a word of encouragement. Copies of NIV Promise books are also presented to the staff.

Thursday, January 5, 2006 PM

Our teammates treat us to lunch and Joseph and I leave in time for me to speak at the first follow-up session. In a bid to ensure that each soul abides, we agreed to hold follow up meetings everyday at 3:30 pm at the crusade grounds. Not everyone can attend as classes are still going on and offices are still open. However, those who come will be taught the basics of the faith and they will meet one-on-one with counselors. The counselors think it is better to give the Bibles to those who need them during these follow up sessions. This first meeting is attended by 30 persons and my talk goes on for 35 minutes. The counselors have 25 minutes to meet with the converts while I rest and prepare for the evening meeting.



Left: University of Buea Campus. (Image courtesy of <http://www.world66.com/africa/cameroon/buea>)

Right: Justice Helen Fon Achu is one of the few Christians in Cameroon's judiciary system. We had the privilege of meeting with her during our travels.

Tonight the crusade attendance stands at 743. The electricity and sound system are both working and our team is excited about what the Lord is already doing. I have planned to speak from Daniel 3 and tonight's message is "A Call to Consecrated Living." Drawing inspiration from verses 12 to 18, we highlight some of the gods Cameroonians bow to. We charge those in attendance to stand and be counted for Jesus and in response, 56 persons surrender to Christ. As the counselors get to work for a few minutes the choir is singing, then we minister to the sick and needy and Joseph closes the meeting.

Friday, January 6, 2006 AM

Today was mainly spent in meetings and counseling sessions with people who have made appointments with Melody to see me. One of those I meet is Brother John Bongo, a very talented musician with a call to the ministry. His plan is to attend the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomosho. It will cost him \$1000 each year, but he is unable to raise this amount, so we pray together and we agree to trust the Lord to provide. I also held meetings with our team leader in Cameroon, assessing the progress and direction of the CYJ ministry.



Friday, January 6, 2006 PM

Today's follow-up meeting has a higher attendance and like yesterday, we teach the converts for half an hour and allow the counselors similar time to meet with them one-on-one. The attendance at the crusade meeting jumped to 852 and our "nets" got torn tonight as we had more people responding to the altar call than we had counselors to minister to them. Finding seats for these people was a nice problem. Over the past 2 nights, we have simply freed up a section. Tonight, we had to free up 2 full sections including the VIP area to allow the counselors to minister to the 112 persons who made decisions for Christ. I could not avoid appealing to believers in the crowd to join hands and help us as we want to be sure that each convert abides. Wow, the atmosphere at the meeting tonight is hard to describe. My message, still from Dan 3, is entitled "Who is that God?" and focuses on the attributes and greatness of God displayed through creation and redemption.

It is important to note that the weather has been favorable and the local churches are cooperating in an unprecedented manner. This makes for a very conducive ministry time with lots of fruit.



Left: Preaching at the Buea Festival of Hope; Decisions for Christ.
Right: Part of the audience.

Saturday, January 7, 2006 AM

By 5:45 am, Melody, Tony, Sam and I left for Kumba and Muyuka to visit some family members and meet with a few local pastors as we explore the possibility of future meetings in both cities located 2 hours from Buea. In Kumba, we met with my mother-in-law and Reverend Solomon Kemamah. In Muyuka, we visited Melody's mom. While we were on the road, 143 students from the University assembled at the auditorium of the Full Gospel Mission in Molyko, Buea for a life-changing seminar during which 4 students surrendered to Christ. Participants listened to talks from 3 professors and were treated to a meal, thanks to your kind support.

Saturday, January 7, 2006 PM

Our plan was to return to Buea by 2 pm so that I could speak at the follow-up meeting, but we didn't make it back until 4 pm, having been delayed by some policemen who refused to release our car because we objected to bribery. The car was released on Monday after the Buea Mayor intervened. Due to the delay, Madison taught today's follow-up meeting with 45 in attendance. Punctual as always, Dr. Pius Oben was on hand at 7 pm to take me to the evening meeting. By now our team has settled on a post-crusade follow-up plan involving teaching sessions for converts on Monday, January 9, Tuesday, January 10 and Thursday, January 12. Upon arriving at the stadium, word got to me that the local Baptist Church was inviting me to speak on Sunday, bringing the number of places where I was expected to minister to 2.

Confronted with the scarcity of trained counselors, our team has scheduled 2 sessions to train more counselors who will serve alongside those already working in the post-crusade follow up and visitation ministry. These training sessions will be held on Monday and Tuesday, before the follow-up meetings. It's the weekend and the crowd has grown. We added a few more chairs, but they are all taken up, as 939 persons assemble for the crusade and 140 make decisions for the Lord. Towards the end of the meeting, the leaders of the Baptist Church grant our request to use their premises for post-crusade follow-up meetings while I am whisked off to much needed rest after ministry to the sick.



At the Baptist Church, I await an opportunity to share the Word, and a former Muslim gives her testimony.

Sunday, January 8, 2006 AM

We wake up to a God-given plan that makes ministry in both congregations possible. Franklin and Moses accompany me to the Full Gospel Mission where I minister from 9:25 am till 10:15 am, and then leave to serve as the day's pastor at the Baptist Church. I must note that while we were students in Buea, Eunice attended the Full Gospel Mission (FGM), while I attended the Baptist Church. The FGM pastor welcomed me as an in-law or as we say in Cameroon – *moyo*, while the Baptists were happy that a son had come home. Both congregations have experienced remarkable growth in numbers, depth and openness to the Lord and His leadership and both are involved, like Covenant Baptist Church Yaoundé, in capital campaigns to secure funds for building projects. At the FGM, there were over 600 in attendance, while we had over 500 at the Baptist Church, where 20 persons responded to the call to surrender to the Lord. These converts were encouraged to attend the crusade follow-up meetings and we presented the church leaders with 200 NIV Promise books to help them minister to the people. Fellowship meals were planned in both places at the homes of members and they provided an opportunity to relate closely and talk with the leaders and some of the brethren. I also met briefly with 5 people who came to see me at the home of the FGM pastor. We left just on time for the follow up meeting, where over 50 converts were in attendance.



Left: Preaching at the Full Gospel Mission in Molyko, Buea.
Right: Preaching at the Baptist Church in Buea.

Sunday, January 8, 2006 PM

Generally, the closing nights of our gospel crusades are brief and devoted to praying for the city, the local authorities, the churches and the populace. Madison invited the pastors present to pray for calm and peace in Buea amid a rising crime wave. Thereafter, I explained to the crowd how the Lord had provided for the running of the crusades, the Bibles, NIV promise books and my trip. Challenged by the generosity of the US churches and believers, everyone at the meeting stood up and pointed towards the USA and joined in prayer led by Reverend Alfred Tembi. They prayed that America would stand strong for Jesus.

My message this closing night, still from Daniel 3, was titled "Our God is Able," and with 1,050 attending, 68 responded to the altar call. According to our plans, counselors will meet one-on-one with the converts from Monday and general teaching sessions will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of this first week.

Next, for nearly 3 hours, I meet with the national leadership of CYJ, a meeting which runs till 2:30 am.



Monday, January 9, 2006

As I leave Buea at 9 am for the North West Province, Madison is preparing to speak at the follow-up meeting in the evening while Brother Ashu and the Campus Crusade Director in Buea will lead the counselors' training session. After nearly 7 hours, I arrive in Bamenda (in the North West) and although I have been in Cameroon for 2 weeks, this is my first meeting with my mother who is the Director of Governmental Human Resources for the Province. My hope is that my time here will be spent with family, but this will only last a night, as word quickly spreads and my phone starts ringing and I need to see several pastors and ministry leaders. Meanwhile, 29 believers attend today's counselors' training session, while over 100 persons (69 converts) attend the evening follow-up meeting.



My mother – Mme. Eposi Kale, Director of Government Human Resources for the Northwest Province in Cameroon.

Tuesday, January 10, 2006

Elim Bible College in New York sent some material which I deliver at the Bamenda Center for Biblical Studies (CBS). The Center's Director, Pastor Thompson, requests a meeting with me and we schedule a lunch time appointment for Wednesday, while I continue visiting in Bamenda, meeting in turn with the President of a leading gospel radio network and some other leaders. It is also time to catch up with the CYJ team and some family friends in Bamenda. By the time I retire for the day, it is 9:30 pm.

In Buea, 78 converts attend the follow-up meeting while 23 believers are present for the training session for counselors. What a blessing to hear what the Lord is doing in the lives of His people.

Later today, I meet with more of my teammates in Bamenda, visit some friends and prepare to leave Bamenda. News of a strike by gasoline tankers scares everyone and my scheduled trip to the Bamenda market must be called off. At home, my mom's pastor and several friends are waiting and we share a meal together with Lawrence who led hymns at the Limbe and Buea FoH. By 2 am, we retire for a few hours of rest and leave the house by 8 am to board the bus to Buea.

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

When God opens doors, the joy of walking in is hard to describe. After a few morning meetings with family members and our technical director Henry (from Buea), Henry and I meet with Pastor Thompson at 1 pm. I have known a few American missionaries at the Center for Biblical Studies, especially Reverend Richard Collingridge who is now missions pastor in a church near Rochester, NY. My meeting with Brother Thompson will be even more enlightening. CBS was established 6 years ago as a non-denominational Bible College with a vision of training leaders for the Cameroonian church. With an annex in Bafoussam (Western Province) targeting the French-speaking population, the Bamenda Center boasts of 65 students this year from 19 denominations, 3 American missionaries who assist in teaching and administration, and several Cameroonian pastors who provide much needed contextualized training for the ministry. Tuition stands at \$100 per year and even then, many of those who desire to attend cannot afford it, so CBS provides scholarships as resources allow.

In addition to his work as Director of CBS, Pastor Thompson runs a village clinic 2 hours from Bamenda in Andek, and receives short term medical and teaching mission teams. He is also involved with ministry to orphans, widows and the sick at local hospitals. He and I agree to seek the Lord on possible areas of partnership and as we round off our 2-hour discussion, Henry and I make a brief stop at a cyber café to allow me post some reports.

Thursday, January 12, 2006

It is exactly 4 years today since Eunice and I became one flesh. It is also the first time we will spend this day on separate continents. We have spoken every day since Wednesday, January 4 and her spirits are very high. She has also received a lot of help from the brethren in Baton Rouge, ensuring that when she leaves work at night, someone is watching until she is safely home. What a blessing!

I am at the bus terminal in Bamenda at 8 am and have typed up reports covering the last 5 days. We may leave soon and I am thinking already of tonight's follow up meeting in Buea. My prayer is that we arrive in Buea on time for the meeting. I also have to meet some pastors in Buea and visit Cameroon's former Vice President in Limbe tomorrow.

We finally leave Bamenda at 11 am. The usually 6-hour trip from Bamenda to Buea takes nearly 8 hours. When we arrive in Buea, the last general follow-up meeting is underway. Time for a quick shower and I arrive at the Baptist Church by 7:45 pm where there are over 150 persons in attendance. Tonight's meeting involves 2 groups: those who have attended all the previous sessions and those who are around for the first time. The teachers tonight round off at 8 pm and I am allowed 30 minutes during which we review the basics of the faith. A young lady who traveled with me in the same bus has kept her word and she attends tonight's meeting. Someone will be speaking with her regarding her walk with the Lord. Wow, what doors, what opportunities and how precious every soul is to Him.

The counselors and converts will enjoy a fellowship meal on Sunday, January 15. Thereafter, Bible study groups of 5 to 7 will meet in various neighborhoods in Buea on a weekly basis. At 9 pm, we arrive at the home of Dr. and Dr. Mrs. Oben where a dinner has been prepared for us. As we celebrate God's goodness, Mrs. Oben reminds all that this is Julius and Eunice's 4th wedding anniversary. Eunice is not present in person, but all 15 people rejoice with us and share a cake prepared by our host. I retire after another meeting and packing.



Flying home, I pay a visit to the cockpit.

Friday, January 13, 2006

My day starts with courtesy calls to several personalities in Buea and at 11 am, I meet with Mr. and Mrs. Peter Mafany Musonge. For 8 years, Mr. Musonge served as Cameroon's Prime Minister. Our discussions lasts nearly an hour and conclude with a time of prayer and an exchange of contact information as Mrs. Musonge urges me to come home more often since the fields are truly ripe for harvest.

Next, accompanied by Sam and Joseph, my journey out of Cameroon begins as we drive to Douala where we hold meetings with Professor Sammy Beban Chumbow and several CYJ members in Douala. We head to the airport in good time and check in before the crowd arrives. By 10:00 pm, my friends have to go, and this is the hard part. Encouraged by the possibility of another mission trip in a few months, we part thanking the Lord for allowing us these opportunities to fellowship and serve Him.

Saturday, January 14, 2006

Air France Flight 943 leaves Douala at 12:05 am headed for Paris. Even before the plane takes off, I am asleep and will only complete this report on Saturday morning in Paris. A trip like this is an eye opener and many lessons are learned. Our hearts are filled with gratitude because it is clear that this is the way the Lord wanted it.

Delayed in Paris for an hour, we arrive in Atlanta via AF 316 at 3:05 pm Eastern time and breeze through Immigration with no trouble whatsoever. At exactly 6:45 pm Central time, Delta flight 4244 touches down in Baton Rouge where Eunice and Elvis are on hand. Home at last, what a blessing!

One thing is clear, borne and sustained on land and in the air by the prayers of the saints, this mission trip reveals what happens when God's people *gang* together. The outpouring of spiritual, physical and financial resources was unprecedented (at least as far as I am concerned). You may have read this before, but I can't help repeating that this mission would have remained a dream without your active support. Thanks, and thanks again.

If you would like to receive e-copies of this report with links to additional photographs,
please email Julius and Eunice Esunge at esunge@gmail.com.

This report was compiled to the glory of God by Julius and Eunice Esunge,
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