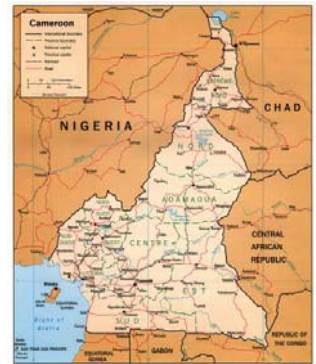


**“Go into all the world and preach the gospel  
to every creature.”**



# **CAMEROON 2006**

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

*Submitted by Julius Esunge  
July 2006*



*Wednesday, June 28, 2006*

After a safe landing at the Douala International Airport, I am welcomed by Pastor Derrick, Pastor Collins and Madison, and we head to Buea where we all spend the next two nights. Arriving Buea by 8 pm, we are treated to a meal at the home of the Gwanmesias, where I also have the opportunity to deliver some public address equipment for the Church which Pastor Gwanmesia leads, and we retire for rest by 11 pm.

*Thursday, June 29, 2006*

My travel companion on this mission trip is Franklin Ndi, with whom I go on a 4-mile run at 6 am. This promises to be a full day and even as we run, we meet a number of people on the streets in Buea who have good memories of our January gospel crusade here. Some of them cannot wait to share their unique experiences of salvation and restored fellowship with the Lord.

My first appointment today is with a seeker who, at the end of our meeting, surrenders to the Lord and agrees to attend tonight's follow-up meeting. At 1 pm, accompanied by 6 others, Franklin and I visit the home of Cameroon's first female medical doctor. This lady treats us to lunch and shares with us her hunger for the Lord. Here is an appointment I was not too willing to grant, but her persistent emails to me before I left the USA and a sense that the Lord would bless our visit with her moved us to go.

As we speak, she tells me that she had prayed fervently for us to come and in fact, she had concluded: "If Julius cannot visit our home, then God has other plans for me". Recently retired as Dean of the School of Medicine, her desire is to invest the rest of her life in hot pursuit of the Lord. Our visit ends with a time of prayer.

By 5 pm, we meet at the Macedonia Baptist Church with a host of converts and counselors from our January crusade. Although end of semester exams are underway at the University of Buea, my heart is thrilled by the number of students and city dwellers who attend this meeting. Three of the converts and two counselors share their testimonies, each detailing the changes the Lord has brought in their lives since the crusade, and their joy in walking with the Lord. Many at this meeting and on the streets tell of the impact of the Bibles and Promise Books they received. A young girl in 6<sup>th</sup> grade is in attendance with her counselor. Her worn out Bible tells of repeated usage, while the presence of my own father and his counselor Reverend Ndeley is yet another mark of encouragement.

My two-part message (thanks to Brooke) is on growing deep and growing strong and getting scripture into your life. We cannot be too long tonight as some of the students have papers to write the next day, but before they leave, we all share some snacks and juices and we meet one- on-one with a few of the converts, then a meal at Pastor Derrick's.

*Friday, June 30, 2006*

After a number of working visits to some authorities in Buea, Franklin and I will head to Douala today to welcome Pastor Jack Groblewski, Michael Sobetsky and Eric Frank, and proceed to Yaoundé for the start of our ministry there. En route to Douala, we receive word that due to weather conditions, Michael and Eric got to Paris late and will not be in Douala tonight. Our friends in Yaoundé need to know what we will do, given that we have planned to minister at the prison on Saturday morning.

By the time we arrive at the Douala airport and pick up Pastor Jack, there is no doubt we must head straight to Yaoundé; the meetings at the prison will proceed as planned. Francis Kimeng also drove in from Yaoundé with 4 pastors and together we make the 3-hour journey to Yaoundé in the midst of a heavy downpour. Our team will be based at Hotel Azur in Bastos, where Donald and Esther Ndichafah are on hand to welcome us. We have some pizza and retire for the night.

*Saturday, July 1, 2006*

Pastor Jack arrived in Cameroon following 2 weeks of meetings in Spain and England and a night on the road. Although he wants to come to the prison, it seems better for him to rest, hence Franklin and I leave for the prison by 8 am. My heart is always moved when I visit this facility. It is a real prison, especially when I consider what I saw in the prison I visited in Louisiana. Partnering with Hope Services (Esther Ndichafah) and Gideon's International, we will distribute rice, cooking oil, fruit juices, Bibles and other supplies. We will also preach evangelistic messages in each ward.

Compared to last December, our work is better organized today and all the volunteers are divided into 6 groups. My group is assigned to the elite and female wards. In both wards, we share a simple message from Jeremiah 29:11, but even now, I cannot distance myself from what I saw in the elite ward. Here, one finds former senior government officials. In fact, my friends recognize a former cabinet member. In both places, our message is well received. Scores of people respond with tears as we remind them that God is thinking about them.

Franklin and I leave the prison by midday and head to Douala with our driver Matthias to pick up Michael and Eric.



*Top to Bottom: Follow-up meeting with crusade converts; Gifts for inmates – rice, cooking oil, etc.; Ministry in one of the prison wards; Bibles and more supplies; Decisions for Christ; In the Women's Ward.*



**Monday, July 3, 2006 AM**

This morning marks the official start of the ministers' and church leaders' conference. As we talk about the steps that led us to this point and the impetus for this conference, the hundreds of leaders in attendance at this opening session are overcome with a sense that their work in the Lord's vineyard is being recognized. Pastor Jack is the main speaker throughout the leaders' conference and his wealth of experience from 25 years of pastoring comes in handy. His first message is drawn from Luke 17:1-10 and captures the life of a leader. He teaches on five attitudes of a leader, saying that leaders must be inclined to limit their own freedom; forgive; believe for the impossible in the lives of others, even those who hurt them; repent; and serve without any entitlement to reward.

In a culture like mine where titles, accolades and accompanying rewards motivate some to aspire to leadership even in Christian circles, the conviction that falls upon the audience is hard to capture in words. By the time we close this first session, the audience stands before the Lord in honest confession and repentance. As our team proceeds to the home of the Ndichafahs for lunch, conference participants are treated to a meal made possible by your kind support.

**Monday, July 3, 2006 PM**

Our lunchtime visit with the Ndichafahs continues with a visit to the grounds of Hope Services where Esther Ndichafah and her husband Donald give us a guided tour of the facility. We reported extensively on the work of Hope Services last December and will gladly resubmit portions of that report if you need them. Our team retires by 4 pm for a short rest and prayer time ahead of the evening evangelistic meeting.

By the time we reach the crusade venue, the blunder of holding an indoor crusade is clear. It is only the opening night, yet the hall is packed. I have the honor of bringing God's word to the people and well over 50 decisions are registered tonight. As counselors get to work, our team departs for dinner at the FGM Center in Obobogo – a Yaoundé neighborhood – and the day's activities are concluded by 11 pm.



*Top to Bottom: A Cross-section of church leaders; The First of three nights of evangelism; Hope Services – Front Entrance; A guided tour of Hope Services; Carol Eve Nounsi did a fine job translating; Counselors get to work with Inquirers; Group Photo of Monday Night Dinner.*



**Tuesday, July 4, 2006 AM**

Our 4-man team splits into 2 groups today to allow us to chase several rabbits. First, Michael and Eric head out to Hope Services where from 9 am till noon, they participate in Faith Clinic. During this time, they share the scriptures and devote hours to pray for nearly 20 clients who have been referred here by the physicians, based on perceived need for spiritual care. Michael and Eric work in collaboration with Hope Service chaplains Pastors Collins Amougou and John Bongo.

At the same time, Pastor Jack and I are in the conference hall and he has to present two messages today on the call of a harvester/leader. The first session is devoted to deep theological material, while the second session for the day focused on more practical aspects of God's call on His children. The entire teaching is anchored in Ephesians 4:1-13.



**Tuesday, July 4, 2006 PM**

When we get together at noon, our host for lunch is Covenant Baptist Church and we drop Pastor Jack off for a short rest, while the rest of the team proceeds to visit the Dan and Sarah Orphanage located 30 miles northeast of Yaoundé. The children present a well-rehearsed program and Eric leads our team in ministering to them, and also teaches them a song. Thereafter, we visit a workshop where the children are trained in woodwork and carpentry and thanks to your support, our team presents them with a gift that will make their training easier and quicker. As Michael presents the blade, he explains its use to the rest of us (Michael works for a wood company in the USA) and the children and workshop staff are refreshed by his knowledge.

It is now 5 pm and on our way to the hotel, we plan a 5-minute visit to a group of women intercessors who are providing culinary and prayer support for our mission. This visit lasts 45 minutes and we rush to our base to get set for the evening evangelistic meeting. Pastor Jack presents a message from John 19:28-35 on the thirst for Christ and scores in the audience respond to the altar call. As always, a big challenge is managing the crowd in this packed hall, but counselors have an intelligent strategy that allows them to meet each inquirer and also permits us to pray for the sick.

From the crusade grounds, our team makes the 30-minute drive to the home of Daniel and Elisabeth Shu, and we retire for rest by midnight.



*Top to Bottom: Reverend Bamikole, Julius Esunge and Pastor Jack; Conference Choristers present a beautiful hymn; Marquise and Pastor Jack – Session 2; Snacks for conference participants; Michael presents blade to Joseph Zingui – Head of the orphanage; At the Soa Orphanage Wood Workshop; Inquirers at the Tuesday Crusade.*



**Wednesday, July 5, 2006 AM**

As our stay in Yaoundé nears its close, the conference crowd is growing and the impact of the ministry is extending. Like Tuesday, Pastor Jack presents two teachings today detailing the armor of a harvester/ leader, from Ephesians 6:10-18. His emphasis on the protective role of husband-wife relationships and the perils of sexual impropriety brings many ministers to the altar in a time of confession and prayer for renewed consecration to holy living. Prior to the messages, we had the opportunity to distribute nearly 100 books to some of the leaders, selecting those from every province and each denomination, as well as leaders of various Para-church organizations represented at this leadership conference.



**Wednesday, July 5, 2006 PM**

Today, our team has lunch with nearly 500 conference participants and this provides a unique time of sharing. Michael and Eric leave by 1:45 pm for the Yaoundé Central Prison, where on request from the believing inmates, they will teach a seminar on "Anger and Conflict Management." Thankfully, Esther and Pastor Collins accompany them, while Pastor Jack and I retire for a short rest ahead of the evening evangelistic meeting.

My message tonight is from Luke 17:11-19, and God blesses our ministry with well over 110 decisions from this packed hall. As usual, we take a few moments to encourage inquirers to find a good church, read their Bibles daily, pray etc. Pastor Abah who directs the counselors had also submitted a list of persons from the previous nights who needed Bibles in English and French. Franklin and Matthias gladly deliver the Bibles purchased earlier in the day and with over 200 decisions registered, there is no doubt that counselors will have a major task nurturing these new babes.

As we leave for dinner at the Ndichafahs, the counselors have put in place a plan to meet with all inquirers on Saturday, July 15 in several neighborhoods in Yaoundé where follow up centers will be open.



*Top to Bottom: The greatest in the Kingdom; Our Strategy was soaked in prayer; A few of the hundreds at the conference; Entrance to the Yaoundé Central Prison; Inmates at the Prison Conference; Some of the classics we took to Cameroon; Wondering who the African is in the Team?*



**Thursday, July 6, 2006**

On this closing day of the leaders' conference, we devote time to pray for the Church in Africa and the West as well as for the leaders in the public arena. Pastor Jack then presents a moving message casting a vision for the future, in which he details the unique potential of the Cameroonian church. Described in many quarters as the *hinge* of Africa and comprising over 260 language groups and over 500 ethnic groups, Cameroon is indeed Africa in miniature and Pastor Jack challenges the church leaders to lead God's flock so that Cameroon can be an example to the rest of the world.

Our team leaves the conference grounds by midday for a lunch debriefing session at the Hotel, after which we greet a number of pastors and leaders who have come to bid us farewell. By 3 pm, our journey to Douala begins, but we first make a brief prayer visit to the office of Brother Francis Kimeng.

We arrive at the Douala airport by 7 pm and after check-in formalities, we share our last meal together and drop off Pastor Jack, Michael and Eric by 9 pm for their flight to Paris.

Franklin, Matthias and I then begin our 3 days journey compassing 5 provinces and over 2500 kilometers. Our first stop is in Limbe, in the South West Province, where we arrive by midnight. Our host is my aunt Julie Mafany who is Conservator of the 150-year-old Limbe Botanical Garden.

**Friday, July 7, 2006**

Although Auntie Julie is eager to show us around the garden, the constraints of our schedule do not allow her to do so fully, and we are only able to do a limited tour of the grounds. Before leaving the South West Province, we must respond to a few calls for prayer. We arrive in Buea by 2 pm and leave by 3 pm for Bamenda in the North West Province of Cameroon, where I am due to speak on Saturday at the graduation of students from the Bamenda Center for Biblical Studies.



*Top to Bottom: Last day in Yaoundé with our driver Matthias and his family; Government employees attending the conference; Closing moments of the four-day conference; Debriefing – Michael, Eric and Julius; At the Limbe Botanical Garden – this tree is over 800 years old; So many species of butterflies...; Looking out at the Atlantic Ocean.*

*Saturday, July 8, 2006*

My mother is our host in Bamenda and as we wake up this morning, the usual fun of being at home is short-lived as we all prepare to head out for the Center for Biblical Studies graduation, where I am expected to present a challenge to the graduating class.

The ceremony at the Bamenda Congress Hall is colorful, with 14 graduates and over 800 people in the audience including government, religious and traditional authorities. Such an audience is always a great harvesting field, and we do indeed reap a great harvest as the Lord pours out conviction through the preached word. I am told as many as 80 persons respond to the invitation to walk with the Lord Jesus.

Since this is my only day in Bamenda, I firmly resist the temptation to visit or meet with anyone, preferring instead to spend the remaining hours of the day at home with my mom and some friends who stop by to greet us.

*Sunday, July 9, 2006*

Today, I am due to speak at the Home Fellowship at Mr. Kimeng's in Yaoundé by 5 pm, and meet with some of our mission partners by 7 pm. We also have some things to collect in Douala, which is 6 hours away from Bamenda, hence, we leave Bamenda by 6 am, arriving Douala by noon and Yaoundé by 4 pm. Accompanied to Douala by Joyous and Patricia, our 5-man troop enjoys a time of worship, prayer and Franklin brings us a meditation from Matthew 16.

When we arrive in Yaoundé, the Home Fellowship is packed. I am not sure where strength came from for me to speak for a whole hour, followed by a meeting with Yaoundé-based pastors and some of our partners. Between these two activities, my attention is called to someone who traveled all night from East Cameroon to see me with a desperate prayer need. Seeing her determination, my only word to her is to keep her strong faith in the Lord and we then pray after which Mr. and Mrs. Kimeng counsel her. Before we rest, we make 2 important visits, pack up and then doze off at 2 am.

*Monday, July 10, 2006*

Like many Christian homes in Cameroon, life begins at 5 am at the Kimengs with a time of prayer and family devotion. I awake to the sound of hymns and choruses and join this family time. Franklin and I eventually leave Yaoundé at 10 am for Douala from where I take off at 11 pm for the USA.



*Top to Bottom: Graduates of the Bamenda Center for Biblical Studies (CBS); CBS Authorities; Current and past CBS students; Delivering the Message – A Challenge to the Graduating Class; Family and friends of the graduates listen to the Word; With the Graduating Class; Addressing Yaoundé pastors at the Kimeng's home fellowship.*

# CONCLUSION

## Dearly Beloved:

Words cannot adequately express our sense of indebtedness and gratitude to each one of you for your support and prayers. Needless to say, we could not have gone on this mission trip without you. Almost on a daily basis, I read emails from people whose lives are forever changed, thanks to your obedience to the Lord. Of the many emails that have come in, let me share the following with you:

*From Susan: Hello Evangelist – I'm sorry I haven't been able to write to you since you left. This is because I am a struggling high school student, but the Lord is my strength all the time. Well, not wanting to waste too much of your time, I simply wish to say that your preaching at the crusade helped me a lot. As you know sir, my Christian life had not been growing because I was very carnal in all my actions, therefore blocking my ability to reach out to God. Due to your messages, I had to renew my life and surrender all to him who is able to take me out of all situations, and all is fine now. Please continue to help me not to go back to the things of the past. Please extend my regards to your family, especially Pastor Eric, Michael and your wife, Sister Eunice. Remain blessed as I wait to hear from you. My prayer request is that I just wrote the Advanced Level Exams, so please pray hard that I succeed and use my knowledge for His service. Sister Susan*

*From Anembom: Please include me in your prayers because I have taken a very important decision in my life and I pray God guides me through with the courage and wisdom I need. In fact, I am thanking God for leading me to you. Your words and prayers are always in my mind and they help me to get closer to Him. I am very grateful and thankful for you. I could not believe that I could open the bible and read it with ease, and the way I pray has also changed. I find some words flowing inside, and I am surprised by my progress so far. I will let you know about my progress. So far I have read the Gospel of John TILL CHAPTER 12. I thank you.*

*From Valerine: I want to say the Conference touched my life particularly. Through the teaching on warfare I really understood the meaning of putting on God's whole amour and remaining strong in the Lord. I remain eternally grateful to God for using Pastor Jack in such a mighty way. I also thank God for having raised up an Evangelist like you to influence your generation for the world and I want to say that the evangelist messages you preached greatly blessed me and gave me a deeper understanding of the words "grace" and "mercy." I pray that God's grace will be increased in your life and that the Lord will grant you many more open doors so that you will be His instrument in bringing unity to the Body of Christ.*

*From Pastor Johnson (Covenant Baptist Church): The Lord has done it again. A man in his thirties from a predominantly Moslem neighborhood in Yaoundé attended the crusade on Tuesday night, surrendered his heart to Jesus and came forward for prayer. He was not sick, but stood for his father at home, who was suffering for over a year in bed. When he got home that night, his father had been healed. I met him on the streets on Saturday and he told me he had been searching for a church since the crusade ended. He came to our church Sunday and we have started a Bible study at their family home. This man says he wants to be baptized and has renounced Islam.*

*From Reverend Young (AoG): This lady (center) was healed of respiratory problems on the opening night of the crusade. Later, she told her counselor that she was living with a Moslem man who was not her husband. We agreed to find a place for her and to help her start an income-generating project.*



We could go on and on, but neither space nor times are on our side. My heart is filled with appreciation for all of you who made this possible. Obviously, we need to discuss the way forward.

We have been challenged and encouraged to continue this great work. We are confident that starting with Cameroon, the Lord may allow similar projects to be carried out in strategic locations around the world. For now, we keep our eyes on where we sense His clear leading.

There is no doubt that our work has been cut out for us. We cannot stop until He so directs. All we continue to hear at this moment is "Go." In due course, you will hear from us regarding the next steps. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your love, care, prayers and support, "...and let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." (Galatians 6:9)

Today we read some of their testimonies, but soon we shall appear side by side with all those whose lives have been affected by your prayers and generous donations, and oh what a day and feast that will be!

To Him – even our Coming and Conquering Lord Jesus Christ – be all the glory.

Blessings to you and yours,

**Julius and Eunice Esunge**



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](mailto:esunge@gmail.com).

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