

Summer 2014 Highlights

"I am convinced that God has called us to to serve Him by serving the marginalized, poor peripheral human communities that are hungry to know Him, by making Jesus known to them."

Ernest Ehabe

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How Can **YOU** Change a Society?

Several years ago, the late Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India, was asked by reporters, "how can you change society?" She responded not with an answer, but with a question. "how can you change society," she asked, "if you don't first bring individuals face to face with God?" Her question goes to the heart of a great myth. For generations, we've assumed that if we could only change society we would change individuals--when just the contrary is true. We have discovered that no amount of tinkering will restore our social order when there is moral disorder in our own souls. The truth is, 'it is only as individuals are changed, then can society be changed.' And, that exactly is why the gospel of Jesus is preminent, for it alone has the power to change lives (Romans 1:16,17; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Community based churches in growing cities play a huge role in bringing true change to any society. Wherever the gospel has impacted cultures, it inevitably has been through the local church. Bread For Life (BFL) facilitates church-planting in the city and among unreached people groups. Through your partnership, every year, BFL strategically plants churches and provide a wide range of opportunities for discipleship.

More than 30 years ago, I started out with a personal mission



Ernest Ehabe presents solar reading lamps to children in Loussou Village,

statement, convinced that 'God has called me to serve Him by serving the marginalized, poor peripheral human communities that are hungry to know Him, by making Jesus Christ known to them.' After more than 20 years on the road and on the go, I am still willing to do whatever it takes to make Africa a better place. I am willing to succeed and I am willing to fail, but I am not willing to do nothing. In this and subsequent newsletters, we will be sharing with you the different facets of BFL and how together we are affecting significant, positive and lasting change to the glory of God. We will start with church-planting and

discipleship or leadership training (Africa's greatest need).

Don't forget to forward or pass our newsletters on to others. Together we are bridging the gaps, changing mind sets and ultimately transforming our culture to the standard of Christ.

Serving Him with you,

Ernest Ehabe



Celebrating 20 Years of paving on the BREAD





≡ Their *Own* Words

Photos:

1. Jan, Kelly and Brenna with the kids at VBS in Ekklesias Church

2. Kelly leads VBS in Ekklesias Church

3. Kelly and Brenna singing a Calvary Chapel, Church while Jan prays.

4. Jochobed, Jan Brenna, and Kelly praying with a Baka Pygmie women they led to the Lord.

5. Presenting the gospel at Loussou Village.

6. VBS at Hope School in Mbang.

Jan Townshend is a two time short term missionary with Bread For Life. She lives in Russellville, Arkansas with her husband. She enjoys writing and traveling.

One may study the www.breadforlife.org website, read the brochures or hear the reports of others, but until you experience it first-hand, the magnitude of this ministry cannot be comprehended.

January of this year was my first time to travel to Cameroon, Africa. For two weeks I studied the culture of this beautiful country, developed relationships, then asked God what I was to do with what I had learned. Within months I was planning a two-week mission trip with Kelly McElfish (23 yrs.) and Brenna Comroe (19 yrs.).

On June 15th, we were welcomed by Brother Ernest Ehabe and his staff to the capital city of Yaoundé. We shared God's love with children in the community of the newest BFL church plant, traveled to BFL's "Beulahland Farms" in Dimako to see the great progress being made there, and then on to the Baka Pygmy Village where BFL has started a school and helped establish a clinic among the marginalized Baka Pygmies of Eastern Cameroon. I was blessed to see the personal growth and development of the children in just 6 months, particularly the Chief's teen daughter who accepted Christ that day.

But, it was 8 hours north in the Bossa Village that we were able to bind our hearts and spirits with the children of the Grace Tait Children's Home for 6 glorious days. The tragedies and miracles of this group of children are yet to be told. BFL stepped up to provide for these children before and after the death of Mama Grace Tait (the homes American founder who in her 70s went as a missionary to rescue kids, using her meager pension). To God be the Glory!

Kelly, Brenna and I were blessed to be, "called", to Cameroon. For when one is, "called", God has the details, the miracles, and Divine appointments ordained.

~By Jan Townsand

Impact of the Church: Why a building?



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*Photos: Above (1) New church building for Antioch Baptist Church, Bambili
Above(2): Ernest preaches at BFL related church in Youande. Right (3) Ernest with elders inside Antioch Baptist Church, Bambili. Right (4): Ernest and his children at Ekklesia Church in Mendong, along with the pastors family*

Wherever the gospel has impacted cultures, it inevitably has been through the local church. BFL facilitates church-planting in the city and among unreached people groups. We believe empowering national church leaders is the most strategic, cost effective and culturally sensitive way to advance the Gospel. Nationals or indigenous folks are better fitted physically and psychologically for reaching their own people. We are in no way dismissing the idea of Americans or Europeans coming to serve; it is always great to serve alongside brethren from different cultures. It is mutually beneficial, rewarding and brings credibility to the work, too.

In the last two decade of our involvement in church-planting, it has become evident that we need to also focus on structures or "church buildings." Yes, this is costly. Some will argue why such investment. Why invest in a building? Below are a few reasons from a "third world" and cultural perspective:

- ✓ Basic protection from the elements
- ✓ An "established" presence in the community
- ✓ A central sending-out point for evangelism
- ✓ Host community events
- ✓ Impacts ministry potential
- ✓ Enhanced witness to unbelievers
- ✓ Cultural relevance and credibility

A typical church building in the village will cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000. In the city it is much higher. Our focus in the coming years will be in assisting a number of BFL related church plants in having an "established" presence in their communities. Will you prayerfully consider being a part of this legacy?



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Leadership & Discipleship through Expository Teaching

The phenomenal growth of the church across Africa brings with it many challenges. One of these challenges is how to sustain the numerical growth while ensuring that the faith of Christians is firmly grounded in the revealed word of God – the Bible.

Any attempt to mobilize the Church in Africa for deserving projects such as evangelism, church-planting, community development, the struggle against HIV/AIDS etc., will in the long-term yield a poor harvest because of an untrained and a scripturally and theologically unsound workforce or disciples. BFL brings hundreds of pastors and church leaders together yearly. 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. We are grateful for our ongoing partnership with Dr. Ken Mitchell and the people of Westside Chapel in Jacksonville, FL. Through this partnership, informal training is offered to hundreds of pastors across our region each year. You too can be a part of this by sponsoring training or helping in planting a sound biblical based church!

Dr. Ken Mitchell teaches at various gatherings for Pastors and church leaders across Cameroon.

Ways YOU can get Involved with BFL

PRAYER - Nothing of eternal significance happens apart from prayer. We want to continue to enlist you to pray for the ministries and various needs of BFL. Pray for us daily, weekly or as you are led by the Lord!

BEULAHLAND FARMS - We are looking for folks with farming or agricultural background who can volunteer with us for ten days, weeks or months at a time to help with our ministry base in Dimako. This is one of our self-sustaining projects that is aimed to serve as a ministry and service base while simultaneously creating needed employment and generating income for continuity.

WATER FOR LIFE PROJECT - About \$6,000 has come in towards the \$34,000 needed to buy a well rig equipment. This will be a HUGE blessing across a region where people are dying for lack of a clean and reliable source of water.

CHURCH PLANTING - We are in need of \$15,000 for a temporary building of a new church plant in Yaounde (Ekklesia). This church

was recently launched in Mendong and already has about 50 new converts from our door to door evangelism. They are being disciplined and positioned for our official launch of the church in December with a weeklong evangelistic crusade in the community.

GIDEON 300 PARTNERS - Our work has mostly been supported by 30 friends and 8 churches that give to BFL monthly. We are still 50% below our monthly budget. We are trusting God for 300 "Gideons", those who will commit to giving \$25 or more monthly to cover the ongoing monthly operational cost of BFL.

CONTAINER SHIPPED - A 40 foot container was shipped in late August with a donated van from Believers Community Church of Batesville; tons of medical supplies from friends in Jacksonville, Batesville and Atlanta; two major pieces of equipment for Beulahland farms and a wide range of ministry supplies. We will need between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for duties as well as clearing related charges.

Gifts to Bread for Life are Tax deductible, please send all gifts to:

Commission to Every Nation: PO Box 291307, Kerrville, TX 78029 • (830)896 8326 • www.breadforlife.org

Please do not reduce your level of giving to your local church in order to support this ministry



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