



**Hope Outreach
International Ministries**

Sharing the wonderful hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CAMEROON 2011 – MAY



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Outreach to Mbengwi, North West Province

Report on the evangelistic and medical mission to Mbengwi, North West Province, Cameroon, conducted by Hope Outreach International Ministries between May 9th and May 16th, 2011.

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OUTREACH TO MBENGI, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Part One – Strengthened by Your Prayers

Dear Friends:

By God's grace, my journey to Cameroon was a true blessing. From favor with the airlines, to a safe and timely delivery of luggage and a short but restful first night, God has been in control.

Monday, May 9th marked the first full day in Cameroon. We started at 7:00 am with a meeting involving the main leaders of our team in Cameroon. Reports indicate that the clinic at the Buea Hope Center is growing and the resource (retreat) center is receiving more requests than they can handle. Therefore both wings are in need of additional space. The technical department continues to provide excellent service for gospel meetings. This 7:00 am meeting gave way to a very encouraging session with the directors of HOTPEC Orphanage. We discussed the progress of the children (health and academics-wise), and dwelt on the Bakery Construction project. The meeting ended with us holding hands and beseeching the Lord for the resources needed to complete the bakery project. Lord willing, construction will start next week once we finalize costs with the builders.

Next stop was at the Buea Community Church for a wide-ranging discussion with Pastor Genesis Tinshu. BCC is blessed with a youthful and dynamic congregation, and also faces unique challenges. Thanks to generous support from churches in the US and Southern Africa, the work is expanding and more souls are being added to the body of believers. Only yesterday, Pastor Johan from South Africa joined Genesis in baptizing five more believers. My meeting with Genesis lasted a good two hours and was followed by lunch, after which I had another session with 13 leaders of BCC at their sanctuary. The spirit in the room was divine, and the excitement among this predominantly youthful group was palpable. Upon dismissal at 4:00 pm, Genesis was en route to Douala to receive Pastor Jack Groblewski, while Benjamin (Mua) and Sam (Monono) headed to the nearby city of Muyuka.

Our host in Muyuka was HRH Chief Mukete who is a fellow servant of the Lord Jesus. Since our December outreach in Muyuka, Chief Mukete has taken a keen interest in our work and is actively pursuing ways to ensuring that our operations enjoy a stable base. By 5:30 pm, we were on the way back to Buea to join over a 1,000 committed brethren who had assembled at the Baptist Church for a night of worship and celebration. With significant support from HOIM, the local choir has produced a wonderful piece of gospel music themed "Give us this Nation." Graced by the presence of the Mayor of Buea, the entire evening was devoted to gospel music and a short message from yours truly. Many burdens were lifted as the glories of Calvary were expounded

upon and some testified of healing as the meeting progressed. By 9:00 pm, our entire team converged for dinner at the Gwanmesias, retiring just before 11:00 pm.

It has been a full day, and the Lord's strength has been our portion. With Pastor Jack now safely on the ground with us, we start at 7:30 am tomorrow with several meetings focusing on the BCC. By 1:00 pm, I leave for Bamenda with the crusade team. Truly our Lord gives strength to the weak!!!

Part Two – Onward Christian Soldiers

Dear Friends:

Greetings from Bamenda in the North West Province of Cameroon.

The words of the 19th century hymn by Sabine Baring Gould came to life this Tuesday (May 10), as I awoke from a short but restful night. My first activity for the day was a 7:00 am meeting with Pastors Jack, Johan and Genesis. For over three hours, we discussed several issues pertinent to Buea Community Church and its role in advancing God's Kingdom. Thereafter, we met with BCC leaders for 30 minutes, followed by a visit to the Buea Hope Center.

The medical director at the Center – Dr. Tchami – gave a tour of the facilities to Pastors Jack and Johan. This brief visit was followed by lunch, served by my mother and attended by several pastors from the city of Buea, notably the three main leaders of Baptist congregations. While the others headed for a short rest and two evening sessions at BCC, I joined part of the crusade team for the seven-hour ride to Bamenda. Our initial plan was to spend the night in Bamenda, but on the way, we felt as if the Lord was asking us to continue on to Mbengwi, where we arrived just before midnight.

A unique open door was accorded us when the leaders of the Full Gospel Bible Institute in Bamenda invited us to speak to nearly 200 pastors in training. The drive to Bamenda was safe and I spoke on the highest calling of God for each believer – each minister, namely to “be with Jesus,” from Mark 3:14. The brethren were very receptive. This session was followed by a discussion with the leaders of FGBl. In the past, HOIM has sponsored over 10 students at this Bible school, and all are now leading churches around the country. Meeting with the authorities provided an opportunity to further strengthen our partnership.

We left Bamenda shortly after noon on Wednesday to return to Mbengwi where the medical outreach was in full swing. The population was also mobilizing for the evening evangelistic meeting. Pastors and leaders of local churches were active with counseling. When the evening crusade started, all seats were occupied and a hungry audience soaked in much of the evening's message. I spoke from Mark 5:1-17, capturing the limited power of Satan, the limited impact of society and the limitless power of the Savior. We rejoiced as well over 200 adults stepped forward to embrace the Savior, and many also testified of healing as the meeting drew to an end.

We are thrilled that Jesus is taking you and the entire team in Mbengwi into victory. He is our Commander in Chief and the battle is His. As His Cross goes before us, our Lord is allowing us to harvest where others have labored and He is faithful in remembering you the sender, and those of us on the field. Thank you for your love and prayers. I have heard a few times from Eunice and the kids and the news is good.

Part Three – What Must I do to be Saved?

Dear Friends:

I am writing from the airport here in Paris as I head home. The last report took us into Friday.

Saturday, May 14th was a memorable day for the entire team. While half of the visiting crew was leaving for Buea, including Pastors Jack and Genesis, those of us who remained in Mbengwi saw the Lord at work in three outstanding gatherings. First was a breakfast for pastors and dignitaries attended by the county president, the mayor, the senior intelligence officer (special branch police commissioner), the county treasurer, as well as county directors for several government institutions and the county medical officer.

It was a unique blessing to be in the company of these people. After the meal, I presented a message focusing on a great question posed by influential persons. We noted that the rich young ruler and the Philippian jailer echoed the cry of humanity when they asked, “What must I do to be saved?” We discussed the limits of religion and the uniqueness and sufficiency of Christ. Several first time decisions were recorded among the dignitaries and the pastors immediately got to work with counseling. This event included a time of prayer for the city and the nation. The mayor in turn invited us to her home and treated the team to a sumptuous lunch. With many waiting to see me, I was forced to skip this event, but Benjamin and Sam noted that those who went were well catered to.

All those who had made decisions during the outreach attended a follow-up session on Saturday afternoon and joined us for the closing gospel meeting. Attendees included many of the dignitaries from the morning breakfast. The county medical officer testified of the high quality care that the people had received and the local hospital was presented with a wheelchair and crutches, being part of a gift we received from Samaritan’s Purse. The closing service brought several hundreds into God’s Kingdom and many expressed the desire to be baptized immediately. It was a most refreshing Sunday morning when pastors from the various churches got together and baptized a total of 16 converts, akin to the progress of the early Church as recorded in the book of Acts.

Part Four – From Converts to Disciples

Dear Friends:

It is good to be home. Eunice tells me Lydia (our middle of 3 children) was already threatening to drive to Cameroon to pick Daddy up.

Wrapping up the work in Cameroon, Sunday morning's baptismal service at the stream was followed by glorious worship meetings in the local churches. Working with Emma, Benjamin and Sam assigned team members within Cameroon to all the churches. The response to the messages was encouraging, but most exciting was the fact that everywhere the team went, converts from the crusade were in attendance and a few more wanted to be baptized. The leaders in Mbengwi, alongside the team from Bamenda, will continue with follow up and it is obvious that several scores will be baptized soon.

Accompanied by Emma and his wife, I left Mbengwi at 7:30 am on Sunday, to speak at the Full Gospel Mission main assembly in Bamenda. We returned just before 11:00 am and proceeded to two churches to bring greetings and express our gratitude for the unity of the saints and the blessings of partnership. We then left Mbengwi just after noon, for the eight-hour ride to Buea, but this would include a stop in Bamenda, which provided an opportunity to pray with an ailing young attorney, who gladly welcomed our message. We arrived in Buea just before 9:00 pm and proceeded to the home of Mrs. Julia Taboh in honor of a dinner invitation. Most of us retired after 11:00 pm ahead of a very busy Monday.

My final day in Cameroon was marked by a series of meetings starting rather early. Pastor Genesis and I met at 6:30 am to evaluate the recent discussions with Pastors Jack and Johan and the implementation of some of the decisions. Next was an hour-long meeting with Dr. Tchami who heads the Buea Hope Center's medical branch. This was followed by a meeting with the directors and administrator of the HOTPEC orphanage. Key discussion items at this meeting included the child sponsorship program, the bakery project and initial discussions on the possibility of adoptions. We agreed to prepare guidelines for adoption and procedures for screening potential parents for the children at HOTPEC.

Next was a chat with Benjamin and Sam and visits to three traditional rulers accompanied by Reverends Samuel Ndeley and Genty Ndeley. Our visit and meeting with the Balong Chief and notables in Muyuka was very successful, resulting in a generous donation of land for ministry purposes. I made a brief stop at my mother's house for lunch (3:45 pm). The last item of the day and for the May 2011 mission was the laying of the foundation stone for the HOTPEC Bakery, after which we drove to the Douala International Airport.

At the airport, Pastor Francis Musa and I had a wonderful conversation. Brother Musa played a key role in my spiritual development and our last meeting was in 1998. Our meeting at the airport included an invitation from him for ministry in Chad, seconding a previous request for meetings in Bangui, Central African Republic.

Yours in His Service,

Julius Esunge

PHOTO ALBUM



Inquirers approach the platform



The Bible College



With Pastor Jack and Benjamin



Dramatization of the gospel