

CAMEROON

2008

The Complete Mission Report

A Publication of Hope Outreach International Ministries



[Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.] *Hebrews 10:23*

About Hope Outreach International Ministries

Mission Statement

Hope Outreach International Ministries (HOIM) is a Christian, non-profit organization dedicated to evangelizing the lost through gospel crusades, camps and conferences; empowering orphans, widows and those in need through Christ-centered vocational training; and equipping ministers of the gospel through Christian seminars and resources.

History

HOIM was founded by Julius Esunge, a native of Cameroon, West Africa. Early in his life, Julius accepted God's call to become a minister of the gospel. He ministered within several of Cameroon's churches and para-church organizations before moving to the United States. In 2005, along with the leaders of his "home" church in Bethlehem, PA (New Covenant Christian Community Church), Julius and a team of missionaries began conducting annual mission trips to Cameroon, ministering at orphanages, prisons and higher education campuses, and organizing seminars and conferences for local church and ministry leaders. In March 2007, HOIM was officially launched and incorporated in Baton Rouge, LA, and the organization's first official mission trip to Cameroon took place in August 2007.

HOIM is governed by a Board of Directors comprising professionals in the fields of Science, Medicine, Letters, Fundraising and Business.

Introducing the Missionaries

Top Photo

Standing:
Katie Avant
Elizabeth Hartzog

Sitting:
Simon Tata
Carole Hartzog



Bottom Photo

Standing:
Jerrice Prince, RN
Paris Le Blanc

Sitting:
Julius Esunge
Jonathan Young, MD



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took off with the arrival in Cameroon of Carole, Elizabeth, Katie and Simon on Friday, August 1, 2008 and Jerrice, Jonathan, Julius and Paris on Sunday, August 3, 2008. The entire team paid a visit to local authorities on Monday afternoon and participated in the distribution of over 1,400 Bibles to villagers. The day ended with meetings among various teams to harmonize plans, and a common meal involving over 35 persons comprising the USA and Cameroon teams.

Activities began full swing on Tuesday with two morning events: first, the outreach to children (see below), and then the medical clinic. The local Baptist Church opened its doors to this event and starting timidly with 60 patients, numbers have risen steadily and we now operate on a number-system. In the evening, the gospel outreach also started and for the first time, we are able to run parallel meetings for adults and children. We asked team members to share their thoughts and herewith their reactions as of Wednesday, August 6, 2008.

Katie Avant

As our Christian brothers and sisters say in Cameroon “God is good, all the time!” Monday was both encouraging and enlightening to me. Elizabeth, Carole and I met with the local team to organize the plans for the first children's program as part of the Festival of Hope crusade. God has raised up a team of local women who have a heart for reaching the younger generation in the community. The team is lead by Marceline, wife of Pastor Genesis, Stella, a single mom who has chosen to be joyful in very difficult personal circumstances, and Glory, who spoke with me last year concerning children's outreach, and finally, Patience and Martha, who lead the children in prayer.

During our preliminary planning session we had concerns about the appropriate games and songs. Not surprisingly, God had a plan. Quiet Stella (our single Mom) turned into a dynamic song leader and game organizer. You can pray for Stella. She and her 17 year old son have really been struggling to make ends meet. She shared with us that she is a tailor and is going to stitch dresses for Elizabeth and me. Can't wait to show them off when we get back.

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This morning we met with Beatrice, the director of HOTPEC Orphanage, and her support staff for an update and time of prayer. God has again shown how marvelous He is. Another organization from Canada “just” contributed \$7,500 toward building a kitchen. “God is good, all the time!!!” Everyone was so excited and Beatrice was quite tearful. She shared with me how blessed she felt that God had given such favor to HOTPEC and the 84 orphans who are residents there. Keep us in your prayers. So far we have all experienced good health.

Thanks for serving along side of us,

Katie

Carole Hartzog

Since I have gotten here I have grown to love the African people in a way that I did not expect that I would. I was rather shy of the whole culture when I first arrived, trying to understand their thick accents along with their bright outfits, and just how to read them. But, very soon I began to respond to the love they poured out so freely and found it addicting.

The children are a particular blessing. They surround our car as we pull up into the field waving and running along with us, then mobbing us in hugs as we climb out. My mom Elizabeth Hartzog, Mrs. Katie Avant, and I make up the Children's Program Team paired with about five other women from the community. Every morning the children from the local villages arrive and we sing songs, tell stories, memorize the daily Bible verse, have snacks and play lots of games. They are a rowdy bunch of about 100 young ones, but they are eager to hear the gospel and participate whole-heartedly.

At night we all gather in a classroom with one light during the night service to entertain the young people with singing, the Jesus film, or chalk art. They understand the messages and are entranced with the pictures. I thank every one of you for your support and prayers. This entire experience has been so very good for me and has blessed my heart. I will come home richly blessed and enlightened to the needs of these people.

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Elizabeth Hartzog

After walking through the village and inviting the children to come to the crusade we had high expectations for Tuesday evening. We were not disappointed, for 88 children eagerly showed up. When the singing in the adult service ended the children were dismissed from the adult service for the children's crusade. First, the Cameroonian women led in rousing songs of praise and worship! Then everyone got very quiet for the chalk art presentation. The drawing and chalk talk featured the story from Luke – "The Lost Sheep." Evidently, it was very effective because many responded to the invitation for Jesus to be their Good Shepherd and came into the sheep fold. Praise the Lord! Following that, refreshments were served and all were invited to return for the Bible Club on Wednesday.

Attendance was wonderful for the morning Bible Club. There were 89 children with smiling faces and expectant hearts. We opened with prayer and praising the Lord. With very beautiful voices the children sang and did their singing motions. Carole Hartzog read the Bible verse and the children were very quick to memorize the scripture. Following that there were more fun songs. Elizabeth Hartzog presented the Bible lesson on "Jesus Calms the Storm." Again, there was a great response to the message. Refreshments were served, and then we played a game. Finally the boys were ready for more activity so they played soccer. The girls stayed in the room and endeavored to learn "Amazing Grace" with a set of bells supplied by Katie Avant. That was a special treat!!

As they say here in Cameroon, "God is good all the time!" The hearts are so open and God is very real. Wish you all could be here with us to experience their enthusiasm in the face of much adversity. We are all encouraged.

Paris Leblanc

Today my heart is fluttering like the wind with the anticipation of the Journey God has planned for me. "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4

My morning started out so easy with no fuss, no hassle and my very first miracle of my trip in Cameroon occurred at 7:38 am. Jerrice and I awoke to a beautiful sun-filled day. We walked out onto the balcony to take in the

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majestic view of Mount Cameroon. It is the most beautiful sight in the morning with a cross gleaming in front of the mountain that almost seems to float and you want to shout Jesus' Name out loud to praise him.

I have humbly bowed down my heart to the instructions and teachings that this trip has brought and so far it has been awesome. The Medical Team here has been such a blessing to work with and so helpful with the people in the Wonduma village. I ask that you continue to pray for the team here as well as for the people who are very sick and unable to get any medical attention at all. It really is humbling to see mankind suffer in such a way. What medical treatment and medicine we give is such a blessing to the people here that it touches our hearts.

During the crusade meetings we are like a team planting a mustard seed in Buea, spreading the gospel to each individual person – mother, father, and child. The Crusade was so powerful and so filled with God's powerful praise and worship that words can't come close to expressing the magnitude of the moment or the glory of God. Julius was a channel for the power of the Holy Spirit and led many to accept Christ as their one true Savior. I have never seen such an overwhelming outpouring of acceptance at once. The experience of being here was unbelievable. "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6. Please continue to pray, pray and pray. We need all of you.

Love and Hugs to All,

Paris

Jerrice Prince

Greetings from Buea. The journey has been smooth and filled with blessing on top of blessings. The Medical Clinic started on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 and we are working this year out of the "holy church" as opposed to the "holy tent" of last year's mission. We have been blessed to have two Medical doctors working side-by-side with experienced nurses and assistants. This has enabled us to administer medical treatment and medicine to many in the surrounding villages.

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The crusade started Tuesday night and all I can say is it was Awesome. Over 700 chairs were filled with adults only and people stood as far as we could see. There were 88 children, all being blessed by Carole Hartzog's chalk art. The theme of the crusade is the cross and the hope it brings; and that night it brought many new converts to the Lord. Wednesday following clinic we were greeted at the white house by a visit with the distinguished Mayor of Buea. Great expectation is in store for our team here in Cameroon. Please continue to cover us in your prayers.

Jonathan Young

Greetings to all. Thank you so much for your prayers. We have just finished our second day of the Medical Clinic. It's been a wonderful blessing to have Dr. Tchami, a local physician, and his team of nurses and nursing students working with us. They are all eager to serve the Lord in this ministry and have helped to make the work load quite bearable. So far the patient load the second day was nearly double that of the first day as word of our clinic spreads. Praise God he is making us more efficient at working together.

This portion of the Report Covers

Thursday, August 7, 2008 and Friday, August 8, 2008

Our activities continued on Thursday, August 7 with regular morning prayers and scripture sharing, then breakfast and departure of various teams to their areas of service. The children's VBS at the village has seen record attendance with over 100 kids in both morning and evening sessions. The medical outreach is experiencing an explosive attendance with upwards of 300 people showing up to receive consultation and drugs. Today also marked the beginning of one of two seminars. This one is taught by Julius and runs for two days – on “Contagious Christianity,” with a goal of equipping believers with strategies to effectively reach their lost friends, families and communities.

Most of us were home by 4:00 pm today, except the Medical Team and Julius who came in close to 6 pm. Shortly after, we all left for the evening gospel outreach. Tonight's speaker was Simon Njock and his message focused on the grace of God in saving and blessing sinful man. Our driver Papa Tassi has been a huge asset as well as three young ladies – Yvonne, Marie, and Cheyenne. These persons have left their parents to be with us throughout our stay in

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Cameroon and are serving in critical support roles such as driving, cleaning, cooking and laundry for the team. What a joy to labor alongside people on the ground, who actively share our passion, vision and whose level of integrity is refreshing.

Meantime, in view of Paris LeBlanc's departure on Saturday, August 9, the ladies are preparing peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to take to the orphanage on Friday. This will be Paris' only opportunity to visit with the HOTPEC staff and children.

On Friday, August 8, our various teams departed for the village VBS and Medical Outreach and by 11:00 am, Paris arrived at the orphanage where she saw each child, updating their medical records and noted any peculiar conditions needing attention. The distribution of sandwiches filled the children with a lot of joy. Paris was equally thrilled by this opportunity and felt a great sense of joy in serving.

The Contagious Christianity seminar continued and wrapped up with a total of 89 in attendance and the whole team made it to the evening gospel outreach shortly thereafter. Julius' message tonight focused on the "Blood of Jesus." Each speaker at the crusade was expected to keep the messages centered on the Lord Jesus and His sacrificial death. Tonight's message depicts the Cleansing, Atonement, Redemption and Deliverance (CARD) available to all, thanks to the shed blood of Christ. The team retired by 10:00 pm for dinner at the home of Dr. Irene Anyangwe, who treated us with great kindness.

In this Portion of the Report, Dr. Jonathan Young Provides a Wonderful Overview of the Last Few Days from a Medical Perspective

Monday, August 4, 2008

Met Dr. Tchami, went over the medical supplies we brought, and the invoice of medications he ordered. Afterwards we went down to Gethsemane Baptist Church to pace out the facilities and plan the layout of the clinic. The one-room church building was ideally suited to accommodate a clinic. The choir areas were a perfect size for consultation rooms. A curtain line would section off the far end to give the consultations privacy. We would set up the pharmacy beside the front exit, setting the nearby pews in a square to serve

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as shelves for arranging the drugs in order. The table for triage and recording of vitals would be set between the two front doors. The table for diabetic screening would be in front of the curtains, between the consultation rooms. With clinic planning completed, we were free to join the rest of the team as we all went for formal introduction to the village Chiefs and to present them with gifts. After that the pastors and volunteers handed out Bibles in the surrounding villages as a prelude to the first night of outreach.

Tuesday, August 5, 2008

Clinic opened at 8:30 am with prayer. Some patients were already waiting on the porch as we set up inside, organizing the pharmacy and setting up the consultation rooms. We wanted to keep to a strict schedule at least for the first days, so when clinic was set to close at 2:00 pm our driver came to pick up and we left with him even though Dr. Tchami was still seeing his last few patients inside. The nurses started packing up the pharmacy as we left and the driver picked it up on a second run.

Being the first day, the patient load was reasonable in size. This was good since there was much logistics for the nurses to sort out to get the clinic running smoothly. For myself there were many new experiences and challenges to accommodate including working through an interpreter. Most patients spoke and understood only pidgin, which is a dialect of English. It is close enough to our English to give a vague notion of content but for the level of precision needed in a medical consult the help of a 'bilingual nurse was invaluable. I also encountered many tropical diseases not seen in the US, such as Malaria, Filaria. Other diseases which are rare here, such as intestinal worms, were quite common there. The most common complaints even from the first day were skin problems and vision problems. I was surprised by the number of vision complaints. The bags of reading glasses we brought with us evaporated on the first day of clinic, though those who were able to receive them were immensely grateful.

Wednesday, August 6, 2008

Apparently word got out about the clinic. By the time we got there at 8:30 am there was already a crowd outside the church waiting to be seen. Some had walked there from quite a distance and came early to assure a spot. Most came fasting as instructed so that they could have their blood sugar tested at

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the diabetic screening table. We set up more quickly this time, but we still opened with prayer. We also made a point to have more spiritual counselors available for the patients so that everyone saw a counselor between physician consultation and pharmacy.

My vantage point of the goings on at the clinic remained mostly behind the curtain. And the flow of patients remained so constant that there was rarely an opportunity to peak to the other side. Nurse Jerrice Prince shared my consultation room so that we could see separate cases simultaneously at either end of our desk. That way she could handle the routine cases, and confer with me for opinions. Also, any cases that proved to be more complex could easily be handed over to me. She and I each had our own assistant-translators. Mine was a very experienced local nurse who was used to seeing patients on her own. She was a tremendous asset to me, helping me to learn how the locals managed the tropical diseases that I was less familiar with. She was also an amazingly hard worker and helped to keep the flow of patients quick and steady throughout the day.

Thursday, August 7, 2009

The crowd waiting outside the clinic when we arrived was significantly larger than the day before. It had become so large that it was getting unruly as we set up inside. We took time out to pray for peace. It happened that Pastor Genty Ndeley was there early to consult with me before the clinic officially opened for the day. He has a unique paternal relationship with the people of the village and is especially respected among the Bakweri people. He appeared at the entrance and quickly shamed the crowd into silence and had them all pray for patience. Afterwards the clinic proceeded without incident. The triage nurses also began using a numbered tag system to limit the consults to 100 families per day so as to prevent patients from double-dipping into the drug supply. Not that we blamed them. Some of the patients walked for miles, fasting, to arrive at the clinic by 6:00 am trying to get a good place in line to be seen.

Friday, August 8, 2009

From the beginning we had been planning to take time to attend to the medical needs of the children at the HOTPEC Orphanage. It was first considered that we might try to do this on Friday while Paris was still with us,

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but looking at the volume of patients as it increased each day, I reasoned that we could not abandon Dr. Tchami to take it on alone. Instead Paris opted to go in the afternoon on her own to do evaluations of the orphans. Any she saw who might need more immediate attention she sent over to the clinic for us to see at the end of the day. This worked out quite well and Paris kept detailed notes on her findings from each patient exam. This way Paris was able to see the HOTPEC Orphanage children before leaving us on Saturday, while the rest of us would not be left worrying about the children until we were able to see them after the conclusion of the clinic. It was also good that we stayed because Friday was extraordinarily busy. In addition to the increasing volume of patients there was increasing complexity with 'hardened' indigent farmers coming in from the distant villages.

**This Portion of the Report Covers the Period from
Saturday, August 9, 2008 – Monday, August 11, 2008**

On Saturday, August 9, most of the team enjoyed a day off – which they used for rest, prayer and planning for the second week. An evangelistic event is also holding this morning, targeting the middle and upper class residents of the city of Buea. This event pulled together business, political and administrative leaders – an intelligence officer with the Cameroon government also attended.

Genesis Tinshu was our host while Carole Hartzog did chalk art presented by Elizabeth Hartzog. The message at this event – which was given by Julius – centered on the crippling power of sin, which does not regard status. Using the story of Naaman, attendees listened as Julius spoke on the redeeming power in Christ that is available to all. After meeting with some local leaders, Julius left for Douala by 4:00 pm accompanied by Samuel to see off Paris – who was returning to the USA. The gospel message at the evening outreach was presented by Simon Tata.

On Sunday, August 10, 2008, our second Sunday in Cameroon, we broke up into three groups and visited three local churches, where we all enjoyed a truly refreshing time of worship. Then followed lunch and a visit to the Tole Tea Plantation, located 10 miles east of Buea. Plantation workers enjoyed meeting the team and Katie quickly turned the back of the van into a hall with

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nearly 40 kids cramped in it for Bible stories. The evening outreach continued with Benjamin Mua as speaker and a moving message from John 3:16.

Monday, August 11 marked the start of our second working week in Cameroon. During our first week, VBS meetings took place at the village but this week, our attention is on the Orphanage. The medical outreach continued with people showing up as early as 5:00 am. Local media have taken keen interest and are printing reports on our activities here. Radio & TV personnel as well as political leaders are not holding back their appreciation.

As the VBS starts at the orphanage, there is a sense of anticipation. The staff and kids have fond memories of our time last year. Julius headed anew to the Douala airport, this time to receive Pastor Jack Groblewski from Bethlehem, PA, whose presence among us is truly delightful. Simon Tata presented another message at the crusade and our day ends with Hallelujahs as our team continues to encourage each other with our motto – the now famous beatitude: “Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape!”

About the ministry to the children, Elizabeth Hartzog had this to say: “The outreach with the children far exceeded what we could have imagined, chiefly because of the prior work of the Cameroonian Christian women. These women have a vision for the children in the village at Wonduma. Though these ladies are working together across denominations, they had collaborated in a vision proposal with clear plans for future ministry. In attendance we had 100 children whose ages ranged from three to 14. The Cameroonian ladies plan to continue Sunday afternoons from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Pray for them.”

Jerrice Prince adds: “Mission work requires getting your hands dirty and getting out of your comfort zone. I personally feel that we as a team experienced that kind of work while here in Buea. Mount Cameroon poured out her beauty daily but due to rain and fog, could only be seen on certain occasions. The rains here have been heavy at times and daily, but we have learned to adjust in order to survive.”

Regarding Monday, August 11, Jonathan Young had this to say: “Seeing how low we were getting on some medications by Friday, we ordered more medications from the pharmacy to meet the increasing demand. Lancets for the glucometers were discovered in a misplaced suitcase which made fasting blood sugar readings less painful since the nurses had been improvising with

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syringe needles. Some meds were discovered with them, which helped us along until the new medicine order was filled. By now with the ever swelling patient numbers, we were no longer so concerned about keeping the scheduled closing times and the clinics were running late into the afternoon.”