



# LOST BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

October 2008, edited



“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.”

## FOCUS ON: NIGERIA, CAMEROON AND CHAD

A few weeks ago I told Pastor \_\_\_\_\_, “the Lord was leading me to start my own ministry to the lost villages of the 10/40 window in West Africa and among the muslims.” He said “\_\_\_\_\_, I knew this day would come, the Lord has revealed it to me, and I support you”. With that blessing Mike Nwosu, our African director, and I, went to minister to the Kanembou of Chad and a focus group in Northern Nigeria.

“But now, thus says the Lord, your creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you.



When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush, and Seba in your place.’ Isa 43:1-3

The Lord, His Name is Faithful.  
Us in cab in Cameroon.

This word I received from a member of Friend’s \_\_\_\_\_ church was indeed prophetic. Michel and I had just flown to Maidiguri from Lagos over several hours to get to Northern Nigeria. That night I could not sleep thinking about how many cost overruns we already had, knowing that we could not accomplish what I thought was our mission. We could play it safe and stay and work with the focus group there, or we could step out in faith and see what the Lord had in mind. Convinced that by the Lord’s arranging of my multi-entry visa to Nigeria, we chose the latter and proceeded to Chad. Praise God we did.

Getting there was miraculous. Michel and I had been praying the Lord would give us a man in Maidiguri that could be an important contact for us. After getting to Maidiguri we were harassed in immigration, it was like we were in another country. Once we got through, we met a cabbie who we knew was hand picked to monitor us. It also happened however, that he was a believer and he became a key contact we will use over and over again as we work in Northern Nigeria. He took us to the border of Cameroon about three hours away. From there we went through two check points, and T, our contact, found us a good taxi to take us through Cameroon to Chad. He was a muslim who spoke little French and no English. Fortunately, I spoke a little Arabic.



M, now one of the Lord’s ladies.

Being at the tail end of the rainy season the roads were washed out and filled with water. We went through a twenty foot puddle and I thought praise God,

we got through that one, we must be blessed by the Lord to go to Chad. Indeed He provided the protection and His angels literally carried us through the waters. Absolutely, no other explanation is plausible. We went through 30 foot puddles, over the “Big Man River”, the cabbie called it, with water streaming at us laterally over the 100 foot bridge. Having passed through so many areas already, I knew that the Lord would get us across that one. Many others however, did not make it, and I have the pictures to prove it. We did take on some water in several areas but I was able to prop my feet up to keep dry.



By the time we crossed the other two check points at the Chadean border and found a hotel (third one we looked at), that was “reasonably priced”, about \$40 US/day, we crashed.

I could not get up the next morning to find a church, but Michel followed some girls in N’djamena, Chad who led him to the service. It was a denominational church. When Michel shared a prayer request to find a contact there, the elders and pastor invited me to come and speak. I gave a word of exhortation and encouragement to them with not a change of expression. Believing the Lord led us to them we continued to pursue a partnership the rest of the week. We met a very big man in Chad who is in charge of Chad for Christ, a huge evangelistic outreach done yearly. They are going to reach 234 villages this December and put pastors in each of them.



Michel with N, our first convert to Christ in Chad.

After several meetings we actually concluded we could not put the Holy Spirit on the shelf, so we declined an association. However, in the meantime the Lord was working on the left side. We met several important people with connections. One was James (not his real name), who was a Chadean who worked for the CIA at the US Embassy. He put us in contact with several people, led us around, encouraged us and was such a blessing. The Lord allowed us to witness to many prostitutes and help them get their lives turned around. A couple of them were muslims. They were so appreciative. One girl (they ranged in age from 18-28, mostly 18-20), was a pastor’s daughter. She said, “I want to pray now, so that you will know just how grateful I am for the words you have shared.”

The Lord led us to lead a former two-time ambassador to Cameroon to Christ. Then also a young man who spoke French and English came to Christ, who immediately became our interpreter as we led so many women to the Lord. He agreed to come to Nigeria to be disciplined by Michel. We pray he will follow through and become a part of Lost But Not Forgotten. He said, “why not?” Seed was planted in the lives of three muslim hardliners the Lord had us meet through the God’s Story presentation in Chadean Arabic.

Two men from TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) are working with the Kanembou (pronounced Can-em-boo), near Bol. They helped orient us to the work of the Lord there. The Lord led us to MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) who also helped orient us to the work in Northern Chad and gave us some prices to fly into Bol and Mao two remote areas. Then the very last day we met the key man we would work with in Northern Chad, I will call him Muhammad. An evangelist that knows Kanembou, French and English. He was a fly on the wall of the church we spoke at, and met Michel serendipitously. He wants to work with us and has worked in the past with Reinhold Bonke, Billy Graham and others. The Holy Spirit showed us quite quickly that indeed, “the mind of man plans his way but the Lord directs his steps”, Prov 16:9. His agenda did not require as much money as the one I had planned. We left the border with just enough CFA’s to make it through Cameroon. Another prophetic



Michel, Muhammad, and Me makes three laborers in Chad

word received was that my medical background would open doors. Indeed it did. At the Chad border going back to Nigeria, one of the Security forces men at immigration told me about a problem he was having, and I just happened to have the medicine he required. We also prayed for another man. They saved us \$30 US that the taxi driver was trying to overcharge us. In addition, they took us several miles to the Cameroon check-point in their air conditioned vehicle. When they discovered I did not have a Cameroon visa, he handled it with some appreciation and smoothed the way out for us.

The next taxi stranded us at a river just before the border in Nigeria, not taking us to B as we had told him. There were 200 Cameroonians there surrounding our vehicle. It got tense. Michel got out of the car and strongly addressed the problem. Then it seemed out of nowhere our previous taxi driver who drove us through Cameroon, came to our vehicle. He quieted the crowd, directed three men to collect our baggage, take it to their boat and he led us across the river to the other bank. From there he had them load it on his taxi and away we went. When we got to the Nigerian check point, there was another official who claimed he had typhoid fever and I gave him some medicine, again, that I “just happened” to have. He said he would not forget me. God’s favor was so abundant.

T was there and had been waiting five hours for us to arrive and take us back to Maidiguri. The next day he could not find the focus pastor we were looking for but instead directed us to another man code name Zaccheus. The Lord called him to Himself during a conference in which he was watching a Christian film. During the film, he saw a huge cupped hand coming toward him. He was frightened but when the hand got to him he

saw blood in it. He heard a voice from heaven saying, “this is for you”. At that time he was born again and has been working quietly and effectively among the focus group there. When we described our particular interests he was ecstatic. During our time he mentioned his projector was broken. Michel told him Lost But Not Forgotten would give him one. He praised God. When he went to tell his church God provided a new projector, they rejoiced in the Lord exclaiming that this was the very thing they were praying about just five minutes earlier.

It gets better than this. As Michel and I were driving through Cameroon, we noticed so many virgin villages, with an occasional mosque among them. The Lord just impressed us with the need to reach them. We discussed this again, just before we met with Zaccheus. During the course of our conversation he mentioned he had a man in B I will call Joseph. This was the same village I suggested to Michel we start with, going East toward Chad. Zaccheus enthusiastically said yes to the proposal Joseph help us with evangelism and church planting, and then do the follow-up pasturing and discipling himself. Joseph called Zaccheus last week and asked him if he could come to Maidiguri to see him. Zaccheus said not yet, the funds had not come in. When we blessed Zaccheus and asked him to split it between himself and Joseph, he told us he had been waiting for the funds to bring Joseph to Maidiguri and now was able to clear him to come. The Holy Spirit was waiting so that we could meet him personally and discuss this plan (His plan).



Our faithful driver and contact, T (right)



This is that which we have to look forward in the future. Reaching lost villages in the Northern corridor. This one is in Cameroon.



Our muslim “deliverer” who rescued us from being stranded by this river. God’s sovereignty rules over all.

Reflecting on all the Holy Spirit is doing, it is clear (He told me), that He wants us to reach what I call the Northern Corridor of Islam in West Africa, ranging from north Togo, to Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Chad. That is the vision, that is our job, it is impossible, so we know that God must be in it. Because of the remote areas we are targeting in these five countries, we absolutely have to have a 4x4 vehicle that can handle the pounding. It costs \$200US/day + gas to rent these vehicles in Chad, they are not available even for rent everywhere we need to go. Thank you for helping Lost But Not Forgotten, accomplish the mission. If you would

like to partner with us: **tax deductible donations may be sent to: Lost But Not Forgotten, PO Box 50292, Amarillo, Tx. 79159. Website [www.lostbutnotforgotten.org](http://www.lostbutnotforgotten.org). Email us at [jedidiah@lostbutnotforgotten.org](mailto:jedidiah@lostbutnotforgotten.org). US Phone: 806-433-7693, or in Nigeria, 011-2348030758555, or 2348067177897**