

Thom & Ellen Schotanus

Helping people become the people God created them to be.



Dear friends and family,

Hello again from Cameroon. First we want to thank everyone that contributed towards the purchase of a vehicle for Ellen's expanding ministry opportunities. We are in the process of purchasing a Toyota Rav4, the reason for the car choice is that it has 4-wheel drive for negotiating less than perfect roads, and they are very popular here so if we ever need parts they'll be easy to find. There have been lots of confirmations that God is leading in this which to us is the most important aspect of it as we want to be doing what He has planned for us.

Starting and strengthening transformational churches is what Converge is all about in being used by God to fulfill the Great Commission, and since people are the church I always say that our philosophy of ministry is helping people become the people that God created them to be. In practicality this means we need to come alongside people, working with and serving others to the glory of God.

In this process we can grow with others to be more like Jesus, strengthening His church to be salt and light in a messed up world and trusting Him to bring others to Himself as they see His Spirit at work in His people.

We shared with you our vision of targeting, challenging, and equipping, cognitive thinkers who love Jesus and want to make a difference for Him here in Cameroon, slowly but steadily this is happening, here are 2 stories.

Last week I met a man who is the chief engineer for the Ministry of Public Works in our division and was with a friend of mine that works for the local town council. They were recording road tracks and marking way points on a GPS as the council has been given some money by the Cameroon government to improve village roads.

As usual I began to talk about development and the role of human behavior in the success of a society. I started to say "Do unto others..." and the guy I was just meeting interrupted me and said, "...as you would have them do unto you, if godly people ran the world it would be a much better place to live!". I was surprised to hear him say that and shared with him my thoughts on starting a group to unite Christians in positions of influence to support each other and challenge others to live out their faith at work for the glory of God and building up of His kingdom. He told me without hesitation, "I want to be part of this, and I don't think this meeting was an accident!"



Godlove with his own purpose statement sign.

Bantar Godlove is a senior staff member in our central pharmacy department. Hearing him preach in church one Sunday several months ago when the pastor was away made him a target for me, I immediately saw him as someone who "gets it", a sharp, thinking individual. I asked him if he would be interested in reading a book. He said yes so I gave him a copy of Ken Eldred's book, *The Integrated Life*.

In a few weeks I asked him what he thought of the book and he said he loved it, it really opened his eyes to the role Christians need to be playing in the world and the work place. How we need to see our work as a vocation from God and the place where He wants us to serve Him and to use us to grow His Kingdom.

Godlove has already begun influencing others as he teaches a pharmaceutical module in the Screener courses, and nurse training school, which he does in addition to his regular job in the Central Pharmacy. Now he wants to do a survey in the market to see what values people regard as important in their businesses and encourage them to be honest and trustworthy, honoring God in their work, and building the Cameroon economy in the process. He is also putting together his thoughts on this subject as a Cameroonian and what he feels will have the most impact in Cameroonian culture.

He is excited as he sees his ministry opportunities, at work, to work, and of work, and we are excited seeing God at work in all of it.

Blessings, Thom & Ellen

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