

# Vincent and Mary Taniform

Bambali, North West Province, Cameroon, Africa

## MINISTRYING AMIDST CRISIS and FACING A MAJOR TRANSITION

*He (God) has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end (Ecclesiastes 3:11).*

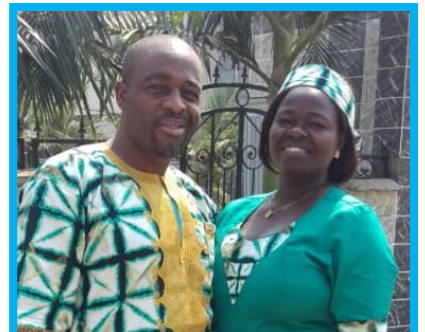
Often times, I wonder what the world would look like if God gave man the ability to fathom the future. Specifically, I equally wonder what my life could be, if God gave me this ability. Though He hasn't, the one thing that is clear to us (Mary and myself) is that God has called us to His service and we have equally pledged our lives to live for this calling. As we seek to fulfill it, He keeps unveiling His mission for us, over time, in packages that are often amazing.

When we moved to Bamenda in 2013, our excitement was to partner with him in multiplying workers for His kingdom in all of Cameroon and beyond through our access to the university of Bamenda (Isaiah 49:6). This required evangelizing, recruiting, training and inspiring young men and women to flourish. But this excitement was confronted by the many needs surrounding this task, among which was a training center. But as we trusted Him over the years, He met these needs in amazing ways and by May 2017, we constructed a home/ministry center and moved into it.

Our excitement was to train people. But we couldn't fathom all the strategies that God intended us to use in recruiting them until 2018 when the anglophone crisis became severe that we realized one of them was by sending young people to live in our home. One after the other, they came in and until now, besides our family of 6, we are hosting/discipling 8 other collegians and graduates with deferent vulnerabilities and some of them can't even access their families and villages due to the war.

One of these, a young Christian girl of age 22, came in in January 2022 with lots of issues that ranged from making life choices, doctrinal issues, having a strong affinity for prophetic messages, building doctrines out of dreams and dabbling between prosperity preaching and sound doctrines, among others. But as we work her through the authority of God's word, eternal security, what the bible says about prophets and other doctrinal issues, her conviction to stay focus on God's word deepened. She now has a consistent time alone with God through prayers and the word. As a result, she is gaining the right convictions which are shaping her perspectives and are evident in her priorities. As she grows in doctrines, she has denounced/ cut off from prophets/dreams supposedly coming as revelations from God. She is steady at home and take informed decisions.

Another is an orphan who has a lone elder sister, as the only family member, who just graduated from the University and is now back in the village doing small-scale farming that can barely feed herself and the 19 years old kid brother. This boy moved to Bambili so he can go to the university. But he couldn't meet up with the requirements; including acquiring accommodation. As he lives with us, he is engaged in learning some computer applications like



web designing with the hope that he can make a future out of it. He is equally engaged in an establishing bible study and his growth in the Lord is steady and impressive. He is regular on his bible study, active in his church, keeps a consistent walk with God, shares the gospel to unbelievers, very hard working, etc.

Besides focusing on their specific vulnerabilities, we are engaging in giving them holistic discipleship by focusing on things like life skills, integrity, hard work, good self-image and living as a community.

But as we were adjusting to this new lifestyle of living as a large community and discipling people of different age groups with different needs/vulnerability, God unveiled yet another package to us. On December 5<sup>th</sup> 2021, we were selected as the national director of the Navigators ministry of Cameroon. As usual, we are obedient to this call and somewhat excited about it. But its implications leave a lot to ponder on. Among them is the question of handling our new function as National Director and yet still keeping our balance on our primary ministry focus which is leader development. Also, to be effective in this role and lead the Cameroon ministry into a partnering ministry (a ministry that sends and receives missionaries), we have to relocate to Yaounde and be committed to our task as a full-time job. Here questions about leaving our comfort zone, engaging the process of resigning from my job, Mary dropping off business; the issue of raising funds for both our relocation and for our monthly budgets, what to do with the house/ministry center in Bambili, where will our kids go to school and many other questions keep looming our minds. But one thing is sure; God, who has planned everything from beginning to end, and it is all beautiful in its time, has the answers to all these worries. So, friends, please join us to ask the right questions to Him and in the right ways so that everything should come out beautiful in its time.

One of the things that keep us daring is because, besides God's infinite ability to sustain us, He has equally provided partners for us from Morning side bible church and morning side bible church itself as shoulders to lean on. As you pray with us and for us, we believe that He will give us the right wisdom to manage the challenges and go through the different transitions smoothly.

As we pray that God should increase our partners from Morningside Bible Church, we are trusting Him to raise about 50 people who would each be making a monthly donation of \$100 towards our monthly budget and/or about 8 people with a one-time donation of \$1000 each for our relocation budget. Would you please pray and consider being part of the missions in Cameroon and beyond by partnering with us (Mary and I) financially?

May God bless you immensely and keep you faithful to His service.

Your partners in His vineyard.

Vincent and Mary.

