JOHN HAMILTON IN NDOP, NW CAMEROON WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2009

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Category: Observations

John Hamilton in Ndop, NW=20
CameroonÂ Â Â Wednesday 11 February 2009

Had my first siesta today. Didn't sleep much, but read a bit of an ancientÂ Alistair McLean which I liberated from the Bamenda Guest House. We all went and lay down being pretty tired after a few hours in the middle of the day in Ndop town at National Youth Day. It took place at The Field -Â bit like Orange parades in July back home in N. Ireland! In fact it was not dissimilar in some ways. Thousands -Â it must have beenÂ - of school kids both primary and secondary marched past a stand with a bunch of dignitaries, instead of Orange Lodges marching past a stand with a bunch of dignitaries.

The difference of course is that Orange Fields are invariably green while today's Field wastotally devoid of grass and amazingly dusty and uniformly brown.It was very hot!!!Â Â The whole Field was surrounded by market stalls, mostly selling food and drink - but also Valentine cards!!!

Anyway we pottered about for a good while seeking shade under Sandra's umbrella or occasionally sneaking under someone else's shade. We did manage to spot a few of the young people from this area in the groups of marchers.

Having had enough of the marching and there being no sign of the traditional dancing starting, we headed off up the road to the Atlanta Hotel for a cold drink. We passed various establishments including "One to One Modern Barbing Studio" and "Black Joe Super Cut". Pity Sandra had cut Jon's hair yesterday; I would loved to have seen Jon getting a Black Joe Super Cut! We had a big bottle of TopÂ Pamplemousse each.

Sandra has just been on her mobile phone from Bamunkaland to her daughter inÂ Edinburgh giving her a recipe for salad dressing. It's amazing how much gets done around here by mobile phone!

All so different from my days in Cote d'Ivoire. Yet without mobiles the dispersed Ndop Team working on 10 languages would find it very difficult to function - and so many of their local colleagues also use mobiles. To paraphrase someone else... God invented mobile phones for Bible translation - and lets the rest of the world use them too!We've just been watching a Wallace and Grommet dvd.Â We brought a digital projector with us for the team and we tried it out tonight for the firsttime working on solar power.