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*At the Service of Christ
and of His Calling,*

The Bassay Family

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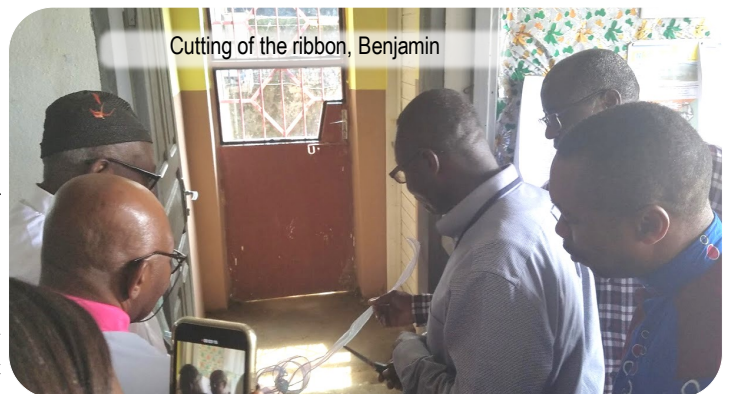
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Camwork launched its first library on June 22, 2019 in the presence of the Chief of the quarter, the Board of Trustees of the churches of Christ in Cameroon and many people within and out of the church who came to witness the ceremony. The cutting of the ribbon was done by Benjamin Okai, Elder of the Cloverdale church of Christ in Searcy AR. He also led a three hours workshop on Basic Mental issues among Children and Adolescents. A few weeks earlier, Camwork and the church in Bonaberi hosted a three days preachers/leadership forum of the churches of Christ in Cameroon (May 16 -18), reflecting on the theme “COURAGE” and the need to preach in season and out of season. The current political situation and its effects on the church suggests now to be an “out of season” moment in the history of the church in Cameroon. The mission of this forum was to look at the ongoing civil unrest, the massive graduation of preachers from preaching schools with no church to serve, the need for elderships in our congregations, etc. The goal of Camwork is to create a platform that will come up with problem-solving leadership seminars able to provide concrete solutions and assistance where need be. The Bassays have also been involved in other activities such as participating at the national youth forum, providing help to those dislodged by the political unrest, saving souls, etc... The Lord keeps providing for their needs daily. He has blessed them with a 4X4 pickup truck and a high capacity generator . Their first Youth Engagement Program and Vacation Bible school is currently going on and will last till the end of July.

Greetings and blessings from Cameroon. The Bassays and the Cameroon Mission Work crew are grateful for every financial contribution they have received and are aware of the many prayers that are being said for the mission in Cameroon and for the wellbeing of its people. Gratitude to you and glory to God! Here is the rundown of recent activities. The Lord has been faithful and will always be.

LIBRARY AND PLAYROOM

The Library and the Playroom were inaugurated on June 22 with the visit of the Okais. Over 150 people were present for the ceremony, including the chief of the quarter, members of the Board of Trustees (BOT), preachers, friends and neighbors. As part of the ceremony, Linda presented the circumstances that led to the dream of a Library, giving credit to the parents in Searcy AR and the many books in their homes. 95% of the books Camwork has in its possession are donations and Louis and Linda are full of gratitude name-



Cutting of the ribbon, Benjamin

ly to Harding professors, Truth for Today, churches of Christ at Augusta-AR, Shirley-AR, Laurel-MD and many individuals). Louis and Dr Ekambi

also presented the mission of Camwork: Louis as a missionary and Dr Ekambi as chairperson of the Advisory Committee. The President of the BOT encouraged in his speech that this model be copied by other missionaries as it clearly states the mission of the Bassays and Camwork and provide their ministry with a proper accountability. The chief praised Camwork for being a blessing to the population and promised to spread the good news. The librarian led the tour and a meal was provided at the end.

However, Camwork still need to raise \$2600 for the purchase of French books to be added to our collection. The present books are all in English and this may sound biased in a French town like Douala. This money will also be used to purchase chairs for both the library and the playroom and placing air-conditioning units.

THE OKAIS' VISIT

So many great memories were rekindled with the visit of the Okais to the Bassays. The modern means of communication are great but there is nothing as effective as a face to face with someone you love. The



Bassays-Okais farewell moment in Douala

Bassay are very grateful to the Cloverdale eldership, the mission committee and the entire Cloverdale family for allowing them to come.

Though the Okais spent only 4 days in Douala, the visit was very rewarding: They spent time with the Bassays, saw their work and reminded them they are not alone. The Cameroonians were also assured of the Cloverdale's oversight. Camwork used this visit as an opportunity to inaugurate its library/playroom and organize a workshop on basic mental health issues among children and adolescents. Living in an honor and shame society, many young ones suffer in silence with no one to talk to. Benjamin has set the ball rolling and this trip is expected to be the first of many trips. The health of Bestynna, their oldest daughter, difficulty with the Cameroon visas pro-



Workshop with Benjamin, Closing

cedure, flight delays and a few unforeseen expenditures were the main challenges of this trip. Other details will be provided in the next newsletter drawing some lessons in anticipation of the visit of Jerry Myhan and Chris Lowe in October, two other elders from Cloverdale.

LEADERSHIP FORUM

50 participants (4 elders, 34 preachers and 16 church leaders) and the commitment to their calling made the forum in Bonaberi a great success. They were rep-



Preachers' Forum, Closing

resentations from 38 congregations with 21 from the politically unstable zones. This attendance is only half of what it has been in the past but it has never been more encouraging than now to see so much devotion for the Lord. The church has been in Cameroon for 63 years and in spite of the many efforts, much is still to be done to give the church a reassuring image: congregations able to fully support their preachers, accredited Bible schools, congregations with elderships (There are currently just 6 elders in 2 congregations out of about 300 in the country), scholarships for deserving youth, multipurpose infrastructures, evangelism in the French part of the country, the church's approach to the management of the ongoing crisis in the country, etc. These points were all acknowledged and the mission of Camwork

is to try to reimagine the church in Cameroon and come up with one seminar/workshop at a time, hoping to influence the future of the church in this country, only settling for sustainable approaches on how to do church.

WORKING WITH THE KIDS AND LADIES

As Louis is working with the preachers and the church Leaders, Linda is all committed to the women and the children. She spent four days in April with the ladies of the churches in French Cameroon at Bangangte for a three days reflection on the theme



Linda with the kids in Bangante

“A Woman of Noble Character.” She also attended a 3 days national ladies retreat and presented a lesson on an assigned topic entitled “Can I Miss the New Jerusalem?”

GATHERINGS AND OUTREACH

While Linda was away for the French Ladies seminar, Louis attended a two day Moungo Zone lectureship (a coming together of 8 churches in Louis’ home area. These are all struggling congregations). His contribution was on the area of spiritual discipline, an aspect that cannot be overemphasized. Although Camwork is still looking for the best way to assist churches, Louis and Linda are providing Raoul



Raoul in Bomono Village

Kadadom with some transportation fare every Sunday to go preach at Bomono (Louis’ home congregation)

Louis and Linda did a 3 day survey trip in 4 prominent towns (Makak, Eseka, Edea and Kribi) in French Cameroon for possible future church plants. They were later joined by Mbabi Emmanuel from Makak neighborhood. Eseka seems to be the best option, having sounded like the call from Macedonia from brother Biyaga who is very committed to having



Mbabi, Louis, Linda and Biyaga

a congregation in that town. Unfortunately the health of Biyaga’s mom might force him to relocate to Douala for a while in order to attend to his mother. Please Keep him in your prayers. Pray also for these 4 towns which are so desperately in need of the Gospel.

Throughout this period, 4 souls were baptized into Christ: Virginia Nfongang during the National Youth Forum in Yaounde, Aicha Neh, Magellan Lovagha (Magellan is in Douala as the result of the civil unrest. He walked to Louis, ready to follow



Fred baptizing Virginia Nfongang, April 6 will be worshipping with Cité de la Paix, one of the churches in Douala



Louis baptizing Neh Aicha, March 20



Jesus!) and Cecilia Ngonda.

**WORKING WITH THE IDP
(INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS)**

The political tension in the English-speaking part of the country is still ongoing and the economy is dropping to the detriment of the entire country especially the politically unstable areas.

Louis is a member of the Board of Trustees of the churches of Christ in Cameroon and this group has been working to providing some form of assistance to the IDPs. Jim Corner, from Garland TX provided the Board with close to \$7000 last February to be shared among the IDP. About 500 dislodged brethren within the church benefited from this with a minimum of \$10 per person. Toward this same effort, The church at Laurel, MD sent \$1,480 to Cameroon Connection Projects (CCP) that is headed by Louis. This time the money targeted big issues like house rent, small business and so on. The BOT is currently working on another distribution based on the money they received in May from Jim. The church in Cameroon is full of gratitude.

**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (YEP)
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)**

Camwork YEP/VBS started on June 17 and will end

July 31st. It is a program for kids aged 5 to 15 organized in collaboration with the Bonaberi Church of Christ to help prevent children and young adults from getting into delinquent activities during summer holiday by keeping them busy with extracurricular and fun Bible activities. Its main objective is to provoke the spirit of hard work, dynamism and the fear of God in children.

200 kids were anticipated from 2 locations:



Bonaberi (Camwork base) and Mudeka (located about 45 minutes from Bonaberi). Presently 253 have signed up, way above expectations and it is obvious that more may be coming. This has over-run the ini-



tial budget which is approximately \$15 per child. An additional \$900 is now needed to cover the extra 53 plus kids. Please help if you can. Half of these kids are kids of IDPs. School supplies will be given to the children at the end of the program.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Camwork also hosted the Preachers of the churches in the French zone. The purpose of having this special section in the church is to tackle the absence of serious/productive church efforts in French Cameroon. Most of these churches are presently harboring many IDPs, an unfortunate situation that needs to be

perceived as a ministry opportunity. Camwork looks forward to hosting a follow up meeting on July 13.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND GRATITUDE

Words cannot always translate the content of an emotive heart. Being on a mission field comes with many challenges and one of them is the concern for support. Louis and Linda are so grateful to all those who have been or will be taking some of their time to pray for them daily. We are also grateful for the answered prayers. The Bassays and Camwork have been looking for a practical vehicle that would be convenient for rural Cameroon and God did provide one four months ago through godly men in



Camwork 4x4 pickup truck

Searcy, The Christian Service Committee (CSC). Louis and Linda were guided to the choice of this particular model (Toyota Hilux) by Omam Christopher, a member of the advisory committee and Moussa, the mechanic of Dr Ekambi.

Another big problem that got solved was the



Diezel Generator

purchase of a power supply generator last month. This was timely in addressing the electricity interruptions occurring nearly every week and generally lasting for one or two days, sometimes even for a week. Many thanks to Tim Bennett and the Cloverdale family for their generosity and love.

In the last newsletter the Bassays were looking for a monthly commitment of \$500 to top their budget and that has been done by the Cloverdale Eldership and the Mission Committee.

CHALLENGES

Louis and Linda still have struggles to effectively communicate with their sponsors and friends. It has become one of their daily concerns. It is should not be true that out of sight is out of mind and they are pleading with their friends and sponsors to be patient with them. 2019 is an experimental year and they are still trying to figure out some things. They will soon meet with the Advisory Committee to evaluate their work this far.

THE BASSAY AS A FAMILY

Just as in the previous report, the Bassays are now doing well. the kids are done with their first school year and were all successful. They are enjoying the all-organic Cameroon food. Above all, the Bassays keep blessing God for the wonderful fellowship they are having with brethren and churches. Gabby and Alan are still struggling with health issues regularly as they orient to living in a tropical climate. Alan is presently recovering from severe pneumonia.

The Bassay are conscious of the love they receive daily. In the picture below Louis and little Louis are in the company of this young Cloverdale kid. Louis cannot remember his name except for the beautiful fact that he was happy to pray for the Bas-



say family as they returned to Cameroon. These are little acts that make mission possible.

Finally, brothers and sisters, Let brotherly love continue.

May God bless us all in Christ as we fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Shalom!