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

The Bassay Family

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NOUVELLES DU CAMEROUN

EDITION N°5 // DECEMBER 2021 // THREE YEARS AFTER

Cameroon is still struggling with the civil war in the southwest and Northwest regions that began in 2016. It all began as a protest from the two English regions requesting a fair treatment from the government. This situation has created inaccessibility of many areas, limitation of movements, travel bans, influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to the French regions, huge financial dependency of congregations and IDPs, etc. The outburst of Covid-19 has further worsened this situation. It is in this context that Cameroon Mission Work (Camwork) has been operating since August 2018 when the Bassay family returned from the USA, with the Cloverdale family as their sending congregation.

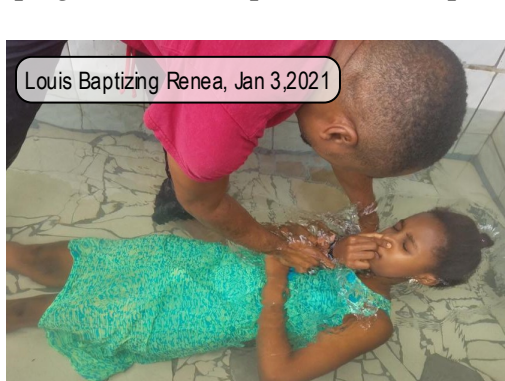
However, He who does immeasurably more than His children could ask or imagine is at work in Cameroon and we are grateful. In this special summary edition we want to share with you how Camwork has been committed to its objectives: Saving Souls, Strengthening the Saved and Serving the Society.

Greetings and blessings from Cameroon. The Bassay family and the Camwork crew has been interceding for the international body of believers in Christ against this ongoing devastating COVID-19 pandemic and the many other ills going on in the world. We apologize for the long delay in coming up with our newsletters. It is our intention to share with all “les Nouvelles du Cameroun” more regularly and consistently. However some of our activities are periodically uploaded at www.camwork.org for a year now. As you read through, please do not forget to put every concern in prayer and to praise God for what He has done, is doing and has not even done yet.

I.. SAVING SOULS

I.1. CONVERSIONS

The optimum goal of Camwork is to save souls. Every work done points to that direction. It will be sad for a lost soul to walk before God someday and accuse us for being silent and indifferent toward the lost-ness of humanity. In this light, Camwork has recorded in Bonabéri (Its home congregation) 35 baptisms this far with 20 since the beginning of 2021. This number does not include those baptized during campaigns, lectureships and church plants. It is our prayer that each baptism is a conversion.



The two most outstanding this year are the baptism of Renea Bassay It gave Louis a great joy to baptize his own daughter. The second is that of Afoh Sinorita, baptized while heavily pregnant. This is the second time Louis is baptizing a pregnant woman in his 21 years of full time ministry. Each time it appeared like both the mother and the baby were being baptized :)

1.2. RADIO PROGRAM

With the outburst of Covid-19 and one of the precaution measures that demanded at some point that people stay indoors as much as possible, Camwork started a one hour thirty minutes Radio Program in Dibombari, a village at the outskirts of Douala. The program is entitled “What the Bible Says,” aimed at reaching the population of Dibombari in particular and Douala and its environs as a whole. Plans are on the ground to begin a congregation in Dibombari in 2022. This far there have been 65 broadcasts with 65 rebroadcast in 65 weeks. There is an average of 5 callers within and without Dibombari during every broadcast. People abroad follow live on the Camwork facebook page. This program has opened new doors to prospects.

The team that was initially made up of Just Louis and Linda is now 5, including Gerald, Franklin



and Bebey Bwanga (the radio technician). This number allows the program to go on even if two participants are absent.

1.3. BOMONO/DIBOMBARI MISSIONS

Raoul Kadadoum is an evangelist Camwork has been providing transport to go preach in Bomono, Louis' home town. Lately, Camwork helped him and his family to relocate to Bomono, hoping that going closer to the congregation will make his work more effective. However Camwork will still provide him with the allocated transport money as a token for his work since he does not have a salary yet.

Dibombari is a nearby town to Bomono but it is bigger with about 9178 inhabitants. In addition to the radio program in this town, Camwork has put an evangelist (Mbouegueu Justin) on ground for follow up and propose an entry plan for a future church plant. For now he is working both in Dibombari and in Bomono with Raoul.

1.4. MOUNGO ZONE EVANGELISM

This soul saving effort is organized

once every month by eight congregations in Louis' home county. It runs from Friday till Sunday. Camwork co-sponsors with the hosting congregation by providing each time a generator, the PA system, and some money for the feeding of the participants. Louis and Linda are also always opportune to teach. Linda



teaches the ladies while Louis teaches the men and handles some of the public address messages in the evenings.

1.5. CHURCH PLANT

Camwork has sponsored and participated in three church plants since November 2019 within a framework of what is labeled VERS (Vision des Évangélistes francophones pour la Restauration et le salut des âmes). VERS means in French “TOWARD” This initiative has pointed the francophone preachers toward Angissa in 2019 (Center Region), Santchou in 2020 (West region) and recently in Mbango (May



2021, Est region). All three assemblies are doing great. VERS is waiting for the next Macedonian call. It targets areas where one or two Christians already live.

1.6. WBS

WBS is also another effective means to reach out to the lost and Louis continues to receive students online at louis-bassay.worldbibleschool.org. He currently has 15 students (9 French and 6 English).

II.. STRENGTHENING THE SAVED

II.1. PULPIT IN BONABERI

Louis and Gerald are still the two main preachers in Bonabéri, though Louis preaches just

twice a month. The other weeks are for Louis and Linda's missionary work, traveling within the country. Linda is mostly concerned with teaching children and women Bible classes. She also trains women how to prepare and teach children bible class. Louis is on the pulpit preaching, teaching, leading singing, etc. He is also responsible for the smooth running of the Bonaberi congregation.

II.2. PREACHING AND TEACHING

One of the missions of Louis and Linda is to travel across the country, strengthening the churches. Though the crisis in the Southwest and Northwest has considerably limited their movements in that area, they still have many congregations to work with. Louis on the pulpit, Linda with the ladies and the kids, implementing the children curricula they wrote some years back.

II.3. LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Bonabéri is the host and missionary base for Louis and Linda and their crew. In agreement to the popular saying that charity begins at home, Louis has a leadership training class regularly with Bonabéri, equipping the saints and polishing skills.

Most of the Leadership training seminars are conducted online and on-ground with participation within a mapped out vicinity. The recent one was the 4Fields 5 Parts Discipleship. This ministry opportunity is brought to Camwork by the Gospel Chariot (Share) Missions, through George Akpabli in Ghana, Duncan Ojiambo in Uganda and George Funk in Australia. This training is a great blessing in equipping disciples for effective church



4Fields 5 Parts Discipleship Training

plant. The most recent training took place in Bonaberi (September 21-22, 2021) with 8 selected preachers from 7 French Churches and Louis' father-in-law.

Louis also teaches short courses in 3 Bible Institutions in the country: Bear Valley Bible



Louis and the Bear Valley Wotutu Students & Director

Institute Cameroon at Wotutu, l'École Biblique de la Bear Valley au Cameroun at Mbanga and the Buea College of Biblical Studies. This is another great way of sharing knowledge and taking part in the spiritual formation of the next generation of preachers in Cameroon. For the two Bear Valley schools, Linda is also invited to teach the students- preachers' wives



Linda and the Students-Preachers' wives

basic Bible knowledge, Christian women's role and how to prepare and teach children Bible classes.

Camwork is blessed with the input of 5 men from 3 congregations. They constitute a body called the Advisory Committee. Early this year they led a two days working session with the aim of helping Camwork in general and Louis and Linda in particular in coming up with a better strategic and operational planning, counting from January 2022.

II.4. CURRICULUM

Louis and Linda, together with some ladies in Cameroon and the U.S.A have come up with four curricula for Sunday School classes that are being used all over the Country and abroad: Chad, Madagascar and Haiti (The French version was shared in Haiti by Barry Baggott, former missionary in Africa. He is also looking forward to sending the English version to Swaziland). These children materials are called Noble Age. Noble Age One contains basic Biblical knowledge like Who is God, Creation, etc. Noble Age 2 is a repeat of Noble Age one with more elaborations. Noble Age 3 contains Old Testa-

ment stories and Noble Age 4 contains New Testament stories. The lessons in these curricula are made to suit the African context.

Presently Linda is working on a babies' curriculum based on her experience from congregations in the U.S.A. She is already using it in Bonaberi to teach kids of four years and below. The curriculum will be available by 2022.

II.5. LADIES' ACTIVITIES

Camwork through Linda and other ladies have been doing much of teaching and training at the local and national level.

Bible study classes: Linda leads the Wednesday ladies' Bible studies in Bonaberi. Together with the other ladies, they come up with a theme and topics to be treated. This year they have been reading a book entitled *Spiritual Mothering*, by Susan Hunt. It is inspired by Titus 2:3-5. Reading through this book has been very inspiring to the ladies. It has helped them to learn to be models and intentional as they raise their girls so that God's word will not be blasphemed.

Online book club: Linda is one of the coordinators of a national women's online book club which came into existence in 2020 due to Covid-19. During this period it was difficult for the ladies to meet in their various conferences, thus the online book club, just like that for the kids became the best option. They choose a book, read and have discussions on the assigned portions every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. 12 books have been treated already. Lately they have been reading **Jay Payleitner** books – *What Wives Can Do to Build a Stronger Marriage* *52 Things a Husband's Need from Their Wives* and *52 Things to Pray for Your Kids*. Reading these books as a team, discussing them and bringing them to the African context, has helped many ladies to understand their husbands better and make their marriages and homes sweeter. Some of the ladies have been able to open up regarding some challenges in their homes. Together, prayerfully, solutions are reached at.

Conferences: Linda has been speaking in conferences at the local, regional and national levels. She's usually assigned topics to be treated, sometimes alongside other ladies. Since 2018 she has been a speaker in 10 ladies conferences and 2 youths conferences with an average attendance of 100 women and girls. Lessons usually center around ladies being models in their homes, neighborhood and the church.

Training : Together with other ladies, Linda teaches the babies' Sunday Bible class in Bonaberi. She heads a team of other ladies who go to other congregations to train ladies how to prepare and teach children bible Class. She has trained 23 student preachers' wives from the Bear Valley Bible Institute Wotutu, Cameroon in the past two years.

III.. SERVING THE SOCIETY

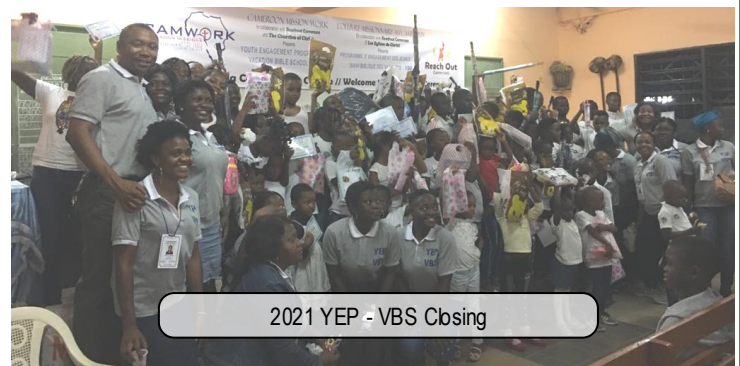
III.1. LIBRARY AND PLAYROOM

Library and playroom: Camwork has a running Library that went operational on June 22,2019 with 2200 books. It has a standby generator and Wi-Fi and a computer. The content is suitable for kids and adults. There is a librarian to guide the users. This library is opened to the public at specific times within the week. Students use it as studying space and come out with good results. It provides books for the kids during book clubs and lots of Christian literature to Christians and the public.

Camwork has a play room inaugurated on the same day with the library. It has educational toys where kids of the Bonaberi church and the neighborhood come to play. The Bonaberi Church also uses this room for their babies' Bible class.

III.2. YEP-VBS

YEP-VBS (Youth Engagement Program and Vacation Bible School) is a program organized by Camwork in collaboration with an NGO (Reachout Cameroon) and some congregations of the Churches of Christ. It is designed to help kids to be constructively busy during long holidays with extracurricular activities aimed at provoking hard work, dynamism and the fear of God in them. Activities include Bible studies, crafts, cookery, games, sports, drama and creating awareness on children's rights and duties, hygiene and sanitation, environmental protection



and how to better handle adolescence. A closing ceremony is organized per location at the end of every session. Here, parents are invited to watch kids showcase a little bit of what they have learned, the gospel message is preached, a meal is shared, and gifts of back-to-school supplies (Exercise books, back packs, water bottles, launch boxes, umbrellas, rain coats, pens, pencils, crayons, rulers) handed to the kids. It is their own small way of helping the parents (especially those internally displaced) with school needs for their kids during this difficult financial period Cameroon is facing.

Two sessions have been organized: 2019 and 2021. It was not organized in 2020 because of the COVID19 pandemic. In 2019 it was organized in two locations: Bonaberi (44 males, 56 females) and Mudeka (83 males, 97 females), giving a grand total of 280 kids.

In 2021, it was organized in three locations: Bonaberi (49 females , 42 males), Mudeka and Kongwe (119 females, 109 males) and Cite de la Paix (25 females, 21 males) giving a grand total of 365 kids.

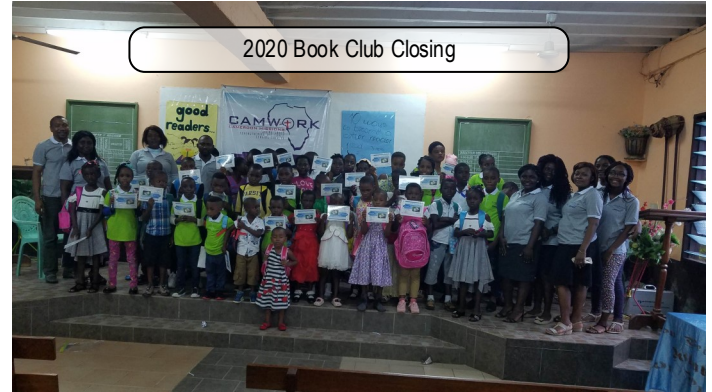
This program has caused many parents, including those who do not worship with the church of Christ to always bring their kids to Sunday school. They appreciate the program and encourage Camwork to never relent. Many congregations are soliciting for YEP/VBS to be organized in their respective congregations. Camwork is dreaming and hoping for a day when the Church of Christ in Cameroon will possess a suitable environment to host kids and instructors from all over the country in a camp.

III.3. BOOK CLUB

The book club came into existence in June 2020 when it was confirmed that the YEP/VBS could not hold due to COVID-19. It is an avenue where kids (aged 1 to 15) and parents are encouraged and given the opportunity to burrow books from the Camwork library, read them at home and make summary notes. At the end they come together and share their experiences.

It has as objectives to: Inculcate the spirit of reading in kids, increase their knowledge and practice of godly living by reading Christian books, improve on their circular knowledge by reading secular books and encourage parents to read to their little ones. The books are both Christian and secular.

Two sessions have been organized: Bonaberi in 2020 with 49 participants and Bangangte in 2021 with 38 participants (26 boys, 12 girls). Lots of books have been read and lots of moral lessons drawn. This year, the book club was part of the YEP/VBS activities in



the different locations.

At the end of each session a closing ceremony is organized where parents are invited, kids do presentation on their favorite books and lessons drawn, parents who read to their kids likewise do presentation on their kids favorite books and how the kids responded to the reading exercise. The gospel message is preached by Louis, a common meal shared and gifts of back-to-school supplies handed to the kids.

III.4 HELPING THE IDP (INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS)

The ongoing crisis that started in 2016 in the English Cameroon has rendered many citizens homeless, jobless, orphans, widows or widowers. The majority now live in French Cameroon as IDPs. Each host congregation is committed in helping them in one way or another.

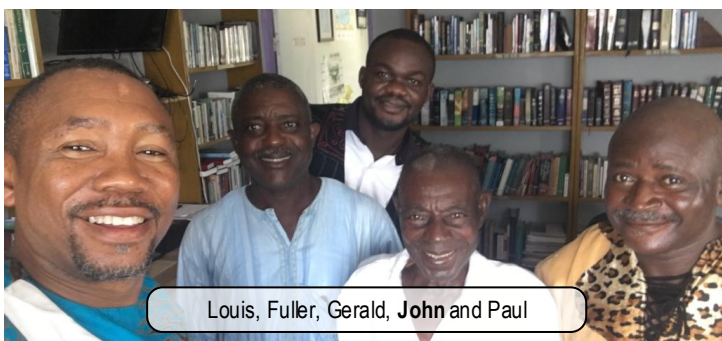
Camwork through the Cloverdale relief fund and Louise Clement from Lubbock TX, has been able to provide help to some brethren in and out of Bonabéri empowering them by providing funds for petty business, help with education by providing fees, and health by providing medication and some groceries.

Jim Corner a U.S missionary to Cameroon has been doing a great job in this same light, raising funds used by the Board of Trustees of the church in Cameroon to bring some relief to these IDPs.

Despite all these efforts there are still many in need as new cases keep coming up with the persistence of the political unrest.

A case at hand is that of Itoe John Sakwe: he lost his house as it was set ablaze as a result of the

struggle. His sick wife died in the process while he was away in the farm. Camwork is hoping to find a



solution for his predicament also considering the fact that he is not very healthy at the moment.

III.5. CAPACITY BUILDING

For now this has been centered on 2 main areas: making reusable sanitary pads and teaching women how to do home-made snacks.

Reusable sanitary Pad: This is a project that was sent to Camwork by some ladies from Cloverdale spearheaded by Susan Harrington. Linda and the ladies of Bonaberi have been producing lots of it for themselves and other ladies in the crisis areas who do not have enough funds to purchase the disposable ones every month, while some are sold. Late-



ly they gained a good contract to supply four thousand pieces of reusable sanitary pads to a home based non-governmental organiza-



The Making of the Sanitary Pads

tion. It has been a good source of income to the Bonaberi ladies and some seamstresses in the neighborhood. Camwork is making plans on how to expand on this project and make it more rewarding economically.

Homemade Snacks: Camwork has had one session training women, in Bonaboume, a street in the Bonaberi neighborhood mostly inhabited by the internally displaced persons. They were taught practical lessons on how to make and com-

mercialize 'pufpuf' a common Cameroonian burn, homemade yoghurt and ice cream for commercial purposes. Some of them were given small funds to help start the business.

III.6. WELL AND ROAD.

Camwork has refurbished the existing well in the Bonaberi church compound used by the population in their neighborhood for cooking and washing. These are people who do not have running water in their houses.

Camwork has also paid for 2 trips of 20 tons seawalls to help ameliorate the deplorable state of



the road in their street which is almost inaccessible during the rainy season.

III.7. DIGGING OF LATRINE

Camwork did sponsor in part the the construction of a latrine in a nursery and primary school



Toilet under construction in Mujuka

owned by brethren in a village called Mujuka. This school began 2020 and abhors a lot of IDP kids. Big relief for the 120 students and teachers.

III.8. Distribution of clothes and shoes: Since 2018 Camwork has distributed clothes and shoes twice (October 2018 and 2020) to some people, especially the IDPs in and out of the church.

IV.. CHALLENGES

High financial demands and dependency: Due to the Crisis and Covid 19, the financial situation of the country is getting worse. Prices of basic neces-

sities are increasing with no general increase in salary. A bag of 50kg of rice that cost \$36 in 2018 now cost \$46. There are many who can no longer make ends meet. They look up to Camwork for financial help.

To help this situation, Camwork is carrying out some capacity building project and providing some financial help for petty businesses and farming.

Preachers' support: Still in the line of finance, many preachers have either lost lots of their members due to the crisis or have themselves become IDPs. Their congregations can either no longer support them fully or these congregations do not exist anymore. They look up to Camwork for relief.

Transportation: Transporting kids from neighboring villages to where YEP-VBS is holding has been very challenging. Last July, there were about 110 kids to be transported to and fro the host village. Getting a commercial bus driver was not evident due to limited finances. Louis had to use the



pick-up truck, transporting 40 kids per trip to be able to do 6 trips to and fro, 3 times a week for 5 weeks. It was a dangerous move, but thank God no accident occurred.

Thus there is the need for a bus because in the years ahead this number will keep increasing as more and more villages are soliciting for the program.

Camwork Truck: Another challenge here is the rapid deteriorating rate of the pickup truck due to bad roads. There may be need for another one sooner than expected.

French books: About 95% of books in the library are in English whereas it is in a French speaking area. For the past three years Camwork has made some efforts to get a few French books but much is still needed.

Unforeseen: In the African context it is difficult to make a plan and stick to it. After planning for the day, there may be an unannounced visitor, biological or Christian who has to be attended to, thus suspending other activities for the day.

In addition, there are lots of funerals and wedding ceremonies that come up in the course of the year where Louis is programmed to preach or perform the some rights. Although these activities do not fall under Camwork's framework, it leaves other planned activities pending, thus accumulating the work. This is why it is sometimes difficult to come up with monthly reports.

V.. PERSPECTIVES

Focus: Camwork's scope of action has been multifaceted for the past 3 years and may likely continue to be. But its aim for the next three years is **to be more focused and to disengage some areas or work** in order to become more effective. Details are still being worked on but the number one on the list of priority is training.

Health sector: Camwork is still in prayer with the intention of catching and retaining the intention of partners in the health sector. There is an ever increasing need of a **Health Center/Hospital** with Christian values in Cameroon. A conversation began last year with Kevin Linderman of the IHCF/African Christian Hospitals. Praying and hoping to come to some agreement and have the means to start. The health personnel of the church in Cameroon has been censored and there is a good number to start with.

Scholarship Fund: The Bassay have always have the dream of setting up within Camwork a scholarship fund to assist the many Cameroonians unable or finding difficulties going to school. they are looking for partners both in Cameroon and abroad. A board will be put in place and a monthly amount to raise will be announced soon.

Personal Assistant: The idea of having a personal assistance who will lighten the work of Louis and Linda has been proposed by Dr Ekambi, chairman of the advisory Committee for the past two years. That need has become even more evident now as the work load keeps increasing.

Long and Short term missions: Camwork is opened to receiving long and short mission students/

workers from the U.S

Chad: Brethren from Chad, a French - speaking neighboring country to the north of Cameroon have been soliciting for Camwork to go and carry out some leadership training. Camwork is considering this for 2022 .

VI.. ABOUT THE BASSAY FURLOUGH

The Bassay Family is hoping to be able to have their furlough in June 2022 God willing. They are looking forward to a great moment of reconnection and fellowship.

SUCCESS

Education: The kids have been able to reintegrate into the Cameroon school system and are doing great. Lori-Angela will be writing her final high school exam in May. If she succeeds she will be ready for college. Renea will be writing her final secondary school exam also in May which will lead her to high school if she is successful. Gabby will be going to the secondary school while Alan is in primary school class one and doing well. .

House construction: The Bassay's house is under construction. The first level has been completed, two more levels to go. The first two floors are for the Bassays while the third floor is aimed at accommodating visiting missionaries and students for short and long term missions.

CHALLENGES

Health: Health has been the Bassay's major challenge in their ministry, especially Renea and Alan. Both Lori-Angela and Renea have an early stage of Scoliosis. Alan is frequently having asthmatic attacks. And just recently Renea was down with typhoid and growth pains on her joints. Thanks for always praying.

Housing: The Church compound harboring the Bassays at the moment is becoming inconvenient because of increased activities in the Church. The population of the church is growing, so also the activities. Thus the need for more space. For example the coming of the library and now 3 children Bible classes instead of one. So the need to speed up with their house construction.



The Bassays still have Linda's parents and four other family members staying with them due to the political tension in the South West region. There used to be 10 people, praise God this number has reduced from 10 to 6 as some people have relocated.

VII.. UPCOMING EVENTS

Louis and Linda will be in Ghana from December 4-11, 2021 for the **West African Discipleship Conference**. After the seminar, they will spend another week visiting with the Okai family who will be in Ghana at that same period. Benjamin Okai is one of the elders from the Bassay's sending congregation in USA (The Cloverdale church of Christ).

In response to a Macedonian call, Louis will lead a **team of French Evangelists** (VERS) to their next soul saving campaign in a town called Mbalngong (in Yaoundé the capital) from January 20-23, 2022. Please be in prayer that the Lord will lead His workers to souls that will obedient to the Gospel.

Camwork, together with the Bonaberi church of Christ, will host and organize **three main events** next year: April - National Youth Forum, May - Preachers and Wives' National Forum, November - The National Annual Gospel Lectureship.

Camwork is also looking forward to a few capacity building seminar/ workshops on Discipleship, Counseling, and leadership training.

VIII.. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & GRATITUDE

The Bassay Family and the entire crew of the Cameroon Mission Work is blessed and happy for the people God has put around them. Also, the Pick up truck, the generator, the regular work fund, the salary and many praying hearts make their work great and pleasant to carry out.

Thanks and may all the glory be given to God who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine...

Finally, brothers and sisters, let brotherly love continue. May God bless us all in Christ as we fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Shalom y'all :)