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NOUVELLES DU CAMEROUN

2022 YEP VBS REPORT // SPECIAL EDITION N° 8

Glory be to God for our Youth Engagement Program / Vacation Bible School, popularly known as YEP/VBS: We beat all records this year in terms of number of locations, students and facilitators, and the financial support that came in. This reports explains what the 2022 YEP/VBS achieved, its activities, financial management and the difficulties encounter.

Beloved in Christ, Greetings from Bonaberi! YEP/VBS is organized by CAMWORK (Cameroon Mission Work) in collaboration with the Churches of Christ and Reach out Cameroon. It is a program for kids from 5yrs to 15yrs old and it takes place every summer holidays for a period of 1 month.

The program was held this year in 5 different locations with a total of 658 kids: Church of Christ Bonaberi Auditorium (98), Church of Christ Cité de la Paix – CDLP Auditorium (62), Oxford Nursery and Primary School Mudeka (328), Agape Nursery and Primary School Buea (58) and Christ Memorial Nursery and Primary School Muea (112 kids).



Mudeka YEP/VBS Kids 2022

The goal is to keep kids busy by inculcating godly virtues in them, occupying them with some fun and godly activities, exposing them to meet and make new Christian friends and also to teach them how to manage some social, environmental and economic issues.

This year's theme was "THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT" from Gal 5:22-23.

With the political instability and negative encounters faced in the neighborhoods, this theme was chosen in order to teach the children how to spread Love and make Peace wherever they find themselves in order to have a more peaceful and loving society.

Activities this year centered on: Learning of songs, Bible Studies, Arts and Crafts (Fruit Jars, Fruit Charts and Fruit Trees), Cookery, Sex Education, Environmental Education, Games, Decoration, Reading, Memory Verses and Culture.

The kids were divided into 3 classes: Class 1: 5-8yrs, Class 2: 9-11yrs and Class 3: 12-15yrs. The program ran thrice a week; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00am – 12:00pm (in Bonaberi, Cite de la paix, Buea and Muea) and from 2:00pm -5:00pm in Mudeka, since some facilitators in Douala have to travel from Douala to teach in Mudeka after teaching in Douala.

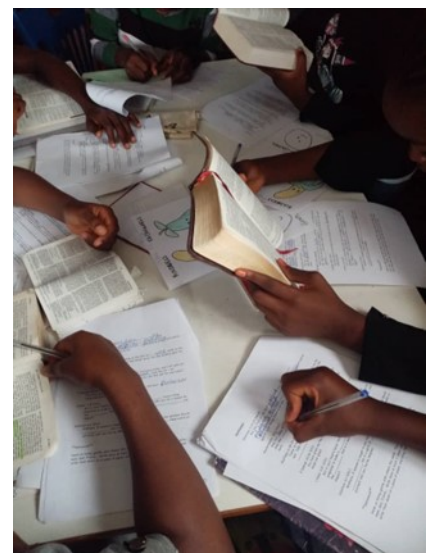
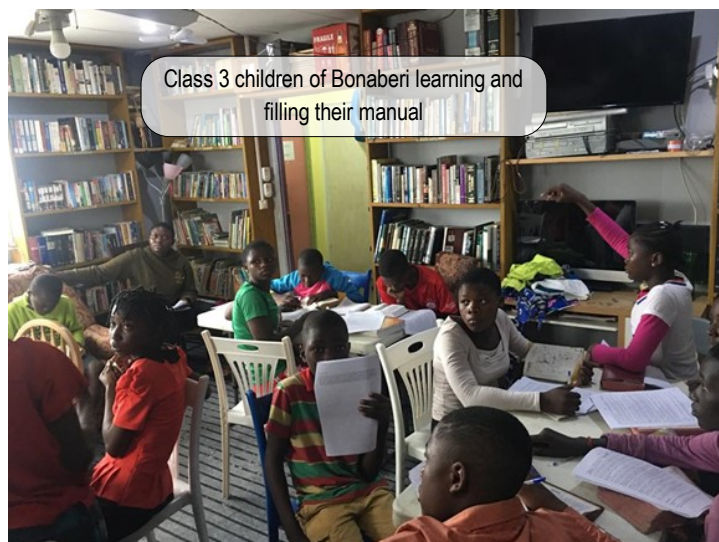
The program started on June 27th 2022 in Bonaberi and CDLP while it started in Mudeka, Buea and Muea on June 28th 2022.

ACTIVITIES

SONGS: The kids were taught 4 new songs on the fruit of the spirit: “The fruit of the Spirit is not a Coconut...”, “I love Bananas, Mangoes so sweet...”, “I’ve got the Joy Joy Joy Joy down in my heart...” and “I’m so happy when we come together...”



BIBLE STUDY: The kids had a series of bible studies on the 9 nine fruits of the Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control). The kids of class 2 and 3 were provided study manuals on the lessons



ARTS AND CRAFTS:

1. **Fruit Chart** The class 1 kids colored fruits and pasted them on card boards in order to make beautiful fruit charts



Class 1 kids of Bonaberi and their coloring

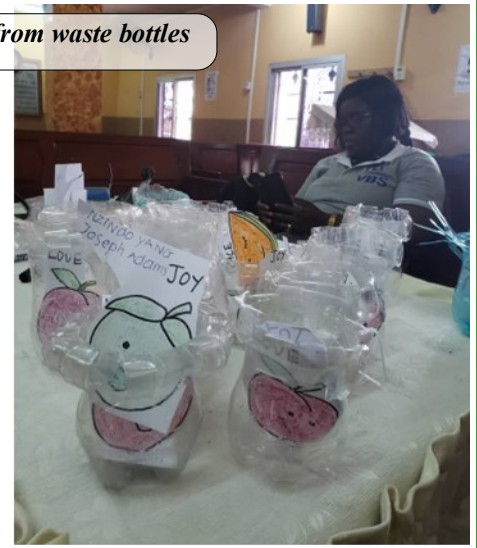


CDLP kids making their fruit charts

2. **Fruit Jars** The class 2 kids made beautiful flower jars from waste plastic bottles, filled with colored fruit papers



Bonaberi and CDLP kids making beautiful fruit-jars from waste bottles



3. **Fruit Tree:** The class 3 kids made beautiful fruit trees using tree branches, green leaves made from green card board papers and fruits from their coloring



Mudeka kids making their Fruit Trees



COOKERY: The different locations did what was more affordable and available to them. The CDLP and Buea kids were taught how to make Fruit Salad and Fruit juice while Bonaberi and Mudeka kids were taught how to make Fish-pie and the Muea kids were taught how to make Gateaux. All these lessons were aimed at teaching the kids on how to be productive both to the society and at home.



Fruit Salad by Muea and CDLP kids

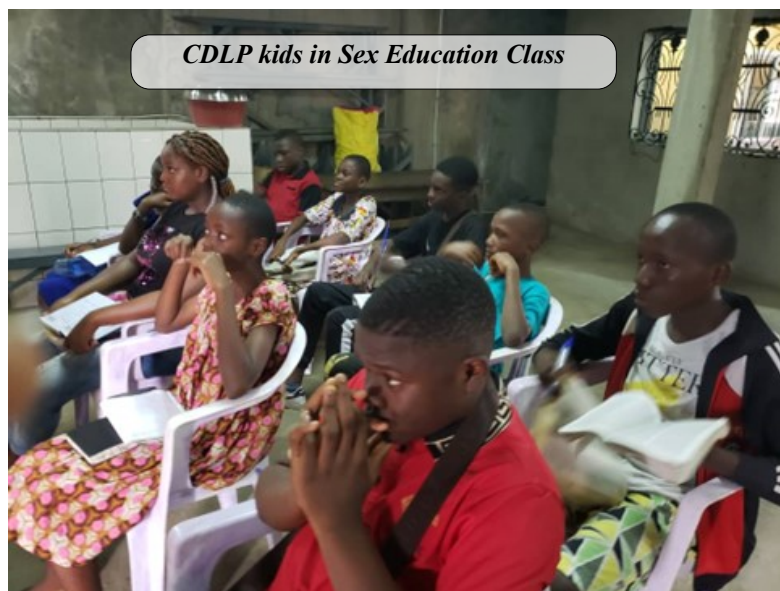


Fish-Pie making by the Mudeka kids



SEX EDUCATION AND PERSONAL HYGIENE: The different classes were taught differently according to their age groups. They were taught what sex is, the effects of being sexually active in an early age, how to be vigilant not to fall prey to assaulters and most importantly to stay chaste until the right time.

They were equally taught how to care for themselves as they attain puberty.



CDLP kids in Sex Education Class

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: The kids were taught on the importance of caring for their environment. They were encouraged to avoid littering by using the trash can, sweeping the yard, cutting the grass and planting of flowers.



Buea: Lectures on Environmental Education



Bonaberi: Practice

GAMES: The kids had a variety of interesting games ranging from football, water race, chewing gum race, balloon games and blind fold



*Bonaberi Class 2 and 3 kids
Blind fold game*



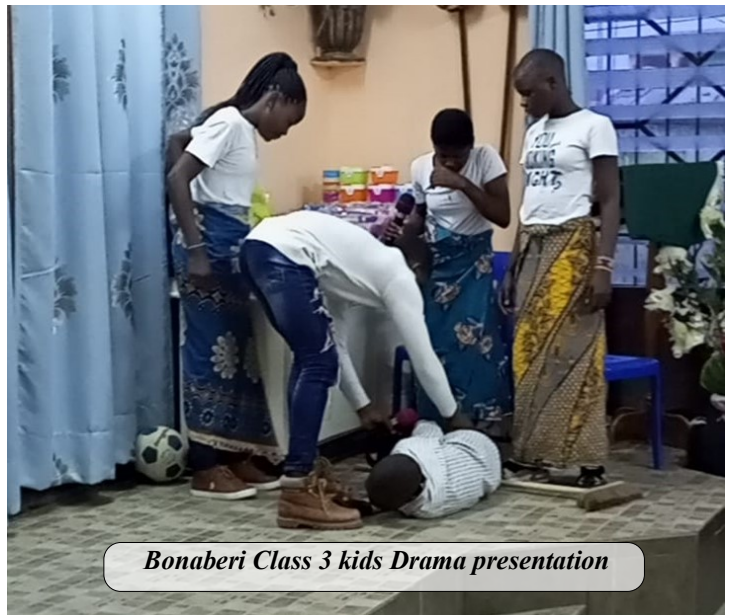
DECORATION: The kids used balloons to do some beautiful decorations



READING: Only the Bonaberi kids were fortunate to read books and give summary of their lessons due to the accessibility of the CAMWORK library which has books on diverse topics.

MEMORY VERSES AND POEMS: Memory verses concerning the fruit of the Spirit, and poems on Peace and Environmental Education were handed to kids. Those who recited well presented during the closing ceremony.

DRAMA: Four dramas were acted on the topics; “Peace and Love”, relating them to daily life problems faced in the neighborhoods. These dramas were presented during the closing ceremony encouraging parents and children to maintain peace and love instead of violence



Bonaberi Class 3 kids Drama presentation

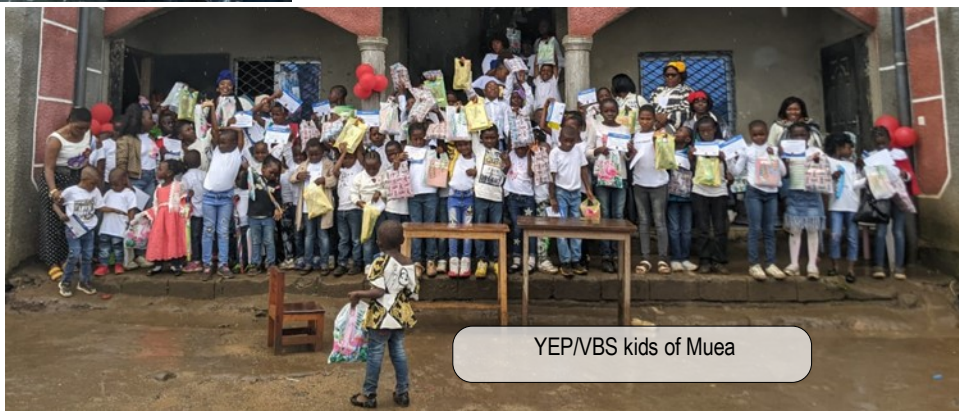
CLOSING CEREMONY: YEP/VBS ended with a closing ceremony, where kids showcased their arts work and presented some of the activities they’ve been learning throughout the program. The closing days of all 5 areas were 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th July and 6th August 2022 in CDLP, Mudeka, Bonaberi, Buea and Muea respectively.

Gifts of school supplies (Back packs, water bottles, exercise books, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, sharpeners, lunch boxes, cups, umbrellas, crayons), Bibles and Certificates of Participation were handed to all participants and special prizes to distinguished kids. Also a certificate of participation was issued to all facilitators.

This ceremony was crowned by the word of God on the topic “Peace” presented by Preachers from the different locations and a common meal (a local drink Folere, Sandwiches in Mudeka and jollof rice in the other places) was served to all present.



YEP VBS Gifts



YEP/VBS kids of Muea

FINANCES

See attached document

CHALLENGES

1. **TRANSPORTATION:** Traffic between Douala and Mudeka caused facilitators to arrive late sometimes slowing down the work in Mudeka. Also, the rented Bus and Truck transporting the kids from Kongwe and Missaka to Mudeka were sometimes very late or had breakdown issues and could not bring the kids on time slowing down the work even more.
2. **FINANCES:** It was difficult to meet up with the budget because there were more kids than the estimated number. 600 kids were budgeted but 658 kids attended. Another financial challenge was the increase in prices of things in the market and as a result, the gifts package was reduced. Also, Late Income was another financial challenge faced, because of some delay in responding to Appeal letters making it difficult to effectively plan and execute the planned activities.
3. **LACK OF ENOUGH FACILITATORS:** Due to the large number of kids in Mudeka, and the absence of the Bassays, it was difficult for the available facilitators to successfully manage the kids.
4. **LACK OF ENOUGH WORKING SPACE:** The working spaces in some locations were not enough to conveniently accommodate all participants because of the huge turnout of the kids.



PERSPECTIVES FOR NEXT YEAR

Due to the challenges of the last program, the team had a meeting and came up with resolutions for a better program next year.

1. To split Kongwe and Mudeka in order to reduce the cost of transporting the children and also reduce the crowd in Mudeka. Some facilitators will work in Kongwe while others work in Mudeka.
2. Look for people and congregations who will commit to be yearly sponsors.
3. Come up with the theme, material and budget at least 3 months before the program begins.
4. Encourage and train people from the local congregations to help facilitate.

The YEP/VBS team expresses its gratitude to all those who sponsor this program. We believe we are touching the lives of the children, helping them to be responsible Christians and citizens by loving God and loving their fellow human beings, making the difference in our own little way. Three locations (Tiko, Mbanga-Balong and Bangante) have indicated to join the program next year. Our wish is that someday this program will be held all over Cameroon and that a day will come when we will have a facility that can conveniently accommodate thousands of children from all over the country.

The YEP/VBS team says thank you for your kindness. May the almighty God continue to bless and replenish your source. Wishing you and yours a happy and prosperous new year in advance. May God bless us all as we try!

For the team,

Linda Bassay