



WADNEWS

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In this issue

- 1 **CAMEROON – HORIZONS OF HOPE CRUSADES**
More than 5000 people baptized
- 2 **GYD 2017 in West-Central Africa Division**
- 3 **The Adventist Youth Hailed As A Model**
- 4 **Eastern Cameroon Mission:
Adventist Medical Missionaries training**
- 5 **First General Assembly of the Togo Conference**
- 6 **Day of prayer for Côte d'Ivoire**
- 7 **Young girls' Training Workshop at Hotel Communal
of Cocody, Abidjan.**
- 8 **Unions' Communication leaders' training**

Link



CAMEROON – HORIZONS OF HOPE CRUSADES

More than 5000 people baptized



Pastor Elie Weick preaching at Djoungolo 2, the biggest Adventist Church in Yaounde.

This is the result of evangelism efforts made from March 5 to April 1, 2017. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cameroon, supported by the West-Central Africa region (WAD) workers got involved in the harvest of souls. It was a wonderful experience of evangelism with the concept total "membership involvement".

From the North to the South, from the East to the West, it was the same theme: Horizons of Hope. The personnel of the West-Central Africa Division (WAD) and the Cameroon Union Mission staff have covered the territory. Under the supervision of Dr. Same Vincent, Director of Evangelization at WAD, and the coordination of Pastor Jean Pourrat Meting, his collaborator in Cameroon, preachers came from the offices of the WAD in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), Lomé in Togo and Lagos in Nigeria.



Candidates for baptism stood for vows in Yaounde central Church.

Preaching during a crusade was the very first experience for Eto Samson, the fleet leader of the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters in Cameroon. *"After the panic of the first few days, I grew up in my personal relationship with God. And my joy is immense to have served as an instrument. Previously, I was serving in driving the Pastor and I thought that was all I had to do. Today, I see that everyone can do something to proclaim the message of life."*



Young Adventist ready to donate blood in a Hospital in Yaounde.

This worker has totaled more than 20 years of service and it is the very first time that he is involved in the missionary activity. He was not the only one. Many were in their first experience. In the end, all felt more impressed in their intimacy with God. As Pastor Koch would put it: *"the most important thing remains prayer and communion with God."*

The experience spread to the entire territory of Cameroon with the mobilization of nearly three thousand small groups.

Preparations have followed the principles embodied in the concept of **Total Membership Involvement** (TMI). Health programs, free consultations, donations of blood to hospitals during the Global Youth Day, home visits, assistance to the needy, bible studies in small groups, all these aimed at preparing the people to meet Christ.

At the end of the program, Pasteur Meting, who is responsible for evangelism in Cameroon, is amazed: *"The Horizons of Hope campaigns gave us the opportunity to realize the real value of the 'Total Membership Involvement' initiative. Approximately 3,800 evangelistic sites were able to operate simultaneously. We had 511 public sites and approximately 3,300 small groups.*

The results speak for themselves: 5,042 baptisms already recorded. It is a big first time in our union. Glory be to God!" This performance is almost equivalent to the results of the whole 2016 year.

To baptize in a river. For some, this is not a commonplace fact. This is the case with Pastor Irineo Koch in the closing of Bonaberi's evangelistic campaign in Douala, the coastal city and economic capital of Cameroon, one of the hardest, most resistant cities to the gospel message. But God has allowed hundreds of souls to follow Jesus in this part of Cameroon. *"I was amazed at this ceremony of baptism in a great river"* said Pastor Koch.



Ps. Koch Baptizing in the Wouri river after the Horizons of Hope crusade in Douala

The Church can still do better. Pastor Badu James, one of the preachers from the WAD headquarters, made an evaluation of the mobilization in East Cameroon: *"The members were well involved. They could have invited more listeners to public sites."* The effort in this part of Cameroon has produced more than two thousand baptisms and a little more than a thousand backslidden came back to Church. Mrs Sessou Omobonike and Pastor Same Vincent Roger have made their contribution in the building of these results respectively in Batouri and Bertoua for a couple of weeks.

Wonderful conversions: An astounding conversion of a young Imam and his wife impressed the Church in Douala. The two were baptized in Douala. Two weeks before the campaigns, the man read and studied the Bible in Arabic, secluded in his room. At the end of these two weeks, he received the invitation for the Horizons of Hope campaigns. Evening after evening, all his questions were answered to his full amazement.

Convinced of the truth, he talked about it to his wife who followed him in this way. Eventually both of them decided to follow Jesus. This is when persecution begins. Deprived of the essentials, this couple received spontaneous help from Church members for their resettlement. For now, their security remains a real concern. Nevertheless, the new convert, trained in Saudi Arabia, is ready to preach the Gospel to the Muslims.

In Yaounde, another Muslim of Malian origin baptized against all odds. Pastor Elie Weick-Dido, leader of the Adventist Church in West-Central Africa, was the preacher of the site where the young Muslim student responded. He encouraged the young lady to stand firm. The latter will say all her happiness when she came out of the baptismal waters of Djoungolo 2: *"I am very delighted and very happy. It's the best day of my life. For others, it is marriage. But for me, my baptism is the most beautiful day. I am united to Jesus by His grace. "*



Pastors baptizing at the Djoungolo 2 pool in Yaounde

The joy of such an experience could not be hidden. The harvest continues. Pastor Same Vincent hopes that this interim report will increase due to other baptisms in sight in April 2017. Depending on the trends of the visitors' responses to the various appeals, the figures could reach 7,000.

All the preachers returned with hearts full of joy and eager to repeat again and again such involvement in the mission. Pastor Stephen Bindas, Vice President of WAD and preacher at one of the sites in Yaoundé, did not hide his satisfaction when he left Cameroonian soil at Nsimalen airport: "I welcome this new vision of the administration of Our Church. It is really good to leave our offices and to scrutinize the realities of the ground, to carry out the mission. There was only one word: unity in action, unity in the total membership involvement.

The Adventist Church in Cameroon has just been established a Union Mission in 2014 and has just under 100,000 members in nearly 1,500 churches and companies. There are 163 pastoral workers. In the midst of the social crises and the war against the bloodthirsty sect Boko Haram, the Adventist Church in Cameroon faces colossal challenges. Hence the importance of the TMI initiative in order to achieve the goal of doubling the membership by 2020.

Abraham BAKARI
 Director of Communication for the
 Cameroon Union Mission (CMUM)

Link



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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
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GYD 2017 in West-Central Africa Division

West-Central Africa Division Youth Department onboard GYD 2017 Live Streaming With over 600 hundred projects (largely blood donation), tens of thousands of young people, parents and the Division officers, especially the president and treasurer all joined the band in loving service to humanity led by the youth department at all levels from the Local Churches to the Division.



This was a unique moment for West-Central Africa Division marking the first live streaming of GYD activities around the Division and the highest participation so far in the history of GYD. Our goal is to advance many fold in 2018 GYD than in 2017. Shalom!



GYD 2017 Live Streaming with Ps Elem, WAD Youth Director; Ps Paul K. Côte d'Ivoire Conference Youth Director; Mis Yemisi Ajbade and Mis Charline Yoboue.



Donation of the Seventh-Day Adventist to the UCH, Yopougon - Côte d'Ivoire



Blood donation of the Seventh-Day Adventist Niamey - Niger



Visit to Old People's Home, Kado Abuja FCT of AYM Garki Church, Abuja Central District, NCNC of NNUC



Health Screening Northern Ghana Union Mission



Blood donation Southern Ghana Union Conference

By ELEMS, Ugochukwu - WAD Youth Director

The Adventist Youth Hailed As A Model

The Minister of Youth Affairs and Civic Education of Cameroon congratulates the Young Adventists (AY) for their noble discipline. It was during the annual festivities marking the National Youth Day on February 8, 2017 in Yaounde, capital city of Cameroon.

That day was dense in the city of Yaounde. The Indomitable Lions recently returned from their victorious African Cup of Nations football trip from Libreville (Gabon). The President of the Republic, Paul Biya and the populations welcomed and celebrated those heroes with pomp. It was in this festive atmosphere that the village of youth installed at the Multipurpose Sports Center of Yaoundé (PAPOSY) flowed its activities. The young Adventists were solicited there. In their outfits, adventurers, explorers and Master guides ensured security, welcome and even orientation to the thousands that come to visit.



Family picture with adventurers, pathfinders, and leaders

Fervor was visible. At least five members of the government witnessed the panel discussion on "*Religion and civic education of young people*". All the religious leaders of Cameroon were invited. The prominent Cardinal Christian Tumi represented the Catholic Church.



Professor Emmanuel Pondi congratulating the Adventists young people for their exemplary attitude

Pastor Assembe Valère Guillaume represented the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cameroon and a large audience of other religious leaders listened to these exchanges, attended by nearly 5,000 people. From the start, the AYs executed the national anthem with such brilliance that the hall was raised with admiration. The score was well assimilated. They came back with this impressive parade that forced the admiration and standing ovation of the government authorities and the general public.

Minister Mounouna Foutsou in charge of Youth Affairs and Civic Education has not failed to express his admiration to the young Adventists: "*I found you well disciplined and different from the other children. You are models on which Cameroon counts to shape a dependable youth.*" One of the speakers, Professor Jean Emmanuel Pondi, praised these young people: "*I have noticed you. You were calm and you took notes of everything that was said. You were not like the others.*"

Shaking hands with the Director of the Youth Ministries for the Cameroon Union Mission, Dr. Assam Assam Jean Paul, he renewed his appreciation. The hundred young people present were satisfied and pleased to have distributed Adventist literature to all the participants. That was real Total Member Involvement.

The National Youth Day and the May 20th National Unity Day are the two biggest national mobilization opportunities. The Youth Day holds on February 11 and is preceded by a whole week of activities in schools and universities. Conferences, competitions, career counseling, sports competitions, and many other activities mark these very popular festivities across the country.

The fifty-first edition of this year 2017 is to be feted in a precarious socio-political context, exacerbated by many problems such as the desecration of emblems, violence, illegal immigration, delinquency, immorality, idleness, pauperism ...



Minister Mounouna Foutchou in traditional dress shaking Dr. Esso Christian's hand at the end of the conference

The President of the Republic, Paul Biya, during his traditional address to the youth on February 10, 2013, urged the religious groups. He said "our churches, temples and mosques have to become true schools of civility, rigor and morality". With all this in mind, the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education organizes a series of activities throughout the national territory mobilizing religious leaders in order to involve them in promoting the values of citizenship, Ethics and morality, the culture of peace and harmonious living together.

According to the 2010 statistics, more than half of Cameroon's population is under 17 years of age. The age pyramid reflects the extreme youth of the Cameroonian population. This reality is also that of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cameroon, which has more than 70% of its membership very young. The nation counts on this youth to impact the national project of civic rearmament.

Abraham Bakari
CMUM Communication Director

Eastern Cameroon Mission. Adventist Medical Missionaries training.

The Division Health Ministries Department and LIGHT (Lay Institute for Global Health Training), organized the training badge of Medical Missionaries in preparation of IMPACT WAD Evangelism Program to be held from March 12 to 25, 2017.



Group workshop, ENIA Church of Bertoua

At the end of the program, the Administration and other church requested for more training for church members. The LIGHT nstructors for this program were: Manaoh, Benjamin, Daniel, and Diana.

The program took place at the ENIA Church of Bertoua, from January 31 to February 10. 117 pastors, elders, Youth and Women leaders, and church members were trained in Health Evangelism. At the end of the program 96 received a Diploma from LIGHT. The LIGHT medical missionary training is a complete program that includes: the 8 Laws of Health, Hydrotherapy, Massage, the management of common diseases, Bible prophecies (Daniel), the Sanctuary, Marriage and Courtship, Christian music, etc.



Participants group picture, ENIA Advisory

By
Dr. NDAA
Health Department, WAD

First General Assembly of the Togo Conference

After 53 years of existence, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Togo from a Mission status moved to that of a Conference.

The Assembly that sanctioned the process that led to the Conference took place from the 4th to the 7th of January 2017 in Lomé. This gathering recorded 110 delegates from both Togo Mission and the territory of the Western Sahel Union Mission. Attended this meeting also, the West-Central Africa Division represented by Pastor Elie Weick, President of this Institution, Pastor Kingsley Anonaba, Executive Secretary, Elder Emmanuel Manu, Treasurer and Pastor Same Vincent, Sabbath School/Personal Ministries/Evangelism Director, Pastor James Badu, SP/TS Dev, Director, Mrs. Omobonike Sessou, Women and Children Ministries Director and Pastor Sessou Selom from the Secretariat, Human Resources Director.



From left to right: Ps. Enyonam Agbedigue - Executive Secretary, Ps. Gameti Kwasi - President, Elder Joseph Agbodouamenou - Treasurer

The outcome of the Assembly's work led to the election of Pastor Gameti Kwasi, Pastor Enyonam Agbedigue and Brother Joseph Agbodouamenou, respectively as President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer for this newly erected Conference. A new team of 13 departmental directors and 15 committee members was also set up to lead out the activities of the Conference.

The launching of this new Conference took place on Sabbath, 7th of January 2017, at the Palais des Congrès of Lomé where more than 3000 Church members and special guests from the whole country gathered. The message of Pastor Elie Weick titled "Do not look back" allowed Adventists and other sympathizers that gathered to make the decision to give new impetus to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Togo.



Togo Conference administrators and their wives



The Division President's message on Sabbath Jan. 7, 2017 in Palais des Congrès de Lomé



Church members and guests attending the divine service on Sabbath Jan. 7, 2017 in Palais des Congrès de Lomé

Report by
Pastor Kra Emmanuel
Communication Director, Western Sahel Union Mission

Day of Prayer for Côte d'Ivoire

The Women Ministries Director of the West-Central Africa Division in collaboration with the national Women Ministries Director of Côte d'Ivoire, organized on Saturday 4 March, 2017 a day of prayer for the Ivorian Nation.



Mrs Sessou preaching during the Day of Prayer for Côte d'Ivoire at Théâtre de la cité - Cocody

Mrs. Omobonike Sessou and Mrs. Adolphine Zian, both Women Ministries Directors of the Division and the Côte d'Ivoire Conference agreed on a day to pray in order to commit the country in the Lord's care. The theme of this meeting was "Day of Prayer for Côte d'Ivoire" and this event took place at the Théâtre de la Cité in Cocody. Were present to this gathering, women from all districts of Abidjan, Aboisso and some who came from other places. The aim of this gathering was to intercede on behalf of this country where, for some months, social troubles have been experienced. For these two women leaders, time was due to call on the Lord for peace and social stability in Côte d'Voire.

After the speeches of the women ministries director of the Côte d'Ivoire Conference and the President of the Division, Pastor Elie Weick-Dido Dago, the audience had a moment of praises with the *choirs from Cocody-Philadelphia, Marcory-Sion and Les Rossignols de l'Espoir*. Before the intercession moment, Mrs. Sessou urged the participants to a fervent prayer life with faith and determination as did Anna, Elkana's wife in (1Sam.1:15, 16) and also by using Azat's Story. According to Madam Sessou, the solution of the problem each of us is facing lies with God and the one who is concerned must go to Him with sincere prayer to be answered.



Les Rossignols de l'Espoir in a special song

Few people were selected to lead out the prayer session and lifted their voices to the Lord as they prayed for the authorities of the country and for all social classes and the different institutions.

This segment of the program ended by the prayers of Pastor Elie Weick, President of the Division, Pastor Paul Baka, President of the Côte d'Ivoire Conference and that of Pastor Juvenal Balisasa, the Education Director of the Division.



Standing, from left to Right: Mr. et Mrs. Zian, Ps. et Mrs. Balisasa, Mrs. Sessou, Ps. et Mrs. Weick, Ps. Baka

To put an end to the program, Mrs Adophine Zian thanked all the participants and Pastor Paul Kouassi, the National Youth Leader said the benediction.

WADNEWS STAFF

Young girls' Training Workshop at Hôtel Communal of Cocody, Abidjan.

The women for Christ and their younger sisters met to discuss the things related to feminine life at Hôtel Communal of Cocody on Sunday 5th of March, 2017. This gathering initiated by the leaders of the women ministries of the division and the Côte d'Ivoire Conference witnessed the participation of more than 200 young girls between 10 to 18 years old.

The theme of this meeting was "Young girls of value, how to manage and prevent abuses against adolescent girls." The main speaker was Mrs. Omobonike Sessou,

the Women Ministries Director of the Division assisted by her energetic husband Pastor Selom Sessou, the Human Resources Director of the Division.



Participants attending lecture

For the success of these young girls' training program, Mrs Sessou was assisted by Mrs. Adolphine Zian, Côte d'Ivoire Conference Women Ministries Director, Shepherdess Leontine Baka, Mrs. Justine Ndaa, Edith Gogbeu, Lydia Falayi, Denise Biagne, Cynthia Kadjo, Veronique Kouamé, Céline Anzi and Sister Jeannette.

For the main part of this program, the trainers stressed on some major topics regarding the state of our degrading world with no consideration of moral values. Sub-themes like i) Self-esteem and academic success, ii) Educational entertainment (film show), iii) Alone with God were discussed.

For the second part of the gathering, the main theme was presented to the young girls by Mrs. Sessou after which, came the exchanged moment participants were waiting for.



Ps. and Mrs. Sessou speaking to participants



Participants attending lecture



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mrs. Anzi, WM Dabou; Ps. Salomon, District I; Ps. and Mrs. Sessou, Mrs. A. Zian WM Director Côte d'Ivoire Conference.



Participants in group for prayer

One of the highlights of this day was the prayer moment devoted to the future of these young girls as future mothers of families and their career projects.

With satisfaction, these young girls and their trainers left with joy the ceremony ground.

The meeting ended by 4:20 P.M. with the final prayer of Pastor Salomon Tanoh.

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SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
WEST CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION
YOUTH MINISTRY

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on Culture, Tradition and Community Service

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March 30, 2017.
LATE REGISTRATION \$110 (April 28, 2017)

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Theme
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My Story
May I Pray with you?
Youth & Pastor' dialogue
Dialogue with Senior Comrades

2017 EVENTS
GLOBAL YOUTH DAY - March 18, 2017 *
YOUTH WEEK OF PRAYER, March 19-25, 2017
WORLD PATHFINDER DAY - September 16, 2017
SENIOR YOUTH BIBLE GEM CONTEST GRAND FINALE - August, 2017

Monrovia, Liberia
July 31-August 5, 2017
Participation fees 100 \$

P1

Unions' Communication leaders' training



Participants' photo, Bangui Advisory

The West-Central Africa Division has embarked on an important training program of leaders in the various fields of her territory. Thus, Pastor Irineo KOCH, the communication and PARL Director of the Division, for this year, set apart a training program which he led in four of the Unions.

The aim of this program is to train and empower his colleagues in order to accomplish

the mission entrusted them. To this, some Unions were selected to begin the training programs. First, the Eastern Sahel Union Mission, then the Northern Nigeria Union Conference, the Central African Union

Mission and finally the Cameroon Union Mission. All the training sessions were marked by some important decisions that were taken by the participants in order to improve their work methods. The first is about the work of a communicator between church members and our leaders and the second the relationship between the church and the public, the authorities and most especially those we are coming into contact every day and who are not of the same faith with us.

The most important issue was on how to prepare news and share them to all other entities of the world Church. The communication leader must therefore be trained on how to adequately use the Medias to bring back some of our apostatized members through good music. He must also plan to visit authorities once a month, organize an event on religious freedom and even buy books to offer them to those authorities. All this aims to make the work easier and even help us reaching in and out people in need of the Lord's saving grace and His mercies.



Ps. Koch and Tita-Samba Solé holding the licence of the new Adventist Radio in Bangui (RCA)



Group photo, ESUM

According to Pastor Simon Djossou, the SUM Executive Secretary, one of the participants who attended the training "this program came on time because it will help the Union to open a new page through which they will present a good image of the Church of God to all authorities in the SUM." After a presentation by His Excellency Alain Désiré Taino Kari, during the Cameroonian session, Pastor Koch, having appreciated the way Mr. Kari explained the issue of public relations said, "I think that it would have been better to give this lecture in a video so that we can share it in all our territory for our people to benefit from it." For Mr. Bakari, CMUM Director of

communication, “it is a real professionalism challenge that should move within the leader at his own level”.

Elder Tahav Kershio from SDA Church Makurdi, Benue State in Nigeria commended WAD for the program because, according to him “it will enhance worship services and help evangelistic programs and even present a good image of the Church before the public”.

One should also notice the practical aspect which was held in order to test and confirm the mastering of the trainings.

To crown it all, two major events were remembered to the participants, the GAIN meeting in Brazil and the 8th International Congress on Religious Freedom in Florida, USA.



Ps. Koch lecturing a group of participants during the Cameroonian Advisory



Family photo, Advisory in Cameroon



Participants' photo, Nigeria Communication Advisory

By:

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Links: HopeChannel and Adventist Review



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