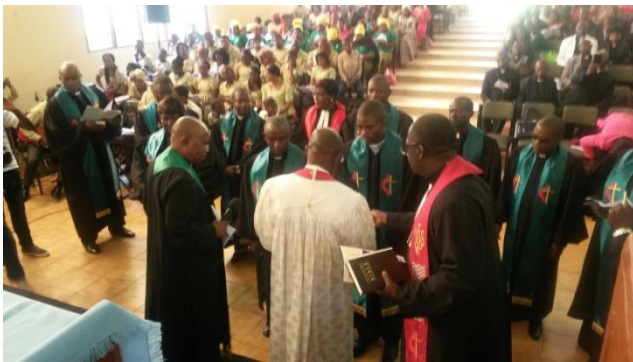


Cameroon Soundings

The Ndjungus Mission Newsletter of October 2016

Cameroon Mission Initiative Updates

The Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Church in Cameroon took place on June 22-25, 2016. Fifty delegates were gathered in Yaoundé to report on the work that has been accomplished in different places and domains. Bishop Benjamin BONI, Resident Bishop of the Cote d'Ivoire Episcopal Area, presided over the annual gathering. On Thursday, June 22, he took the floor to greet the people of God represented by these fifty delegates from all the local churches of the United Methodist Church in Cameroon. He also brought warm greetings from the Cote d'Ivoire Annual Conference and the General Conference. During this gathering Bishop Boni was surrounded by the following persons: 1) the Rev. Dr. Eunice Iliya, Executive Secretary of GBGM for Relationship and Justice; 2) the Rev. Dr Nkemba Ndjungu, Superintendent of the Cameroon Mission Initiative; 3) the Rev. Eugene Assale, Chair of Cote d'Ivoire Board of Ordained Ministries; 4) the Rev. Philippe Adjobi, Superintendent of North Abidjan District; 5) the Rev. Joel Nchahoruri, Treasurer of the Cameroon Mission Initiative.



Bishop Boni, presiding over the closing service of the Annual Meeting

The outcome of this gathering revealed that the UMC in Cameroon has now 23 places of worship: 11 French speaking congregations and 12 English speaking congregations. French speaking congregations are located in the Provinces of Centre and Littoral; and they are: 1) Jordan UMC in Yaoundé ; 2) Blessing UMC in Yaoundé ; 3) Carmel UMC in Yaoundé ; 4) Nazareth UMC in Yaoundé ; 5) Monatéle UMC; 6) Lebamzip UMC; 7) Obala UMC; 8) Eseka UMC; 9) Messondo UMC; 10) Kribi UMC; and 11) Jerusalem/Horeb UMC in Douala. English speaking congregations are located in the Southwest Province; and they are: 1) Hope UMC of Buea ; 2) Limbe UMC; 3) Muyuka UMC; 4) Kumba UMC; 5) Sumbe UMC; 6) Defang UMC; 7) Akiriba UMC; 8)

Bachuo UMC; 9) Mamfe UMC; 10) Nchang UMC; 11) Kembong UMC; and 12) Ayukaba UMC.

We have 11 departments that work actively for the development of our church in this nation: 1) Christian Education department; 2) Youth and Young Adults ministries; 3) Music ministries; 4) Women ministries; 5) Men ministries; 6) Health department that comprises the promotion of malaria and HIV/AIDS awareness, and a mobile eye clinic; 7) Prison ministry; 8) Microfinance; 9) Volunteers in Mission; 10) Projects and development; 11) Evangelization.



Newly commissioned lay preachers greet Church leaders

In order to improve the pastoral care of our members, we have introduced the practice of « Methodist Class » this year as an extension of pastoral surveillance. Some congregations have proved to be good students and have succeeded in organizing Methodist classes already; but other are still dragging their feet. We will continue to work tirelessly until it becomes part of our church's life. We have continued the training of leaders that we started last year. Forty-three persons have received the training of Lay Preachers this year, but only twelve who met the requirements were actually commissioned the last day of our Annual Meeting. Twenty-five pastors and eleven lay people are employed and paid by the mission office to work for the development of our church.

One of the major decisions made during this meeting was that the Cameroon Mission Initiative should become a **Provisional Annual Conference** in 2020; and there are two requirements to that. First, the Cameroon Mission Initiative must have at least 10 ordained pastors. So far, there are 9 ordained pastors. Three of the nine were ordained at the Annual Meeting of last June. We also have three others on the waiting list for ordination in 2017. Secondly, local contributions must represent at least 50% of the mission budget. This year local churches have produced 24,878,850XAF (45,234.27\$). This amount represents 27% of the mission budget. That is not enough yet, but when compared to 2013 where local contributions represented only 3% of the mission budget, one can say that there is quite an improvement.

Our denomination has now 1005 members: men, women, youth and children included. The Holy Spirit is really moving to gather, slowly and surely, the UMC in Cameroon.

New Church Planting

Nazareth UMC is the youngest of all the UMC parishes in Yaoundé. This church that has less than 50 members has demonstrated exceptional spiritual maturity and commitment. Inaugurated in September 2015 in Olembe neighborhood, it has acquired its own piece of land in Nkooza neighborhood where it has moved in August 2016; that is one year after its inauguration. It is the members of this parish who have made it possible for them to own this property where they want to erect their worship space soon. They have already contacted an architect who has already drawn the plan of the building that will have the sanctuary, an office room and a Sunday school room.



Blueprint of Nazareth UMC projected building

The cost of the work is estimated at 36 million francs (65,000\$). As of now, worship service takes place in a grass structure. Please join Nazareth UMC in this nice adventure for the glory of the Lord.

Health Ministry

Our Health department has participated in a health campaign organized by Mr. Vincent de Paul EMAH ETOUNDI, member of the Cameroonian parliament. This health campaign took place on August 25-27, 2016, in Yaoundé and brought together 27 doctors (specialists and generalists), 53 nurses and other medical staff. Our participation consisted in free eye consultations and distribution of eye glasses. The mission van, the health equipment and 8 persons of our church have contributed to the success of the event.



Parliamentarian Vincent Etoundi, third from both sides, visiting the UMC office in Yaoundé

Eighty-five people in total were examined and received eye glasses free of charge on 25 August 2016, the day of our participation. To work besides Parliamentarian Etoundi serving the populations of Yaoundé is a way, for us, to claim these words of our Lord Jesus: "**For the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve**" (Mc 10: 45). To be a church is to serve, first of all.

All your gifts for the Cameroon UMC to be sent to:

Advance # 00344A

Nkemba Ndjungu, Advance # 12910Z

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