

GROUP 7 ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR YEAR 2018

EMMANUEL SISTERS BAFUT CAMEROON

Dear Friends of the Emmanuel Sisters, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Emmanuel Sisters have had a very difficult year, and many of the sisters' friends have helped in their thoughts and prayers, but also with great donations, to help the community survive this stormy year relatively well. Throughout the year, the sisters had to experience how living and working in the beautiful community of Bafut was more and more restricted and threatened, so that in the autumn of 2018 they decided to abandon Bafut temporarily and abandon the buildings and grounds in the Care of the driver to let the two night watchman and the herdsman. The bakery had to be closed, the fields could no longer be built on, by months of curfews, the procurement of the essentials became more difficult. The freedom fighters hid in the surrounding forests and expected support from the sisters. There were direct conflicts of the separatists with the army, unfortunately with several dead on both sides in the immediate vicinity.

The members of the community living in Bafut were evacuated in two stages. First, 5 older and weaker sisters, including Sr. Judith, were received in the Benedictine monastery in Babete, a French speaking part of Cameroon, about 100km from Bafut. As the situation worsened, Sr. Shalom decided that all Bafut leave. Thirteen nuns received hospitality from the Benedictines in Babete. **A wonderful sign of lived ecumenism.** Three other sisters moved in with the three women already working in Akum, Sr. Shalom and her two assistants, Sr. Claire and Sr. Angèle, commute between Yaounde, Douala, Babete, Akum and also travel to Bafut at regular intervals for a few days. Host production and sewing room are now in Babete.

The desire of the sisters to acquire a house in Douala had to be dropped, because of unclear ownership and inflated prices. Even before the turmoil in the country, it was a concern of the sisters to build a second base of community in the French-speaking part. For this they had received land from the Presbyterian church in Foubot awarded. Foubot is just a few miles from Babete. The funds reserved for a home purchase in Douala have now been reversed for the speedy construction of this station in Foubot. The new building is already very advanced, co-financed to a large extent by all of you. At the moment the water supply is being built up. Soon most of the sisters from Babete should be able to move to Foubot. Sr. Judith and Sr. Claire, who will attend our annual meeting in Basel on June 15, 1919, will be able to tell us about it. About CHF 109'000.- were donated in 2018. Of this, around CHF 90,000 were transferred to Cameroon in 2018 and the remainder in January 2019. The annual accounts will be presented at the AGM. Big donations from 2 unnamed women to Agape, as well as a foundation and an ecumenical organization for Bafut (Foubot

NATIONAL DEACONESS ASSOCIATION OF ECLK KENYA

KENYA

The Sisters embarked on two days mission in Narok county Many people were touched and blessed through the various teachings and ministrations. They donated 15 audio bibles that are translated in Maasai to help in evangelism to those who cannot read the Bible. They also showed the Jesus film and donated some Bibles to the locals. Glory to God for His doing.





ORDER OF DEACONESES METHODIST CHURCH NIGERIA

The Deaconesses had their different Archdiocese assemblies this year since the national assembly will be held in 2020. Deaconesses are involved in different projects in their regions.

At the national level we continue working with relevant government authorities to welcome women and ladies repatriated home due to human trafficking. At the Home of Peace Centre, the Sisters are involved in empowerment programmes to assist the returnees and to integrate them back to the Society.

The Crèche and play centres established by some sisters are still functioning and has been beneficial to working mother seeking where to place their children during the working hours.

Sisters in the group have also been visiting primary schools within their Dioceses to lecture both boys and girls about domestic violence, child abuse and molestations. The young ones are taught each week on how to identify signs of child abuse or molestation and are encouraged to speak out.

In order to continue in community service, Sisters in the Archdiocese of Lagos started an awareness programme to educate mother and young children about the dangers of child abuse irrespective of gender. This awareness programme is ongoing. The pictures above were taken at one of the awareness programme.

The latest programme embarked upon by Deaconesses in the Archdiocese of Lagos Mainland is to provide School bags, School uniforms, shoes and stationeries for less privilege students in schools within the community. **(KITTING THE LESS PRIVILEGE STUDENTS)**

It is encouraging to report that at the last National Conference of Methodist Church Nigeria, delegates at the Conference voted in favour of training Deaconesses apart from Ministers and to design a different curriculum of training altogether for Deaconesses. To us this a step in the right direction.

CHALLENGES

The challenges we face are not peculiar to us as a body but we continue to work out the challenges through our network activities and the various projects which will make us relevant and noticed.

Deaconess Ronke Oworu