

Mission Echo Electronic

UNITED EVANGELICAL MISSION AFRICA REGION NEWSLETTER

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UEM Africa Regional Assembly held in Goma from the 22nd to 26 February 2017



Kigali receives the 8th GA of the United Evangelical Mission



Women pastors meet in a forum



What role for men and women to ensure a less frustrating future?



EDITORIAL



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Dear esteemed readers,
As the saying goes, “better late than never”. Here we are again with another issue of Mission Echo with the aim of sharing information and keeping you well informed of our activities.

In our communion as United Evangelical Mission, many events have taken place and many changes have occurred also. We are sure that this has also been the case in our respective churches and we thank God

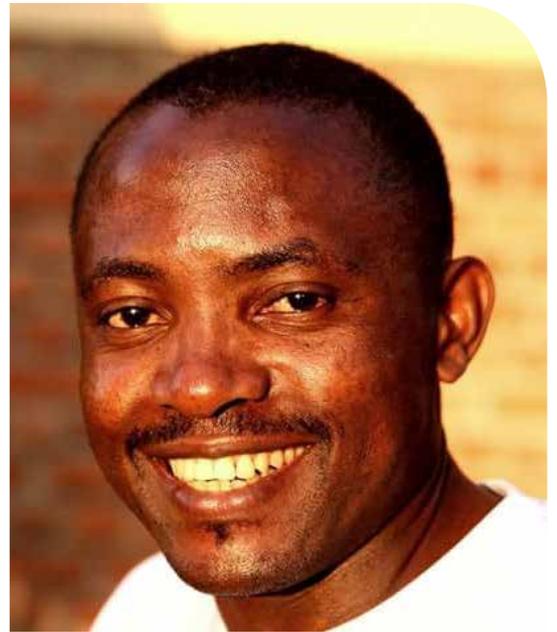
for leading us thus far. These are signs of a living organisation which is struggling day after day to achieve its mission under God’s control. This year 2017 has already witnessed a number of events and many are still to come. We trust our Lord that as He has been faithful in the past, so also will he be in the months to come. He is victorious over everything, including death as we recently celebrated Easter. Our world is becoming more and more complex as days go by; new challenges are emerging every day. This calls on us to be more proactive as servants of the Lord and his witnesses. We do pray that he will renew us more and more and make our churches to grow more successful in our endeavours.

As you work daily, do not forget to share with us so that the whole network can be updated on your activities.

One other very important task we have to cover towards one another is to continue to support our churches in prayer. Here and there, challenges are multifaceted. From natural disasters like earthquakes and flooding to man-made disasters like wars, persecution, discrimination, deprivation of freedom, poverty and health issues, our attention is called to show God’s helping hand in relief action and to pray earnestly for the kingdom of God to come.

While wishing you good reading, we renew to you our readiness to be at your service for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ

By David Wafo



UEM Africa Regional Assembly held in Goma from the 22nd to 26 February 2017

The CBCA hosting church in Goma (DR Congo) welcomed the participants of the African Regional Assembly



Delegates to the AFRA

From February 22nd to 26th the Africa Regional Assembly of UEM took place in Goma in the Eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Around 50 delegates of 14 member churches in the Africa region from Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania met in Goma, hosted by the Baptist Church in the Centre of Africa (CBCA) at CAP Tuneko and Rudolf Center, the two guest houses belonging to the CBCA.

The legal representative and head of the church Rev. Dr Kakule Molo as well as the local preparatory committee warmly welcomed the participants of the regional meeting. The CBCA President thanked all AfRA delegates to have accepted to travel to Goma. The people of Goma and in particular the CBCA members are very delighted to host such an event. It also shows the solidarity of sisters and brothers from UEM member churches. In this period where the armed attacks of external and internal militias put the region under a serious threat, there is insecurity in the northern part (mainly Beni). He took this opportunity to thank UEM for the support which has been sent to the church during this difficult situation. Referring to Paul in Romans 6:14, Prof. Dr Kakule concluded by ensuring the delegates that God's grace covers the

church despite the insecurity in the region. He invited them not to have any fear during their stay to Goma.

The Regional Assembly took place under the theme: "Share the good news: Grace and Faith in Action" and was solemnly declared opened by the president of the Evangelical Church of Cameroon (EEC) in his capacity as chairperson of the Africa Region, Pastor Batome Isaac Henga who introduced the following three days of the regional meeting.

Prior to the AFRA, the nine members of the Africa Regional Board met and received the working report of the Africa department and deliberated on the joint programs of region which aims at supporting the activities of the African member churches.

Reports and information from the member churches: Each church was given time to share information about the progress of the work, especially regarding the context of the work, the progress performed in the UEM united action campaign and the resources' mobilization

The AfRA appreciated the reports from Africa UEM member churches, especially with regard to the progress of the general work implemented, the UEM United Action campaign and resources' mobilization. It is recommended that UEM plans to accompany African churches which are facing particular problems in order to make them more successful in their

efforts towards the optimization of local resources' mobilization for a more successful United Action.

Churches shall be encouraged to decrease the dependence on financial support given by the global North and to build-up more sustainable financial structures within their organisation.

However, the female and youth delegates of the churches met separately one day prior to the official opening of the assembly for their pre-assembly and came up with some decisions and recommendations. The female delegates pre-assembly was moderated by Mrs Kavira Nganza the head of women Departement in the CBCA as well as Rev.Dr.Muke Nagaju who encouraged women to stand firm and keep on voicing out all the challenges they face in their Pastoral ministry. Note that the women pre-assembly dealt in detail with the issue of women's ordination as well as the acknowledgment of the dignity of women within the Africa region in general. Rev. Rose Marie Ibyishaka from the Presbyterian Church in Rwanda (EPR) reporting on behalf of women about the pre-assembly stated as follows: „In some churches female pastors are allowed to be ordained and become Pastors but they are not employed according to their qualifications. For us as women, we want to achieve equal treatment towards men in all UEM member churches and within UEM. On all levels the gender balance shall be respected. These are lessons to be given to children starting from kindergarten and in schools.”

On the other side, the youth pre-assembly delegates worked on ideas for entrepreneurship. Facilitated by a young local businessman Joel Vwira from Goma CBCA, he gave some examples for building-up small micro business which may help the young adults to successfully cope with the situation of the high youth unemployment rate within the region. „Everyone can do a business. But an entrepreneur finds a solution to a problem and tries to do a business by transforming his solution into a real business.“ said Joel. David Wafo and Uli Baege from the UEM Africa department emphasised the importance that a problem solver ideally contributes to the society. „Think big but start from scratch and then try to quickly conquer the potential market.“ Terri-Lynn Smith from South Africa and Anania Ndongole from Tanzania quickly agreed on the following: „This is an important platform given to us by UEM which allows us to meet and to exchange experiences. Actually this meeting is a first UEM entrepreneurship Workshop! We can support each other in order to become a problem solver.“

David Wafo encouraged the young delegates to make good use of their own and existing resources and not

to wait from support given from outside, because: „Do not forget Matthew 25, verse 14-28: God gave us different talents, not to hide but to use them. “

AFRA recommendations and elections

Three groups were formed for discussing issues related to the UEM United Action, Partnership and Sustainable Strategies/Resources mobilization. Among the different recommendations resulting from the working groups we have:

- Initiate relations between schools, universities, through the exchange of teachers, as well as the exchange of north-south human resources (doctors and other specialists, youth for spiritual growth, pastors to preach the Gospel in Germany...)
- Encourages UEM to provide trainings for UEM Ambassadors with other church leaders (Bishop/ President and Treasurers) in order to help them get skills for increasing their fundraising capacity
- Focus on training members about Sustainable Strategies and Resource Mobilization and Management; improve the management of human and material resources that each church is entrusted with;

Besides, five new members of the Africa Regional Board were elected for the next four years term: Bishop Muthusi Letlhage (ELCB) from Botswana, who is the chairperson of the governing body. Church president Eliko Bonanga (CDCC) from DR Congo as deputy chairperson. Church president Dr. Pascal Bataringaya (EPR) from Rwanda, Mapendo Sibomana from DRC, head of the youth and children department in CBCA as well as Anania John Ndongole (ELCT-ECD), youth representative from Tanzania.

The board is completed by the Council members from the Africa region who had been elected by the UEM General Assembly in Rwanda in 2016: Bishop Dr. Abednego Keshomshahara (ELCT-NWD), Tanzania; Bishop Dr. Jered Kalimba (EAR), Rwanda; Jane Ewoule (EEC), Cameroon and Rev. Daphne Guriras (ELCRN), Namibia.

Then the new JPIC Co-worker in Africa Region, Rev. Dr Kambale Kahongya was introduced to the delegates. He will be based in the Regional Office, Dar-es-Salaam and will start his work on the 1st of April 2017.

On the last day of the assembly the delegates experienced the reality of peace and reconciliation in the region of the Great Lakes by watching a performance by the Badilika group lead by Rev Lusenge from the CBCA; The group is made up of young people from DRC, Rwanda and Burundi thrilled the whole audience and some declarations and high recommendations were

given to the church in DRC and Rwanda to really get involve in peace issue as well as politics at the same level as Catholic Church “concluded Pastor Batome Isaac”.

Rev. Volker Martin Dally, General Secretary of UEM reminded in his sermon at the closing devotion that God’s kingdom has already started in this world: „It starts when people take care for each other. When people look at each other. When people worry about each other. Exactly like Jesus did, who knew about the everyday life of people and about their needs. This

shall be the ideal for this church assembly. Go to the people like Jesus and share the good news. “

Gatherings like the recent regional assembly Africa are not only a good opportunity for networking but offer an important platform for the exchange of experiences and to keep in touch with each other. The hosts were thanked for the excellent organization of the meetings and the warm hospitality.

By Hulda Vagheni

Kigali receives the 8th GA of the United Evangelical Mission

The 8th General Assembly of the United Evangelical Mission UEM was held in Kigali from 29 September to 8 October 2016 in Nyamatta Golden Tulip Hotel under the theme “Share the Good News, grace and faith in action”.



The Newly elected council

The delegates of this supreme body of the UEM flocked from different corners of the three continents where the 37 member Churches are. A remarkable mechanism was put in place by the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda, EPR, and the Anglican Church in Rwanda, EAR to welcome all these delegates. Everything was preceded by many other parallel events. This is the case of the pre-assembly of young people, held in Isano in Kigali, a guest house belonging to the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda.

Here the young delegates of the member churches of the UEM, had time to exchange and prepare for their effective participation in the meetings of the GA. Women's delegates gathered in Gitarama in the Diocese of Shyogwe of the Anglican Church in Rwanda (EAR) to also prepare for the General Assembly by putting together reflections on specific issues concerning them that will be expressed during the General Assembly. In the same section of the pre-Assemblies, a consultation on climate change was also held.

Elections

At the same time, the General Assembly elected four representatives from Africa, Asia and Germany to the United Evangelical Mission Council.

The 63 delegates from 37 member churches in eleven countries elected the theologian Willem TP Simarmata as MODERATOR for the next four years. Rev. Simarmata an Indonesian who headed the largest Protestant church in Indonesia HKBP until recently, has a Long history with UEM

He is a former holder of a UEM scholarship and a member of the first General Assembly in Bethel,

20 years ago when the UEM was decided to be international. Over the past eight years, he has been a member of the Board. Simarmata is replacing Ms. Regina Bushman. On this occasion, the newly elected moderator expressed his gratitude for the confidence placed in him by all the delegates. In addition, delegates elected four other members from each of 3 UEM regions in the board

The Africa region is represented by the following council members: Jane Ewoule from Cameroon, Daphne Guriras from Namibia, Bishop Abednego Keshomshahara from Tanzania and Bishop Jered Kalimba from Rwanda. The Asia region is represented by: Rev. Rosmalia Barus, Tetty Aritonang and Ephorus Rumanja Purba, all from different churches in northern Sumatra, Indonesia, as well as Bishop Reuel Marigza of the Philippines. The German region is represented by Marion Unger of the Rhineland Church, Helga Rau of the Evangelical Church of Hesse and Nassau, Rev. Ulrich Möller of the Westphalian Church and Reverend Thomas Fender of the Reformed Church.

Besides the moderator and the twelve representatives of the regions Diotim Meyer was elected as youth council member. The General Assembly usually takes place every two years in Africa, Asia or Germany. Delegates decide on the strategic direction and budget of the international mission organisation. It is with satisfaction that these meeting was closed on 8 October 2016.

By Hulda Vagheni



The young volunteers of the member churches of the UEM committed to the development and improvement of this voluntary program



In order to create a strong, beneficial and continuous volunteer program for all the member churches of the UEM for the Africa region, an orientation and evaluation workshop organized by the Regional Office for Africa bringing together former South-South volunteers (African and Asian volunteers to Africa and Asia) and South-North volunteers (African and Asian Volunteers to Germany) was held in Goma at Rudolf Center of the CBCA from 21 to 23 November 2016

The team led by Mr David Wafo, program officer in UEM Africa and organizer of the meeting, presented his warm thanks to CBCA at the opening, for this remarkable hospitality that this church grants to its visitors. "This is a way for the CBCA to build on the talents God has given it.

May the Lord give you a hundredfold for all that sacrifice you make for the good of his people. "He said before explaining the merits of the program. This volunteer program is divided into three parts; A component is a North-South program that allows young Europeans to come to Africa or go to Asia to spend time sharing the way others live and bring what they also have while learning what they have to learn from the context in which they have been placed.

The second part is the South North component, which allows young people from Africa and Asia to go to Europe, spend time in institutions, live the life that others live in Europe to share what are the privileges, the challenges and difficulties faced in these places, but also to bring what they have and what comes from

their context, their churches, their country and their cultures.

The third component is the South-South Volunteer Program, which allows young people from churches in Africa or Asia to go to another part of these two continents to learn about the diversities of different countries. The workshop consisted of evaluating the achievements of this program in the individual life of the volunteer, in the life of the youth of the churches of origin and in the church as a whole.

The President and Legal Representative of CBCA thanked the UEM for choosing Goma to host the meeting. He reinforced by saying that he often feels a great joy to address the young people who are the guarantors of a better future. He encouraged young people to choose to fight for excellence. This implies discipline and determination in all that is done in life and, above all, God fearing. Even when one thinks that one has little capacity, there is always a peculiarity in each one. "Never be discouraged for the mistakes you made

The issue is not to making mistakes, but the problem is to be discouraged from correcting one's mistakes, "he concluded before declaring the UEM volunteer workshop open.

It was a very important moment for former to share their experiences in different contexts, their successes, challenges, the way forward to improve the program for the volunteers who come, but also to analyze how the church could benefit concretely from this program.

During the workshop it was explicitly observed that the program affects different aspects, in particular the lifestyle of young people, culture, level or standards of living of young people, the educational status, the spiritual issue, the work or the task that is being done at the placement, the creation of new friends by building a network.

To address some of the challenges of the program, volunteers suggested a stringer involvement of the church so as to solve: lack of preparation seminars before leaving their churches or communities; unprepared and inappropriate investment; lack of respect by the host organisation or the church of “UEM code of conduct”; also the volunteer’s work schedule; unreliable and weak communication between a volunteer and his or her local church; lack of financial support to initiate church, community or personal projects that could be beneficial to the church or community.

That the selection be made according to the necessity

or the purpose of sending this volunteer; the receiving church should find a precise placement based on the qualification and interest of that volunteer; And after the service the volunteer will work for his or her church, therefore the church will have benefited from the program and the volunteer will at least reach his goals.

Young people should be much more creative in initiating communal beneficial projects and look forward to working for their churches and communities as much as they still have enough energy to do so. These young people say they are motivated to establish the network that will facilitate the exchange of information and initiatives that boost the development of young people in entrepreneurship and other similar programs. Several experimental visits were made by the young volunteers who were excited to have participated in this meeting.

By Amos Kameli

FIRST UEM INTERNATIONAL ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR YOUTH!



The ELT 2.0 has come and gone. From the 16th to 28th March 2017, nineteen young people came together in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar to share and learn more about leadership. Previously, the participants were expected to have attended at least one training session in leadership, but in the end this condition was dropped owing to the fact that such sessions have not been conducted regularly in Africa and Asia.

The final group was so heterogeneous in terms of

age ranging from 19 to 33, academic level (from A levels to Masters) and even works of life. Some were still students while others were already professionals. Geographically also, it was so diverse. Participants came from Indonesia, Philippines, Germany, Namibia, Botswana, Congo, Rwanda, Cameroon and Tanzania. This heterogeneity in itself was a great challenge to handle.

The readiness of the members of this heterogeneous

group helped us to make a team during all the time together and even afterwards as the network is still very active.

Of course and as usual, we shared about UEM in order to improve the knowledge they have of the organization so as to become real ambassadors. We also share about the hosting church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Eastern and Coastal Diocese and their planning process under the facilitation of Robert Charles and Onesmo Mdele.

Among the inputs, we can remember sharing on Mlandizi vocational training project by Caroline Shedafa, the challenging way to becoming an effective leader by Dr. Charles Sokile and intercultural communication by Lusungu Mbilinyi.

Other inputs on Ideas and concepts of culture, gender roles in Leadership, International leadership, building own development plan and project design and implementation were delivered by the team of

supervisors made up of Annika Hunneke, Homar Distajo and David Wafo. Many exercises on assessing one's own strengths and weaknesses, collective counselling and teambuilding helped the participants to get introduced into other strategies of establishing themselves as leaders and team players. All this nurtured the mind of participants and they engaged into drafting an own project either individually or in pairs, a project which would continue even after the training and which would also be monitored through peer coaching in the group.

Recreational activities and visits to meaningful places helped to keep the mood and boost the learning process and the communion among the participants in such a way that at the end of the gathering, new friendships were built and promises of online peer coaching were also made.

By David Wafo

New South-South volunteers sent to their placements in the Africa Region



From 8 to 10 November 2016, three South-South volunteers received orientation to their volunteering for the year 2016/2017. It is good to note that their planned departure in August was delayed due to a number of circumstances beyond the UEM regional office control.

After examining the applications on the basis of the established criteria, it was found that 9 of them were

sufficiently valid and the Office had pre-selected seven of them, of which four were ultimately selected, some of them having withdrawn due to new ones Opportunities in their studies.

The four participants in the final selection are:

- Sindano Doris Abela from NWD, Tanzania who is located in Kgothatso, ELCB, Gabane Botswana. It is a center for orphans and vulnerable children

- Mumbere Ngesera Fiston from CBCA, D.R. who is assigned to Scripture Union centre in Cameroon
- Malloh Eugene Lancelot of the EEC, Cameroon, places in Goma-DRC in the CBCA. He will work with the Vocational Training Centers for Vulnerable Youth and the Volunteer.
- Kivuma Anania of the ELCT-NED Tanzania. There will be room for ELCAP, a center in Namibia responsible for the HIV / AIDS program. His

sociologist skills will be useful.

It should be noted that Mumbere of the CBCA did not participate in this orientation due to mishaps in the procedures for his trip. After Orientation, the three volunteers then traveled to their respective placements in Namibia, DR Congo and Botswana where they are called to live life in a new context with other young people.

By David Wafo

International youth project 2016 at Himmelsfels



In view of bringing the contribution of the youth to the reflexions on the theme of the UEM, 13 young adults came together for about two weeks in Germany from 4th to 19th June 2016. They were 5 from Africa, 4 from Asia and 4 from Germany.

Himmelsfels or heavensrock near the city of Kassel was chosen as the place where the gathering would take place. Indeed, this was a very adequate place for such an event. It was very special for participants to be sleeping together in caravans and enjoying fellowship

with one another, eating together, washing dishes together, serving food together and joining together in meditation and adoration of the almighty God in the established sessions of Himmelsfels: SAM (Stille Am Morgen – Silence in the morning), BAM (Bibel Am Mittag- Bible at Midday) and GAFA (Gospel am frühen Abend- Gospel singing in the evening). It is such an exotic place where living is just unusual, making more sense to retreat there. The Himmelsfels team was also very much open, friendly and supportive

and the group joined in some activities they organized for children and confirmands.

Such a process involving people from different background always bears a number of challenges. But in the end, it could be noticed that the group dynamics was so spontaneous and good that all the adjustments an ice breaking was easy. Another way of showing that young people are nowadays sharing so much in common notwithstanding the different specific contexts they come from. Very spontaneously from the first day, they engaged in singing and dancing as if they had been together for long, sharing the same tastes, the same topics and the same rhythms. This was really amazing to see the youth from Rwanda start a dance and be immediately joined by participants from Botswana, Tanzania, Germany, dancing harmoniously to the same tune like people who attended the same choreographic lessons. The youth are more citizens of the world than of their respective countries.

On the basis of the provocative session conducted by Rev. Claudia Wärisch-Oblau on the first day and through brainstorming and sharing, the youth finally came out with an understanding of what to them was the good news. They also shared on the ways of sharing it which are more adequate to the youth and named among others sports, social media, dancing, singing ...

Not a single understanding, but a pluralistic and diverse understanding. All this was included together in the drama piece they created.

They worked on the scenario, the roles, the scenery, the décor the sound and the costume for it. The last two days in Himmelsfels were dedicated to final rehearsal and performance in the presence of the movie maker Alex Felder who did the shooting to produce a video that was suggested to be watched in the UEM General Assembly that took place in Rwanda.

By David Wafo

Women Pastors of UEM member churches meet in a forum



It was in the framework of an exchange of experience that a Forum of Women Pastors was held in Isano, Rwanda, from 9 to 13 June 2015, with the aim of strengthening mutual capacity and building a network of women Pastors in UEM member churches.

13 women pastors from Tanzania, Namibia, Botswana, and Rwanda attended the forum facilitated by the Deputy Executive Secretary of UEM Africa Region, Rev. Dr. Chediel E. Sendoro, assisted by Mrs. Dr. Muteho Kasongo of the CBCA in R.D.Congo.

Together, the participants exchanged experiences on two different axes: the participation of women Pastors in the mission of the church; the fight against poverty and child trafficking.

In the exchange of experience, it was found that most women ordained pastors, proved how much they were able to provide meaningful work. It was recommended that church leaders encourage women to go further in their studies because they are capable of much like the women of the Bible.

As for the fight against child trafficking, women pastors agreed to change the situation by halting child labor, treating them with love, and educating and educating them through the development of their life skills. There was also a need for churches to set up centers or spaces that will serve as establishment where children are cared for during the day for working women.

In the fight against child poverty, the experience of a parish in Rwanda was that at the beginning of the year, funds could be raised and by the end of the year each child could have a rabbit, keep it so that it can reproduce to have more. There was a sort of positive competition between the children because everyone wanted to win by having more and later everyone could sell and make money. Women Pastors therefore visited some church projects.

Moreover, in an almost similar framework, on the initiative of the UEM Africa region, theologians women and pastors of five member churches of the UEM in Africa met in Kinshasa from 28 March to 1 April 2016 to share and exchange experiences of their daily life. Women from CDCC, CADELU, CBCA, EEC and ECC spent time sharing the issues of their involvement in the mission and the struggle for the well-being of children as they are women pastors, theologians, wives and mothers.

At the end of exchanges, recommendations were made to the churches and the UEM:

1. The understanding of the leaders of the Church of Christ in the Congo in general and of the CBCA in particular to recognise the skills of women by giving them access to the grace of the pastoral

consecration to which all the UEM women shall have the pleasure to take part.

2. Strengthen the work of enlightenment and guidance for children by extending partnerships with many national and international organisations working in the field and integrating into work related schools and women's associations.
3. That women theologians be trained in other disciplines apart from theology (for example: entrepreneurship, leadership, conflict transformation, project development, clinical pastoral care etc)
4. That the opportunity be made possible so that the women of the Anglophone and Francophone churches can always meet together.

At the end of the meeting, the participants, proud of what they had exchanged, expressed their deep gratitude to the regional office of the UEM for making such an exchange possible. Encouraged and determined to remain firm, they expressed their desire to see such an initiative renewed regularly every year so that women feel more valued in the ministry.

By Sabina Lumwe and Biyoux Makuta

Seminar on Disaster Management held in Buea, Cameroon, July 24-30, 2016



Participants on a field visit guided by the facilitator

From 24 to 30 July 2016, a seminar on disaster management was held in Buea, Cameroon, organised jointly by the UEM and the EEC. The meeting, which aimed to build participants' capacities in disaster management, had the effective participation of the churches of the African Region of the UEM and a member church of the UEM of Indonesia.

Facilitated by Mr. Ketchatcham Ngamy Guy, civil protection expert, a trainer appreciated by

the participants; this workshop was packed with plenary sessions, workshops, discussions and field trips that furnished the work of this workshop. Through the debates in plenary, it appeared that the participants support this initiative and recognise their complementarity in its implementation, and above all the need to be fully involved in finding solutions to reduce disasters and their impact in the world.

Guided tours of the risk sites for case studies

complemented the theoretical lessons learned during the workshop. These descents enabled participants to assess the degree of vulnerability of populations living in risk areas and to identify potential threats and risks.

These recommendations were addressed:

- To the member churches of the UEM Africa Region:

1) Having found that following many disasters facing humanity, participants felt it was urgent for each member Church of the UEM in its prophetic mission to establish or strengthen a risk management unit that could be establish in the justice, peace and creation care department.

1. That member churches of the UEM Africa Region work closely together to share experiences in disaster management.
2. That each Church member of the UEM Africa region undertake advocacy with their respective governments to strengthen national disaster management policies
3. That each Church member of the UEM Africa Region provides a budget line to be allocated to the contingency plan for disaster management.
4. That each Church member of the UEM Africa Region adapts to its level an emergency management policy formulated during this workshop and that it draw up contingency plans while strengthening the capacity of its members in the disasters management.
5. The great hope is that these churches gathered within the Africa region will work on an emergency management to be adopted by UEM.

- To the UEM:

6. UEM is encouraged to sustain the workshops on disaster management.
7. It is encouraged, as far as possible, to facilitate annually, workshops on disaster management with a view to strengthening coordination among the member churches of the UEM Africa Region
8. That it design and adopt an emergency management policy

It should be noted that the remarkable presence of the Executive Secretary of the UEM Africa, Rev. Pastor John Wesley KABANGO, as well as that of the President of the Africa Region Assembly, who is also the EEC President, Pastor BATOME HENGA Isaac; was very encouraging and congratulated by the Participants, satisfied with the rich teachings, acquired from this fruitful exchange.

Participants appreciated the significant contributions of Bishop PURBA from Indonesia and KAMBALE Donat from the DRC on disaster management in volcanic eruptions.

They highly expressed their gratitude to Mr. Ketchatcham Ngamy Guy, civil protection expert and moderator of this workshop, whose lessons have been very rich.

All the participants in this workshop therefore commit themselves to putting into practice all the lessons learned at the end of the present meeting and to put into practice all the recommendations resulting from this work.

By David Wafo

The United Evangelical Mission in Africa talks about HIV / AIDS in Dar es Salaam



The UEM regional office in Africa hosted a workshop on HIV / AIDS in Dar es Salaam, bringing together a number of health professionals from the member churches of the UEM, from 25 to 27 October 2016.

In his introductory remarks, the UEM Program Officer David Wafo acknowledged that it has been a long time since reflections on HIV took place in the UEM network in Africa, while in churches the disease continues to plague families, increase the number of orphans and dislocate families.

After the series of presentations of the churches, the Lutheran Diocese of the East Coast of Tanzania, the Lutheran Diocese of Karagwe of Tanzania, the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda, the Baptist

Community Africa of the DR Congo and the Evangelical Church of Cameroon, the future was projected as follows:

- Incorporate sexual and reproductive health education into church programs
- Encourage HIV testing of couples and promote prenatal visits to women accompanied by their husbands.
- Strengthen the capacities of parish leaders, as they are at the operational level in constant contact with the infected and affected people.

By Dr Isaac Muyonga

Review of the 16th reformation in the current context



During the International Colloquium held from May 31 to June 3, 2016 in Cameroon, at the Faculty of Protestant Theology and Religious Sciences of Ndoungwe (FTPSRN), more than 300 people gathered around the theme: "Review of the 16th Reform in the current context", for the prelude to the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Luther Reformation.

Participants were made of FTPSRN students, staff, pastors from several synods, professors from state universities, engaged lay persons, theologians from foreign countries (RD Congo, Gabon, Tchad ...), Presidents of regions of the Evangelical Church of Cameroon (EEC).

With the presence of several great personalities of the place, everything began with an opening morning devotion led by the Rev. BATOME HENGA Isaac, General President of the EEC the official launching of this great Colloquium, which took place in a large amphitheater. During the four days, several presentations were appointed.

The main think was to understand that, Reformation was a decisive turning point for Christianity and freedom of expression. It is part of the once fictitious and materialistic revolution of faith. Reformation was also a source of deviations but criticised by several philosophers.

Lutheran courage, a role model of courage for the Church of Africa

It is about MARTIN Luther, the Reformer. His ideals will make

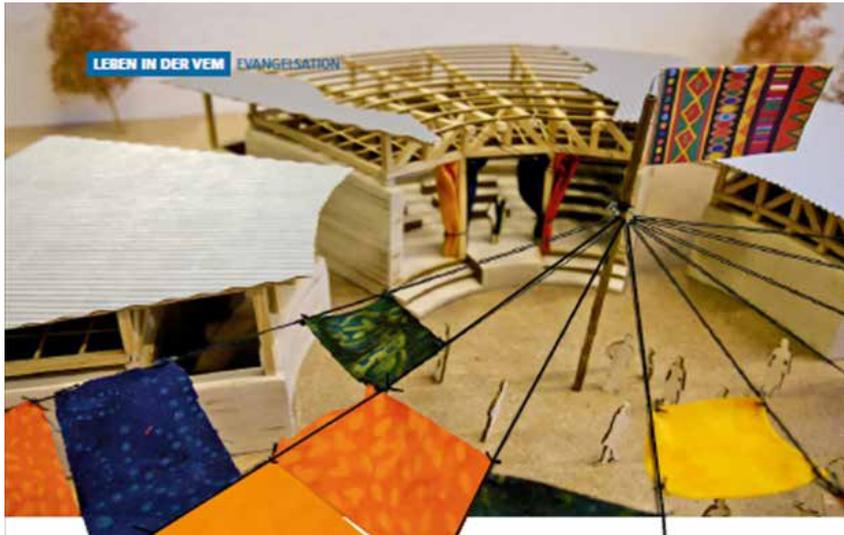
him a world reference, capable of training the whole humanity in the wake of his reforming revolution. In short, Protestant theology must be at the service of man because the world needs authentic believers who witness the Gospel and live it.

For example, the acts of the Lutheran Reformation allowed Kierkegaard, a Protestant of the nineteenth century, to protest within Protestantism. Thus the human work being incomplete, the Lutheran Reformation will always go forward. It is a dynamic, a progression, a becoming, and

Shall we know that the Protestant churches are creating new forms of indulgence or actions that deny the Protestant principles and thus pollute the Protestant identity? This is the reflection and the duty that the participants are given, satisfied with all the exchanges of this rich moment.

By Dize Steve Mael

Architecture Students Design a Meeting House for a Village in Cameroon



A church for Boboyo – the slogan sounds easy. But the task is a challenging one for these architecture students from Aachen and Koblenz: design a climate-friendly, reasonably priced church structure in a Cameroon village, almost five thousand kilometres from their drafting tables.

“The people of Boboyo want a church very badly”, explains Fred-Eric Essam, from the *ident.africa* association in Cologne (www.identafrica.org). The Boboyo community in north Cameroon is almost completely Christian. “They need a house for prayer, a place where they can meet each other, a little library”, says Essam. The people of Cameroon would like to change this, and they have found a partner in the United Evangelical Mission in Wuppertal. An architecture competition was developed in concert with RWTH Aachen University (Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule) and the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences (Fachhochschule Koblenz).

Plans were submitted by 46 students on their own as part of their master’s projects. “The variety of the models was impressive,” says Uli Baege of the judges’ selection. Baege is in charge of partnerships and projects in Africa for the UEM. He and Essam are members of the panel of judges, which includes architects from the RWTH Aachen University and the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences. It was no easy task to name six winners out of so many models. The top three candidates will fly to Cameroon and present their designs there. The winners of fourth through sixth place will win prizes of one hundred to three hundred euros each, all of them financed by the UEM. “It’s important to us to give incentives to the Evangelical Church in Cameroon, our member church, that further the community”, says Baege.

Two experts on the panel – Prof. Christian Raabe, from

the research area of the preservation of monuments and the study of historical structures at the RWTH Aachen University, and Prof. Jo Ruoff, professor of structural physics, climate-friendly architecture, and drafting at the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences – set out the criteria for judging: appealing, innovative architecture; selection of materials; climate-friendly construction; multifunctional use; and location.

“For example, clay is cheap to build with in Cameroon, whereas wood is expensive and has to be imported,” as Essam describes one requirement. His association, *ident.africa*, has already built a preschool in Boboyo with the two German universities. The conditions on the ground are known to everyone: “Some days it gets up to 45 degrees Centigrade”, says the Cameroonian.

The exhibition allows the judges to find their favourites quickly over a total of three rounds. In the end there are nine designs left: airy buildings with lots of shade and attention to detail, that vary widely in their execution: a simple rectangular building here, a round one with a pretty apse there, an arrangement of smaller spaces around a large interior courtyard. One design stands out for its rainbow of colours alone. It’s a space arranged like an African *kral*, shaded from the sun by an array of multicoloured, patterned fabrics. Small, clay-brick houses for worship services and the library are arranged around the square. “This is my clear favourite”, says Baege, as he looks at the model from all sides. “What I really like about it is that there’s a solar power station here to charge your mobile, and there’s an opportunity to pick up water. This is definitely going to be a popular place for the whole village.” The design ends up one of the top three. The winners: Jan Kubasta, Felix Jung, and Johannes Blum from the Koblenz University of Applied Sciences. The

other two winners are not determined as quickly; the judges have a hard time with all the diversity and creativity in the submissions. But after a good three hours, all of the winners have been selected. One is another group of students from Koblenz: Sören Höller, Marcel Kaul, and Stephan Radke. The other winner is an individual candidate: Coline Eysseric, from the RWTH Aachen.

Three architecture students will fly to Cameroon and

present their designs to the UEM partner church, and that's not all: "The king of Boboyo is very interested in this church construction, even though he himself is Muslim", says Essam. The people of Boboyo live together peacefully, regardless of which religion they belong to. Their dream of a church in Boboyo may come true very soon.

By Petra Vennebusch is a freelance journalist.

New leaders in the UEM office Africa Region



The UEM regional office in Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania) is now headed by Reverend Muke Nagaju since 1 November 2016.

She comes in replacement of Rev. Sendoro who is called for other functions by his Church. After a little more than 4 years, serving as deputy executive secretary for the Africa region, Rev. Chediell E. Sendoro received a call to serve in another missionary field of his church. After opening the vacancy, the leadership of the United Evangelical Mission selected Rev. Dr Muke Nagaju, a pastor from the Presbyterian Church in Rwanda for the position.

Even though she was assuming full responsibility from 1st November 2016, the office was already handed over to her by Rev. Sendoro on 20th October 2016 under the watchful eye of Rev. John Wesley Kabango, the Executive secretary for Africa who travelled to Dar es Salaam for this purpose. Rev. Dr Nagaju Muke is married and mother of four children.

By David Wafo

Former Deputy Executive Secretary for Africa made Bishop

Rev. Chediell Elinaza Sendoro, former Deputy Executive Secretary of the UEM for Africa, invested as bishop at the head of the new Diocese of the Lutheran Church of Mwanga.



This grandiose event took place at a colorful ceremony held in the district of Mwanga, Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania, on 6 November 2016.

This grandiose event took place during a colourful ceremony held in the Mwanga district in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania on 6th November 2016.

The guest of honour was none other than the regional head representing the president of the united republic of Tanzania. In his speech, he pleaded for the church support in fighting against a number of social evils among which the cultivation and abuse of marijuana, early pregnancies and abortions.

Other guests included three former prime ministers, the unsuccessful candidate to the last presidential

election and present government ministers.

The honour was given to the UEM General Secretary Rev. Martin Volker Dally to feed the abundant and diversified crowd with the Word of God. He took inspiration from Psalm 37:5 and challenged Rev. Chediel Elinaza Sendoro and Rev. Timothy Jonas Msangi who in the next few minutes were going to receive their mandates at the leadership of the newly born diocese of Mwanga as Bishop and assistant bishop.

He urged them to commit their ways to the Lord, not for some time, but for good. The commitment he said, is not a halfway one, but until completion of the task. In this case, even when challenges will arise, the trust they have and the commitment in their Lord will make them look up to him in Faith like Abraham

who went even without knowing where he was going. He was just obeying God who asked him to go. While sowing the Gospel, they will meet frustration on the way, sometimes that the result is not as they expected. But they should look up to the Lord who will do everything at its appointed time. It is worth noting that the new diocese of Mwanga was inaugurated on the eve, Saturday the 5th November together with the inauguration of the head office and the cathedral.

Apart from the general secretary, the UEM delegation included the staff from the regional office as well as the vice president of the Presbyterian Church in Rwanda; Rev Julie Kandema, who travelled all the way from Kigali to represent her church at the ceremony.

By David Wafo

Study trips in vocational training centers



In order to discover the diversity of training offered in the institutions and to identify opportunities for networking, exchange of enrichment and mutual support, a visiting tour was organised in Rwanda and in R.D.Congo. The second phase followed in Cameroon.

The team was made up of Felicien NIYAMUGABO, Director of the MYTEC Professional Training School in MUHANGA, Center created by the Anglican Church in Rwanda, Vital BANYWESIZE MUKUZA MUHIN, Director of the CAPA Professional Training School in BUKAVU-CBCA ; Mathias BUCHERMANN, Cooperant, German technical assistant, serving at the UHAI KIKYO-CBCA Center in BUTEMBO and also advising CAPA-CBCA, Daniel Martin NGWANOU, Director of the CPF Professional Training School in MBOUO BANDJOUN West Cameroon. ; Pastor ELOUTI Emmanuel, General Coordinator of the guest house that organizes trainings, Research and

Development Support (CAFRAD), Social Work of the Evangelical Church of Cameroon in Douala Littoral Region Cameroon. ; Joseph MUGHOMBE MUSIKE, Director of the Vocational Training School at the UHAI KIKYO Center in BUTEMBO (creation of the CAPA) practically with the same vocation and the same channels as the CAPA.

December 2015, in Limbe, this team took part in the Workshop of Learning and Exchange of Bread for the World with the Partners of the DRC, Rwanda and Cameroon, on Technical Education and Training and the development of the results. The program officer at UEM Africa Regional Office, Mr David Wafo found ways to organize a networking between the Vocational Training Centers of the member churches of the UEM in Francophone Africa. This led him to invite them, within the framework of South-South relations, to make visits and exchanges between the Directors of the Training Centers in the following countries:

- Cameroon (CAFRAD and CPF)
- DRC (CAPA in Bukavu and Uhai KIKYO in Butembo)
- Rwanda (MYTEC of MUHANGA)

During their visit, the following activities were on the agenda: Visit to the training centers and discussion of the training courses offered: pathways, outlets and absorption of the winners, resources products, trainers

In Rwanda, they visited:

- Masonry class for very young children.
- The workshop of manual learning in carpentry wood, with very young learners.
- Metal workshop where they shape to iron (with a specialised woman)
- The engine room for wood joinery with a deaf mute as a machinist.
- The workshop for the manufacture of wooden furniture with decoration in fabrics and foam. Quantities of orders are very often recorded here.

In the DRC they visited the CAPA (Center for Professional and Artisanal Learning) and other projects such as sewing, Computer skills, Mechanics (general and some specialties), Masonry, soap making, Metal carpentry led by a lady, Workshop against global warming (improved furnaces or stove, bags ...)

KAWA credit cooperative...

The tour ended with visit to the UHAI KIKYO Center led by the director, before sharing experiences, encouragements and mutual recommendations for the improvement of the work in the visited centers.

Cameroon phase

Pastor ELOUTI welcomed the presence of the visitors. He explained that the country in a state of war against the Islamic sect, the Boko Haram, in the northern part of Cameroon.

Presentation of the CEF (...)

Mr André PALEY, Swiss Cooperative a hotel trainer, made a presentation of the CEF with a great command of the existing, the technical platform and the relations between employees and learners.

Then the team left for Lilongué, for a visit to the Members of the National office of the EEC.

Note that the two study trips and experience exchanges between the directors team of these church centers was fruitful and demonstrate the impact and the great role that the church in general is playing in the transformation of the community. This is a strong message translated into Words and Deeds.

By David Wafo

What role for men and women to ensure a less frustrating future?

Violence based on gender and sexual violence weakens women to integrate into society to develop their full potential.



From 17 to 19 October 2016, in order to strengthen the capacity of women's leadership in churches and society, a training workshop on gender-based violence was organised and facilitated by Mrs. Rev. UTE from Germany in collaboration with the Women and Family Department of CBCA at the Rudolf Center in

Goma-DRC, bringing together women leaders from the CBCA-Goma and the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda; Pastors and some men of the men ministry and family of these two communities. Reflections centered on evidence of gender-based violence in all its forms, in the Church and in society.

The facilitator focused on the understanding of equality in diversity, the description of the role of man and woman in society, the perception of the church on women and men. She explained how sociologists give a blurred description to the gender that is to be distinguished from sex.

Her participatory methodology of group work throughout the sessions allowed participants to examine in depth some cases of gender-based violence in different locations in society and even in households. Based on the stories of Amnon and Tamar, King David, it was revealed that power over woman is a factor that influences the actions of some men to continue to break the dignity of the woman in her true sense to be respected.

For about two decades, the DRC, although potentially rich, has been shaken by multidimensional crises, and women and children are victims in most cases. Masculinity is perceived by most people, and it is wrong, as an authority tool to apply to women in various dimensions.

At the end of the meeting, it was recommended that:

- At the level of education
 - To teach children about gender-sensitive learning and gender respect.
 - Organize teacher retraining sessions from kindergarten. Insert the course related to gender into the school curriculum.
 - Encourage school leaders to build the capacity of teachers on gender issues.
- That the church
 - Establish a code of conduct on gender policy and be popularised in support to the advancement of women in decision-making processes within the church and of the society ;
 - In collaboration with partners, find ways to bring men and women from different churches together to discuss on gender issues.
 - That church leaders be role models in preventing violence against women.

By Hulda Vagheni

CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP IN EEC



Last February during the Africa Regional Assembly, one of the major events was the election and installation of the new members of the Board of Africa. The then chairperson of the Africa Region Rev. president Isaac Batome Henga handed over authority to the in-coming chairperson, Bishop Motusi Letlhage from Botswana. Just about two months later, it is another great change which is taking place, this time at the leadership of the Eglise Evangelique du Cameroun, the Evangelical Church in Cameroon (EEC) where Rev. president Isaac Batome Henga was at the end of his term in office. It is to be noted that constitutionally, the president has to serve only one term of office and it is not renewable.

One of the main agenda on the time table of its general synod was the renewal of the executive of the church. There were so many strong, highly qualified

and experienced candidates for the five positions of the executive board of EEC. This made the task not very easy for the Independent electoral commission set up to monitor the election and ensure fairness and transparency. Chaired by Dr Van Noort from the Netherlands, it comprised magistrates of the High court and retired senior administrative officers and University professors of Law. Their experience, their knowledge and the presence of God helped them to conduct the elections in a remarkable democratic way on Saturday 22nd April 2017.

In the end, the results were proclaimed as follows:

General president of EEC: Prof Dr. Samuel Hendje Toya

Deputy president in charge of personnel: Rev. Dr Kopp Bernard

Deputy president in charge of social work: Mrs Esther Ngalle

Church Treasurer: Mrs Denise Fampou

General secretary: Rev. Philippe Nguete

Along with them were also elected the new members of the general synod council, 12 ordained pastors and 12 lay church elders. The electoral process was concluded in a joyful way, losers and winners hugging each other and promising to work together and ensure that the only real winner in the whole process is God himself. The synod ended with a closing church service during which the newly elected people were officially presented

By David Wafo

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