



Mission Echo

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THE UNITED EVANGELICAL MISSION

Common faith, common life and common action evangelism and partnership. The UEM rests on these five pillars and participates in God's mission in the world.

UEM AFRICA Botswana Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana (ELCB) Democratic Republic of Congo Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), Baptist Church in Central Africa (CBA), Community of the Disciples of Christ in Congo (CDCC), Association of Evangelical Churches of the Lulonga River (CADELU). Cameroon Evangelical Church of Cameroon (EEC) Namibia Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) Rwanda Anglican Church of Rwanda (EAR): Butare Diocese, Cyangugu Diocese, Kigeme Diocese, Shyogwe Diocese, Presbyterian Church of Rwanda (EPR). Tanzania Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania: Karagwe Diocese, (ELCT/KAD). North Eastern Diocese (ELCT/NED), North-Western Diocese (ELCT/NWD), Eastern and Coastal Diocese (ELCT/ECD). South Africa Rhenish Church in South Africa (RCSA)



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**UEM Africa appoints
Ombudsperson**

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Community of the Disciple of Christ in Congo. PHOTO UEM/AFRICA



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EDITORIAL



Dear readers and UEM member churches, this is to inform you that the Mission echo is issued to introduce to you what we did in past six months from January to June 2018. First of all, I would like to thank God for this chance to highlight few things we accomplished during this particular period.

During this period we have been able to do various activities in the UEM member churches, few to mention; training for heads and Sunday

school teachers on Child right and advocacy. We also trained heads of development and agriculture departments on Vegetable and Fruits production for Commercial Producer groups aimed to empower youths and women in member churches. Youth innovative training was also among the activities which conducted in this particular period, we have mainly focused to youth's empowerment in essence of improving their skills on income generating activities as far as we know most of youths are job less in our UEM member churches.

We also facilitated the UEM week exchange program for women and Youths in member churches which successful succeeded. We thank God that this exchange program gave women and youths chance to learn different mission work from their colleagues especially success, challenges and new strategies towards mission works. Finally, it is my hope that despite many challenges we face during accomplishment of our daily mission ministry, I believe that God will enable us to reach a good destination.

By Zakaria Mnkai
Chief Editor

UEM Africa introduces entrepreneurship for youths to overcome unemployment



The participants of the workshop. (Photo: UEM/Africa)

Youth unemployment and underemployment has become a major challenge in almost all African countries, however there is a big potential for entrepreneurship than elsewhere in the world.

For this reason, UEM Africa organized a follow up entrepreneurship workshop for youth as it was recommended by Africa Assembly held 2017 in Goma, DRC.

Lead by Mr Zakaria Mnkai the program officer of UEM Africa Region, the workshop took place on 4th to 9th March 2018, hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran in Botswana (ELCB). Thirteen (13) youth from UEM member churches including: ELCT/ECD, ELCT/ NED; ELCT/KAD; ELCT/NWD, ELCB, ELCRN, RCSA, EPR, EAR, CBCA and

CADELU attended the workshop.

In Addition to youth participants, Rev. Dr Nagaju Muke Deputy executive Secretary of UEM Africa was present to attend the due workshop and to visit the ELCB.

The purpose of the workshop is to empower youth and enable them to become entrepreneurs and be able to create their own businesses and jobs. The leading topic of the workshop was "Sustainable Income Generating Projects for the Youth".

Following sub-topics were also discussed: Biblical motivation on entrepreneurship, From Problems to Development through entrepreneurship (Income generating projects), Definition of

Entrepreneurship in key words, Concept of Risk, Bright Entrepreneur, Concept of innovation in Entrepreneurship, (Income generating projects) and Business Plan.

After the presentation of the above stated topics done by Joël TEMBO VWIRA from CBCA, all participants realized that whenever youth problems face, they should develop an attitude of looking at it as an opportunity. Whenever, youth are in front of a given problem or challenge, they should stop complaining and blame other people, rather, think of an idea, on how to solve and respond through an income generating activity solution/response.

UEM training shows big results

The Songwe Horticulture Group, is a group of 30 young people of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania-Eastern and Coastal Diocese (LECT-ECD), of which engage in the cultivation of vegetables and fruits.

This group was formed as a by-product of Agricultural training especially to Commercial Producers in Vegetables and Fruit Production that was conducted in North Eastern Diocese ELCT- Lushoto in

January 2018.

Mr. John Mbagwa and Mrs. Agatha Shayo Co-facilitators who trained as Trainer of Trainees about Producing Vegetables and Fruits in the training mentioned above.

Songwe Group produces Tomato for business to increase income, considering that there is a huge band of young men who are job less in Tanzania as well as Africa as a whole.

The establishment of the Songwe group is the result

and agreement reached after the Lushoto training that each participant should encourage youth groups and women to engage on production of vegetables and fruits. The group has started producing 2 tons of tomatoes every three months and thus earning a total of Tsh 6,000,000 which is divided into group members after removing all production costs and providing emergency savings to the group.

This group will have a model and other features from their concept of starting with what they had before seeking help from external donors from the Diocese and Tanzania as a whole.

Songwe group plans to introduce other vegetable crops in the next few years. The Co-ordinator Mr. Jonh Mbagwa, said they are currently looking for markets for other produces, so as when they begin to grow, they realize how much demand the product will need.

He appreciates and thanks United Evangelical Mission (UEM) for the skill they acquired from the training.

"The training was very nice and I understood well that is why I was able to mobilize young girls and boys to join together in Vegetable and fruits production," said Mr Mbagwa.



Training to equip skills on horticulture techniques

Modern Agriculture requires a lot of skills as well as techniques which can give expected results for farmers.

That's why the United Evangelical Mission Africa Regional office from 7th to 12th January 2018, conducted training to heads of Development and Agriculture departments from three UEM member churches.

The main goal of the training was to equip heads of departments with skills and knowledge on improved horticulture production techniques. The training which was hosted by Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania North Eastern Diocese at Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University took in 14 participants from 7 UEM member churches, namely ELCT- North Western Diocese (NWD), ELCT-North Eastern Diocese (NED), ELCT- Eastern and Coastal Diocese (ECD), ELCT-Karagwe Diocese (KAD). Others were Presbyterian Church of Rwanda (EPR), Anglican Church of Rwanda (EAR) and Baptist Church of Central Africa of DRC (CBCA).

It is expected that after this training, participants will be able to train youth and women commercial producer groups in their



respective churches. The participants had opportunities to discuss and share various success and challenges regarding horticulture practices from their churches especially the techniques used in farming production. It is observed that, most farmers in our churches still use traditional farming techniques and produce food for consumption rather than commercial purpose. From this training, the trainees were able to learn good practices of Horticulture that will be shared and be applied to Commercial Producer Groups in churches.

The following topics were introduced:

- Rural Economy
- Producer organization
- Producer organization and the market
- Working with producer organization
- Horticultural business and the market
- Farming as a business and its risks
- Contract farming
- Types of farm records
- Projected income statement and its importance
- Land and soil requirement for horticulture production
- Climate change and its adaptation
- Vegetable crop management

The participants from seven UEM member churches learned about improved horticulture production techniques (photo: UEM/Africa).

- Business plan and write up.
- Recommendations
The following recommendations came out the mentioned training:
- Each head of department of development (contact person) shall give a feedback on the progress of the Commercial producer groups in his/her church to UEM Regional

- office on Quarterly basis.
- The UEM Regional Office will see the possibility of funding for the Commercial Producer Groups project, specifically for youth and women projects in the UEM member churches for the better result and follow up.
- The UEM Regional Office is recommended to strengthen communication with its member churches on matters related to youth and women projects and development matters.
- There should be clear monitoring tools to track various activities which are implemented by the Regional office to the UEM member churches.
- The participants strongly

- recommended the implementation of the goals agreed in the training based on their context to facilitate youth and women CPGs in their churches.
- The participants recommended to the Regional Office to organize a reflection meeting/follow up workshop to evaluate the implementation of this training.
- The participants encouraged UEM member churches to promote youth and women projects according to their possibilities and available local resources in their churches.



Participants of the training of Sunday school teachers in Goma (DR Congo). Photo: UEM Africa.

UEM Africa comes with child right policy

A number of African children are facing many challenges in their growth which sometimes left them with long-lasting negative social, emotional, mental, physical and spiritual consequences.

Guided by the theme of the UEM General Assembly in the previous years, African Church leaders recommended developing a child policy.

That is why it was decided by UEM member churches that a child protection and safeguarding policy is the first formal commitment

to keeping children safe. While the policy should be a fundamental consideration, bespoke for each organization, it should be more than just a piece of paper.

Once completed, the policy should clearly articulate the fact that church values the physical and emotional wellbeing of all children in its care. The policy will also explain how this will be ensured guiding African churches to implement projects promoting children's development.

From 15th to 20th April, 2018, the Africa Region of the United Evangelical Mission conducted a workshop for the heads of Sundayschool and Children departments from the UEM member churches. 20 participants from UEM member churches hosted by Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania North Western Diocese (ELCT-NWD) are reflected on the Child Rights Protection Policy to be applied in all the UEM member churches. This workshop comes as a logic continuation of the training on Sunday

school, children rights and protection of environment, held in Goma, DR Congo, in last February 24rd to 3rd March 2018.

Violence against girls and boys is a problem that not only harms each child but jeopardizes their future survival, health and education. It simultaneously costs the world trillions of dollars, slows economic development and erodes a country's human and social capital.

From this reality the church cannot remain silent, but undertake constructive initiatives to prevent and to address child right violation within the church and in the society. This is also to empower the participants, especially in providing skills

to tackle this issue.

The main task in this workshop is to share experience from church members and eventually developing Child Protection Policy and its applicability in churches. The participants share and identify existing violence against children in the community and suggest solutions that seeking justice and restoration for those who experience it by helping church communities to build a world where children will be free from harm.

Following topics are shared and discussed:

1. Sharing and identification of child abuse in the community
2. Child Protection in Biblical perspective

3. Family and community child rights perspective
 4. Child protection system
 5. Plan of action ending violence against Children
 6. Policy formulation process: Main focus to children
 7. Awareness creation strategies to community members on Child protection
- Through sharing, discussions and presentation sessions, participants were able identify various form of violence, neglecting and exploitation against children in the community. The opinions provided by participants mainly focused to intervene all forms of child right abused and proposed strategies to advocate the situation in church members.

Pastors from Big Cities

When different skills and experiences run into, eye-opening ideas and solutions emerge.

From 8th to 14th February 2018, UEM Africa Region conducted its Joint Program entitled "Pastors from big cities" workshop in Cape Town, hosted by the Rhenish Church of South Africa where twelve (12) pastors from UEM member churches met to share experiences.

Churches met in South Africa were EEC, CDCC, ELCT/ ECD, ELCT/ MOROGORO, ELCB, ELCRN, RCSA and URCSA. In Addition to African participants, Rev. Dr Claudia Währisch-Oblau head of Evangelism department in UEM Wuppertal/German was present. The main purpose of this workshop was to bring pastors together so that they may learn from each other, share their experiences of their programs and challenges faced in their everyday pastoral ministry and propose the way forward.

In addition to the sharing, participants got opportunity to different exposures where they visited street work ministry, men's mission and ministry to gangsters. Furthermore, the following topics came out from the sharing of challenges that are faced by pastors who serve in big cities and were discussed:

1. The difficulty to reach and accommodate young people in our churches.
2. The depletion of the pastors overall wellbeing and heavy work due to big size of church.
3. The difficulty to properly address the spiritual and material needs of the members forcing them into spiritual migration.
4. Addressing the gap between social categories (poor and rich).



After a deep analysis and discussion, participants realized that the above mentioned topic will be difficult to be addressed because some Christians and some church leaders are not ready to accommodate new changes that emerge with modern time.

For this reason, the UEM member churches should be reminded that since their tradition are rooted in the premise of reformation, therefore, churches should be constantly reformed, and hence, accommodating new changes of some tradition is part of being reformed. In conclusion, participants recommended the following:

1. Children and Youth Ministry:
 - Churches, congregations, to create space at quarterly intervals for youth to plan, coordinate and execute (with the assistance

The participants of the workshop "pastors in big cities" (photo: UEM/Africa).

of the pastor) worship services.

- More assistance with teaching, training and development of youth in terms church culture, church history and church protocol.
- Emphasis on Christian education and chaplaincy to help children and youth who are in universities and schools.
- Social media should to be utilised as a form of communication with youth.

2. Self-care for pastors:

After discussing the issues that pastors in the big cities face and deal with we

have come to the conclusion that self-care is a necessity in order to cope with the ministerial demands

- On the Sabbath day the Lord rested and He has also commanded us to rest. Therefore, every Pastor should take one day per week off for rest and delegate work to others.
- Pastors are advised to become actively responsible for their personal time, personal health and over all well-being.
- Pastors are encouraged to find a mentor to advise them in spiritual and ministerial issues.

3. How to keep members in the churches
The difficulty to properly address the spiritual and material needs of the members lead them into spiritual migration. For this reason, the shift of some members from our churches to new churches is increasing. The question is how to keep them in their respective churches.

- Finding adequate balance between innovation and old tradition.
- Contextualise and address current/relevant issues without losing our reformation identity.
- Competition with others are unnecessary – Church leaders to focus on their mission and make the message to be meaningful and relevant to respond to the needs of people.
- Liturgy should be meaningful and relevant in order a way to respond to the needs of the people such as healing, blessing and protection.
- Relationship building through long term pastoral care between members and cell groups or grass roots churches are encouraged.

4. Rich versus poor:

- Bridge members according to their social categories.
- A mind shift is needed by congregants to avoid the thinking that they are cursed by being poor. Furthermore, all Christians should be though and reminded that all poor and rich people are meant to a blessing for each other in the body of Christ.

Team work makes the dream work



Participants of the Africa Regional Board meeting in Windhoek, Namibia. (Photo: UEM/Africa)

From the 7th to the 10th May 2018, the UEM Africa Board was hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCRN) in Windhoek. It was held at the Tabitha Centre newly rehabilitated and currently used as a Guest House.

The ELCRN Administration Board made of Bishop Ernst Gamxamûb, Deputy Bishop Hatani Paul Kisting, General Secretary Rev Petrus Khariseb, Associate General Secretary, Rev Wilfred Diergaardt and ELCRN Co-workers welcomed the Africa Region Board (ARB) delegates, the UEM General Secretary, Rev Volker Martin Dally, the UEM Ombudsperson for Africa Region, Mr. Godwin Lwezaura and UEM Staff members of the Africa Department, from Dar es Salaam and Wuppertal.

The ARB kicked off with a devotion led

by the ELCRN Deputy Bishop Paul Hatani Kisting who appreciated that UEM member churches work as an international family called to serve God's people, particularly in difficult times.

He developed how UEM members from Africa, Asia and Germany are committed to unity irrespective of their denominational differences, being missionary churches that use God's given gifts to work for people in need. Praying for successful UEM Africa Board meetings, the Deputy Bishop Paul Hatani Kisting concluded saying that UEM member churches witness that "Team work makes the dream work".

Bishop Ernst Gamxamûb introduced his colleagues in the leadership and welcomed the ARB delegates.

Based on a questionnaire prepared by the Africa Department, participants shared thoughts and collected ideas on the preparations of the celebration of the 25th Anniversary in Africa Churches and internationally. Soon each UEM African Church will start to collect statistics and prepare series of activities which will start to be implemented in the framework of the UEM 25th Anniversary.

The ARB members deliberated and exchanged on concrete strategies to improve the UEM United Action Campaign implemented by African churches. Members are committed to promote the campaign, encouraging them to be owners of UEM and contributing to its sustainable financial situation.

ARB thanked members of African member churches at all levels for their new understanding and contributions. The Rev Volker Martin Dally shared that the last UEM Council advised that "UEM United Action Campaign is a practical way of showing how UEM is a communion of churches in mission, where all have equal rights and responsibilities".

It is an important way of taking more ownership by churches in Asia and Africa while at the same time ensuring the financial sustainability of UEM.

Mr Godwin Lwezaura, the UEM ombudsman for Africa Region who was appointed by the UEM council made a presentation saying that his role is to advise UEM and member churches when needed.

Churches are informed that he is tasked to intervene with the interests of the public by investigating and advising on maladministration or a violation of rights. The ARB was informed that the tasks of the Ombudsperson for UEM Africa region cannot be discussed without mentioning the existing UEM Code of Conduct of Conducts: Against Corruption and for Transparency; and against sexual harassment.

ARB members appreciated the resolutions taken and committed to promoting them in their churches.

"We are joyful to host UEM Africa Board meeting, it is a privilege to welcome UEM at the former home for aged people which is currently given a new meaning of hosting sisters and brothers visiting Windhoek," said Bishop Gamxamûb.

He referred to the UEM- ARB agenda and underlined the importance of each item and its meaning for the church work in Africa. He ended his welcome words by praying and reading the Psalm 100.

The ARB meeting is a UEM regular annual gathering in African Region. It was convened to evaluate UEM implemented activities in the second half of 2017, to plan the rest of 2018 and to share on what will be included in the 2019 UEM goals and activities which will be completed the second week of June 2018.

ELCRN conducts historic youth camp

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) has hosted its first ever Bible Camp with the junior youth groups, where 260 youths from different parishes attended.

The purpose of the camp was to discuss various topics on the youth in today's world. The Bible Camp focused specifically on the Word of God.

Among others, the camp activities included bible studies (contextualize-whereby participants were divided in smaller groups to allow equal participation), bible quiz, the key note address which looked at importance of education and how to pursue a career, youth and social media – what are the advantages and disadvantages of it.

Silent time and bible reading with counseling was one of the highlighted /outstanding activities of the camp, because during the holy spirit break, there were different points of counseling where the youth were going individually to talk to counselors to say prayers, while the bigger group continue in praise and worship.

Each morning was special and very exciting, many activities took place. One activity that stood out was going to worship in groups on the prayer mountain on Saturday morning.



Participants of the Clinical Pastoral Education; Photo: UEM Africa Region.

UEM Clinical Pastoral Education in Africa Region

From the 23rd to 28th April 2018, a CPE workshop was hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran church of Tanzania, Karagwe Diocese (ELCT-KAD) at Nyakahanga Hospital. Bishop Dr. Benson Bagonza shared that "the UEM General Assembly resolution called churches to strengthen CPE knowledge/skills and empower chaplains' capacity in member churches". 16 multipliers in Africa Region attended the training.

UEM Africa Region planned and implemented this activity in the framework of UEM yearly planned goals and activities. The training was conducted by the Rev Dean Lermey Lwankomezi of the ELCT-NWD. Participants have also learned various experiences from German context as presented by one of the German facilitators, the Rev Astrid Klumb, Pastor of Evangelical Church in the Rhineland (EKiR), Chaplain at Sankt Lukas Hospital in Solingen.

The main aim is that UEM offers to African church leaders a Clinical Pastoral Education which serves as a part of one's preparation for

parish ministry, chaplaincy, lay ministry, teaching, and counseling. Churches are to stand firm and assist people in critical incidents such as wars, terrorism, mass disasters, violence, the loss of loved ones, and any events wherein human actions result in injury, destruction, and/or death. Church co-workers may possess especially powerful restorative attributes.

More specifically, CPE is an interfaith professional education for ministry. It brings faith and theological practitioners into supervised encounter with persons in crisis. Out of an intense involvement with persons in need, and the feedback from peers and teachers, trainees develop new awareness of themselves as persons and of the needs of those to whom they minister.

From theological reflection on specific human situations, participants are brought to gaining a new understanding of ministry and proper ways of reacting to situations. Within the interdisciplinary team process of helping persons, they develop skills in interpersonal

and interprofessional relationships.

The training offered an opportunity to participants to share not only their experiences, successes and challenges in their daily work toward patients particularly in hospitals, prisons and churches, but also to reflect on the clinical pastoral tasks of the UEM member churches. After sharing on the successes and challenges, trainees gave some recommendations to churches and UEM, as follows:

- CPE should be given priority as a part and package of pastoral ministry and a continued learning process in UEM member churches,
- Churches should enhance chaplaincy services and establish cooperative networks within UEM member churches, help all church leaders to understand what CPE is all about.
- CPE training should be provided to all Pastors and other people working in church Hospitals, schools and especially those serving in prisons.

The work was implemented by the UEM Co-workers in the UEM Africa Region

Youth suggest Bible Reading Application

On 5th February, 2018, UEM Africa Regional office in collaboration with Head of Evangelism Rev. Dr. Claudia Oblauwahrish called for a youth leadership session in the East and Coast Diocese at the Seashells Hotel. The session aimed at discussing various issues of youth and Bible reading through the Internet.

At the session organized by Rev. Dr. Claudia Oblauwahrish under the chair of Mr. Zakaria Mnkai, Program Officer of UEM Africa, Regional office has been largely successful from the fact that young people have had the opportunity to set their minds in line with the current time of science and technology development.

The Rev. Dr. Oblauwahrish gave her introduction by saying that, almost 800 young people from different parts of Germany met and set up a Bible study camp and concluded successfully. So even African youths still have the opportunity to start and implement what they want to do.

She continued to explain the purpose of the session that it was collecting ideas from the leadership of the Eastern and Coast Diocese youth and the Coast on introducing biblical readings through the Internet.



The Eastern and Coast Diocese youth congratulated the decision made by Rev. Dr. Oblauwahrish in collaboration with the UEM office Africa Region has a chance to listen to young people about the whole issue of biblical readings through the Internet.

However, the young people agreed with the idea and said that there were already some processes that began to start the Biblical reading online and there were already some people who started the same approach with the Biblical reading strategy through the Internet.

After the introduction, the youth formed three groups and discussed different techniques that could be used in the establishment of the strategy and the way of reading online through the Internet.

After these discussions, the groups presented various suggestions as well as challenges that could arise from the introduction of biblical readings App through the Internet. The following application was suggested by the groups: - Our Daily Bread App, Youth for Christ and Android based app. In order to use this web application to sound, they must have the

following features: -

- Home as starting point
- Event (the presenter event from UEM church members and the upcoming events
- Place of Notification
- Word of the day (From the bible)
- Photos, audio and videos
- UEM stories
- Settings
- Place of google translation
- Chance for chat rooms
- Comments / maps
- Journals / Reports like mission echo
- Different version of the bible
- Bible dictionary e.t.c

This discussion also raised a number of challenges that could be linked to the use of biblical readings proposed by members from all three groups. Among those challenges include; there will be no chance or person's ability to write anything for advice, there may be regular ads that will be restricting the user from continuing to reading over time. However, various recommendations were made to reduce the potential challenges that arise as follows: -

- Create user privacy
- There are no ads that may block user and interrupt his reading
- There should be a link to direct to the church ads.

From forest to grace



Kyakimwa Muteho Daphrose is a passionate, innovative youth counselor ministering in one of the largest high schools of Goma, DRC called Himbi Institute. She established Gratia Counselling Centre (GCC) at the heart of the school ground.

It is in such a sacred place that Daphrose, together with team of six fellow counsellors, have counselled over 500 youth annually, mediated between hundreds of students, parents and teachers; seen hundreds commit their lives to Jesus Christ; prevented several suicide attempts; got hundreds to pledge to a life of integrity and sexual abstinence until marriage.

It is through these efforts done by Daphrose with her fellows pulled 5 youths of MAI MAI to put down their guns in the forest and follow Jesus Christ as their Savior and live normal life in Goma Town.

It was a simple and awesome

thing for young people in MAI MAI groups to torture or shoot to death close kins. An issue that most people in Goma are not being interviewed is a number of young people who have heard the voice of Jesus Christ and decided to abandon their involvement in killing brothers, relatives, and innocent people.

The youths left the wild life involving themselves in killing a lot of people to return home and live a normal life after receiving counseling and training on living a life-dependent lifestyle and engaging in giving evidence and raising activities.

The thrilling thing is that, despite all this and all their evil deeds to their relatives, but they were warmly welcomed by their relatives and brothers. This reminds us of the love of God and the story of a prodigal son, which describes the importance of welcoming home all those who had left home for distant lands and other lives.

Orion Choir from Butembo DRC visits UEM Africa regional Office



Orion choir members in group photo at ECD Cathedral, Azania Front in Dar es Salaam. (PHOTO: UEM/AFRICA REGION)

On 24th May 2018, Orion choir from Communante' Baptestian Centre de e'Afrique (CBCA) visited UEM Africa Regional office.

The choir consisting of not less than 15 singers came to visit the UEM office and meet with the African Regional Office staff. Basically the choir did a great thing to do short worship with the staff and sing songs to glorify God Creator of heaven and earth.

The singers were present in one week for a weekly evangelizing work in various congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania Eastern and Coastal Diocese and making

their video for a new album they prepare.

During their visitation, Orion got an opportunity of one hour live interview at Upendo Fm radio of ELCT ECD.

On their visit they said they have learned a lot of things and how Christians continue to glorify God by using the gifts given by God and to build God houses and to a variety of facilities such as Schools and Health Centers. Orion choir has a history of friendship with the Mbezi beach Parish in the Eastern and Coastal Diocese over 10 years by choir and servants exchange for sharing gifts in serving God.

However, their focus is to

develop brotherhood and to seek other friends within the churches of Africa, for the God who is worshiped is the same yesterday, today and forever.

After their service, singers were deeply grateful for the leadership of the UEM Africa Regional Office by accepting inviting and collaborating with short musical services as well as the many responsibilities of the staff they had. Rev. Dr. Nagaju Muke gave greetings to churches and Christians of Butembo and invites the singers to visit at the African office when they come Dar es Salaam sometime.

Sri Lanka's Methodist shows effort to overcome injustice



The youths from the United Evangelical Mission member churches in Africa, Asia and Europe (Germany) during visitation in Sri Lanka February 2018.

By Paulin Mugisho

Following the huge challenges of Prejudices, racism and discrimination facing the Sri Lanka Island, the Methodist Church in the country is playing its party to ensure that all those ungodly actions reaches end.

The Sri Lankan country is one of the countries, through the civil war that has left scars and pain until today. Many people are raping in sexual harassment and abuse in all spheres of economic, social and political. The civil war also has left the country in a religious discrimination that leads to divisions in various aspects of the country. The youths from the United Evangelical Mission member churches in Africa, Asia and Europe (Germany) has witnessed that challenges following their visitation in the country which took place from 10th to 23rd February 2018.

Africa region was presented by youths from Congo, Rwanda, and Tanzania, while Asia was presented by Indonesia and Philippines,

and Europe represented by Youths from Germany.

14 youths met in Sri Lanka to share various experience and learn the indigenous culture that affect community members in one way or the other.

Sri Lanka offers priority to the religion of Buddhism which is given a gift in the constitution of the country.

Though the Buddha given the gift in the constitution of the country, but the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka is making efforts to ensure that there is an interaction between all religions in various social and economic issues in the country. This is confirmed by the church in community involvement in education, health care and orphanages.

All in all, the MCSL with partnership with other communities are doing their effort to overcome prejudices, racism and discrimination among the population. The demands of Sri Lankan citizen (specially the minority) are high. Churches can achieve more if their get maximum support from

UEM Africa appoints Ombudsperson

The UEM Africa Region has appointed Mr. Godwin Lwezaura to be a first Ombudsman, since the position was introduced in UEM Africa Regional office.

Mr. Lwezaura was nominated by the Executive Secretary for Africa Region the Rev. Dr. John Wesley Kabango on 23rd February 2018 and then introduced to the Africa Regional Board meeting, held on 6th May 2018 in Windhoek Namibia at Tabita Centre.

During his introduction and a words of accept the position, he explained by saying that, he was astonished by the confidence which the UEM Council has in him and entrusted him with this task of being Ombudsman for Africa Region for another.

Mr. Lwezaura is a professional accountant and works with church Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania North Western Diocese in different capacities including Treasurer, Accountant and consultant in finance and projects.

His experience on Ombudsman including investigation conducted in Evangelical Lutheran church in Republic of Namibia in April, 2016 when



Mr. Godwin Lwezaura the first UEM Africa Ombudsman

investigated the complains on administrative issues and investigated the regional office assigned by the UEM Moderator in 2011

What is Ombudsperson?

The term ombudsperson is defined in the world Book Encyclopedia as a nonpartisan public official who investigates complaints about government officials or agencies. The work of Ombudsperson is to carry the following tasks:-

- To receive complaints or concerns of wrong doings from aggrieved persons or parties that has to do with administrative abuse or maladministration.
- To listen responsively to the aggrieved person/ persons and to the accused (Listen to both parties)
- To carry out investigation on the wrong doings and gather relevant evidence related to the accusation
- Notify the parties in question and the relevant organs of UEM on the findings
- Carry out a mediation function between the parties providing a less threatening type of dispute resolution
- To report to UEM leadership/UEM member church leadership the findings that, are criminal in nature that threatens staff safety or that threatens safety of UEM/ member church assets

Shyogwe Diocese's big plans for children



Participants of the training for Sunday school teachers held in Anglican Church of Rwanda, Shyogwe Diocese. (PHOTO:UEM/AFRICA REGION)

The Anglican Church of Rwanda, Shyogwe Diocese focuses on future church by empowering Sunday school teachers all over the diocese.

Among of the strategies planned by the Diocese, was to conduct training for Sunday school teachers where a first phase took place on 25th May, 2018. The training was based on organizing lessons and topics for Sunday school teachers and it was involved more than 50 school teachers.

Furthermore the Diocese has planned to educate these teachers in four phases and to ensure that all Sunday school teachers gain the knowledge and skills about child training throughout the diocese.

Shyogwe Diocese was inspired by the Word of God from Proverbs chapter 22:6 which says that train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Through this living Word of God, the Shyogwe Diocese has built its foundation by organizing time and opportunity, for teaching Sunday school teachers in all churches for the betterment of the children in the church. All the training aimed at building up the capabilities of the Sunday school teachers and heads of department as well as teachers teaching school children on Sunday school members.

This training was the

feedback based on training, conducted to leaders and teachers of Sunday school by United Evangelical Mission to Sunday school teachers and heads of department from members churches, which took place in on 23rd-28th Feb 2018 in the town of Goma, DR Congo and the other held on 15th-19th, April 2018 in the Lutheran Evangelical Church in Tanzania at North Western Diocese.

Despite this, the aim of the UEM in this training was to build the teachers' capacity so that they could teach other teachers in their churches to ensure that there is a uniform in the whole issue of teaching Sunday school children.

UEM Africa sharper Sunday school teachers

For the purpose of ensuring the better of tomorrow church, the United Evangelical Mission (UEM), Africa Regional Office held eight days training for Sunday School Teachers, at the Baptist Church in Central Africa (CBCA) in Goma DR Congo.

The training which took place from 24th February to 3rd March, 2018 was attended by 22 participants from all UEM African member churches.

The aim of the training was to provide skills to Sunday school teachers as a measure of ensuring an understanding of contemporary challenges and the Church's role in addressing violated human rights, where children are the first sufferers.

Trainee learned about how

to raise talents of children, Sunday school as Trauma healings and children in the eye of God.

They also got skills on improving the Sunday school in respect of children rights, Echo theology (Sunday school and climate protection) and Children Psychology in different context.

During the training they shared their experience of Sunday school services from different churches.

The CBCA in Goma, Eastern Congo serves in a region where a large number of children are victims of a 20 years conflict. UEM intervenes several times to holistically support vulnerable families who are the suffers due to this war.

Through sharing, discussions and presentation sessions,

participants were able to share various issues based on their context and tentative solutions.

It was realized that all challenges mentioned concerning Sunday school ministry provision in African UEM member churches are interrelated and similar. Therefore felt problems must be strategically addressed to assure improved Sunday School Service in Member Churches.

Challenges were thoroughly examined and concrete recommendations were formulated for the consideration of church leadership in their annual plans.

https://www.vemission.org/fileadmin/_processed_/csm_Sunday_School_training_ad5a6f46e9.jpg



Participants of Training of Sunday school teachers in Goma in group photo with Sunday school children in DR Congo. Photo: UEM Africa.