

YEP 2013 REPORT

The fourth edition of YEP Douala, Bonaberi kicked off on July 1, 2013 at the premises of the Church of Christ Bonaberi auditorium opposite “Stade Washington” in the quarter called Ngwele. Before this date much preparation had been done such as the distribution of flyers, sending out of appeal letters, coming out with the daily program of activities and preparing materials to be used by the kids. The program witnessed some changes this year, it was held three times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) from 2pm to 5pm instead of Mondays to Fridays 9am to 12 noon in the past three years. It started timidly with 29 children on day one. This number kept increasing by the day and at the time the program came to an end there were 45 registered – 27 girls, 18 boys.

During this one month period, the children were divided into two groups that are: yep senior and yep junior. The following activities were carried out; HIV/AIDS awareness, hygiene, environmental awareness, religious studies, handcraft which comprised of basket decoration; making hair bolds and jewelry; miss yep 2013, cookery, socialization, singing and ballet dance as explained below:



Basket decoration



Making hair bolds

ON HIV/AIDS, the children were taught the full meaning of the acronym, its origin, ways of contraction, methods of prevention, emphasizing on “abstinence” which is the watch word for youths. A drama was acted to this effect where some parents are sensitizing their kids about Aids after they had heard about it for the first time from friends in school. They then came home and told their parents

they heard something that they knew nothing about. So their parents had to sit them down and explained everything to them concerning HIV/ Aids.

On the issue of hygiene, the children were taught how to take care of their own bodies. The parts of the body were listed on the board and lectures given on how to care for each of them.

Concerning environmental protection, the emphasis was on environmental pollution. The different ways of pollution were examined. The children were shown how they pollute the environment, the effects of pollution to man and the environment itself, and how to prevent or reduce the rate of pollution. By so doing this would render the environment conducive for man and other living organisms. Many poems on the effects of environmental pollution were taught.



Following lectures



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Concerning religion, the children were taught many memory verses on obedience drawn from Ephesians 6 and proverbs. They also acted a drama on “Putting on the whole armor of God” from the book of Ephesians 6:10-20.



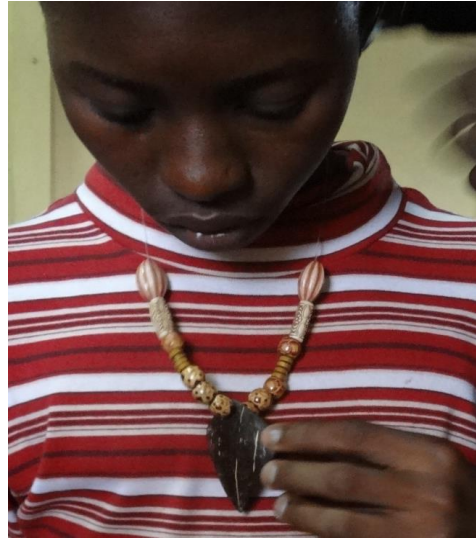
Drama on the armor of God

Handcraft was based on basket decoration, making hair bolds, jewelries and drawing. Yep senior girls were taught how to decorate baskets that are used by flower girls during weddings or as flower jars

at home. They were also taught how to make hair bolds while yep senior boys were taught how to make jewelries using coconut shells and beads. This is illustrated in the photos below. On their part, the YEP junior concentrated on drawing and coloring. They were given dot diagrams to be completed and colored.



Making jewelry



The result

On cookery they were taught how to make coconut sweet and peanut.



Grating coconut



Frying the coconut



Coconut sweet is ready

They also carried out some competitive sports activities which involved filling of the glass with water.

Regarding socialization, the children were drilled on how to greet who and what to say to somebody at different instances like when somebody lost someone, when somebody is sick etc. The Miss YEP competition was not left out this year. It was also spiced with the introduction of the Masters. Its main aim was to promote bilingualism, culture and to improve the understanding of children's rights not only to the contestants but to the audience who listened to them.

Singing/ballet dance was for entertainment. It is said that” learning without playing makes jack a dull boy. Classes were interwoven with singing and dancing to make the children happy and lively, thus, boredom had no place. There was a birthday party celebration where the children enjoyed themselves. Acappella singing competition was also done to help those who have the talent of singing bring it out. It was very interesting how some of these youths can sing.



Ballet dancing during closing ceremony

The finals of the competitive activities took place on the closing day with prizes awarded to the winners. Ballet dances, poems, dramas, singing, memory verses, spiced the closing ceremony. This year’s closing was crowned by a word of exaltation by the preacher of the Bonaberi Church of Christ who drew inspiration from the drama on The Armor God to tell both the parents and the youths that if they follow the instructions of putting on the whole armor of God, they will be strong enough to stand against all the vile of the devil. Fear is not to be their portion



Gifts ready for distribution

causing them to be running from one “prayer house to another” seeking for solutions to their problems. Gifts of school reopening were given to all participants. A parent on behalf of the parents expressed their gratefulness and satisfaction for impaction much knowledge to the children in a very short time. This year, the media, STV precisely, was there to cover the event.



Invitees watching YEP photo gallery during closing ceremony

DIFFICULTIES

The greatest difficulty we faced this year was the late arrival of funds. Until one week before the beginning of the program, we were not sure of funds. Due to this, publicity was slowed down leading to a drop of the participants from 52 last year to 45 this year. Materials could not be bought well on time which led to the postponement of some activities. These activities finally accumulated towards the end and the facilitators had too much to chew towards the end leading to them working overtime.

More to this, the weather was not very favorable. July is the peak rainy season and when it rained, many children were absent especially those who lived far thus retarding the progression of the

program as chronologically planed. We were obliged to repeat what was taught the following day so that all the children will be on the same page.

Another problem was the lack of enough volunteers to facilitate the program. Maybe this was because for the past years they had almost nothing as compensation. This overworked the two who were present together with the coordinator.

However, the two volunteers and the coordinator put hands on desk to see that everything that had to be done was done and well done. We acknowledge the visit of the Head branch during the third week of the program and on the closing day. They helped in no small way for the program to end successfully. Despite all odds, it is said that “all is well that ends well”.

*For Reach Out Douala,
Linda Bassay*