



That in every way, Christ is proclaimed. Phil 1:18

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INTER-RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN CAMEROON RESOLVE TO JOINTLY TAKE ON NATIONWIDE PEACE STRIDES

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E D I T O R I A L

It is a New Year!

One dusk leads to another dawn, one year ends giving way to another, one door closes and another opens, one page closes and another opens.

Last year might have had its challenges, its pains and aches, last year might have also had its moments of bliss. But it is past and gone.

This is a new year! It dawns with new opportunities. Stretch forth and grab each moment and make it count.

Paul says: "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal (Phil.3:13-14a).

Leave yesterday with its hurts and aches;

Leave yesterday with its glories and pageantries;

Stretch forth to tomorrow with hope

Step forth into that which God has for you this New Year.

Remember this, you cannot succeed to hold tomorrow when you are still clinging onto yesterday; you cannot succeed to step into your tomorrow as long as you are still hanging onto your yesterday.



Rev. MOKOKO MBUE Thomas

Welcome to this edition of the Presbyterian Echoe Newspaper. This edition covers the activities of the church in the months of November and December.

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Publisher:

Rt. Rev. FONKI Samuel FORBA

Editor-in-Chief:

Rev. MOKOKO MBUE Thomas.

Desk Editor:

Rev. Geraldine FOBANG
Diana NEBA NKUH

Desk Co-ordinator:

ANGWI Njamah

Commercial Manager:

Mme AKANG Mforten.

B'da Bureau Chief:

Chief: GEMNDA Emmanuel A.
Assistant: Ceciia MOJOKO KONDO

Layout and Graphic Design:

TATA Isaac F. (TI)

Production:

PCC Communication Department

Contact:

675979970
presecho@pconline.org

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**The Presbyterian
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PCC's MODERATOR, RT. REV. FONKI SAMUEL OPENS SYNOD OF VIGILANCE AT PC BUEA TOWN

by Valentine Bambot
& Diana Neba Nkuh



The 2020 Synod Committee dubbed; "Synod of Vigilance" culled from 1 Corinthians 16:13 opened with a service at Presbyterian Church Buea town, the presbytery seat of the Fako North.

The Sunday November, 22nd 2020 service marked the second time PC Buea Town was hosting this event, which according to the Presbyterial Secretary for Fako North, Rev. Foncham Ezekiel, was hectic organizing, but turned out to be a huge success. "We had to put up several committees in the build up to this event. We had from protocol to logistics, and all these persons were on their feet to welcome the several pastors coming in" Rev. Foncham noted with satisfaction.

The Moderator of the PCC, in his sermon, said Presbyterians and synod committee members must be alert at this time and be vigilant in prayers, adding that the Synod Committee of Vigilance is there to enable the church take decisions that will continue to keep the church alert in these trying moments since the church cannot close their eyes to the happenings around.

"Paul wrote to the church in Corinth asking the Christians to be on their guard. Apparently, they were not and needed a reminder to do so. This message is one that also goes to PCC Christians all over, that they should be vigilant against detractors, and to the synod delegates who begin meeting, they must be vigilant to take decisions that will affect our church positively" Rt. Rev. Fonki Samuel Forba noted.



The event which was spiced with several songs from choirs, saw a showcase from two choirs: the Restoration Choirs Association (RECA) which sings in the Mowpe language, from the South West Region, and the Hallelujah Choirs Association of PCC Buea Town, which sings in the Metta language from the North West Region.

Rt. Rev Fonki equally used the occasion as an opportunity to caution groups of the church and Christians to promote African and Cameroonian values, especially in their singing, as he encouraged groups and choirs to use their mother tongue in composing songs and also in their communication.

This opening ushered the Synod delegates into deliberations on pertinent issues on Monday November 23, 2020 at the Synod Office PESH Guest House in Buea.

The Synod Committee meets every other year and deliberates and decides on behalf of Synod.



INTER-RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN CAMEROON RESOLVE TO JOINTLY TAKE ON NATIONWIDE PEACE STRIDES

by Tambe Bessem Grace Enoh



Converged on the PCC PESH GUEST HALL in Buea from the 24th -27th November 2020, these leaders from various religious bodies in Cameroon sharpened their peace building skills at the capacity building workshop on peaceful conflict resolution and sustainable peace, for pastors and church leaders, organized by the Ecumenical Forum on the Anglophone Crisis (EFACC) and the Council of protestant Churches in Cameroon (CEPCA) and other partners.

In his capacity as spokesperson and host of the workshop, PCC Moderator and CEPCA president Rt. Rev Fonki Samuel Forba revealed that the workshop came as a result of ecumenical bodies abroad liaising with the PCC and CEPCA, to support and empower religious leaders to broker peace in Anglophone Cameroon. "The intention is to have this project in two phases, the first phase is for this workshop, thereafter a joint statement will be released by all religious leaders in Cameroon and then we



will plan for the next phase which involves going to the crisis hit regions to advocate for peace and justice” Rt. Rev. Fonki Samuel said. The PCC boss further reiterated that it is their duty as religious leaders to continue to stand in the gap for the suffering population and to carry on the assignment of Jesus Christ to stand for peace, and being neutral as a church, their interest is to see into the wellbeing of the people and broker peace between the people and the government.

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With focus on strategic peace building, conflict analysis and management, Reconciliation, Tolerance and living together, these church leaders released a joint statement stating their resolve at the end of the workshop, to guide them in their peace brokering journey. They resolved to organize a nationwide peace match scheduled for January 2, 2021 led by the various denominational heads, Christians and Muslims alike, to pray and preach on the need for peace to return to the once peace-loving people; they acknowledged government’s



measures in solving the Anglophone conflict, and further encouraged the government to continue to expand her quest for lasting peaceful and just ways of solving the crisis.

The religious leaders further called on the leaders of this conflict at home and abroad to refrain from promoting acts of violence; they called on Cameroonians to be unanimous in condemning every thought and attitude that does not promote living together, and to cultivate the culture of love. They further declared their willingness and readiness as religious leaders of Cameroon, to use their various institutions to objectively play a front role to bring about peace and justice to the country.



A Statement by the Religious Leaders of Cameroon on the State of Affairs in the Republic of Cameroon

We the Religious Leaders of Cameroon representing the Roman Catholic Church, the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon, the Cameroon Baptist Convention, the Anglican Church in Cameroon, Eglise Evangelique du Cameroun, Eglise Fraternele Lutherene du Cameroun, Eglise Protestante Africaine, Eglise Presbyterienne Camerounaise, Union des Eglise Evangelique au Cameroun, Union des Eglise Baptistes du Cameroun, Eglise Evangelique Lutherene du Cameroun, Native Baptist Church, The Full Gospel and the Federation of Pentecostal Churches in Cameroon and the Muslim Faith, attending a **Capacity Building Workshop on Peaceful Conflict Resolution and Sustainable Peace for Pastors and Church Leaders in Cameroon** at Buea from the 24th-27th of November 2020, found time to examine the state of affairs in Cameroon.

After due examination, we observed the following;

- that the cost and consequences of the armed conflict in Anglophone Cameroon and the Boko Haram insurgency in the North are becoming increasingly unbearable on the local populations who are paying a high price for these conflicts;
- we the Religious Leaders of Cameroon acknowledge our neutrality and impartiality, while reserving our rights to point out what is right or wrong in any conflict situation, decided to make the following declarations:
 - I. Acknowledge government's various measures to resolve the Anglophone armed conflict like the creation of the Commission for Demobilization, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of ex-fighters, the Grand National Dialogue and the Presidential Plan for the Reconstruction of the North West and South West Regions.
 - II. Encourage the government of the Republic of Cameroon to continue to expand her quest and search for lasting, genuine, acceptable, just and peaceful ways to resolve the Anglophone crisis.
 - III. That the government of Cameroon should consider less and less the military option to resolving the Anglophone crisis because conflict among

- brothers and sisters of the same family can never be genuinely and effectively resolved by force, but by understanding and reconciliation.
- IV. That Peace cannot be kept by force but can only be achieved by understanding.
 - V. That the government of Cameroon should consider the possibility of a mediated end to this crisis if that is the only option that is needed to end this senseless armed conflict.
 - VI. Call on the warlords both in Cameroon and in the Diaspora, and those feeding fat and making money for themselves as the blood of Cameroonians keep flowing, to refrain from promoting acts of violence that dehumanize the victims.
 - VII. State emphatically that every human life is sacred and valued by God the Creator for a purpose, and therefore should not be lost or taken by the whims and caprices by those who wield power, possess and command the use of arms.
 - VIII. Call on all Cameroonians to be unanimous in condemning every thought, attitude, word and action that only promotes living together without ensuring that we eat together.
 - IX. Call on all Cameroonians to cultivate the culture of love for one another, forgiving one another, reconciling with one another and being one another's keeper.
 - X. Call on every Cameroonian to be an agent of justice and peace rather than an instrument of war and destruction.
 - XI. Appeal to the government of Cameroon to grant a general amnesty to all those arrested and imprisoned with respect to the Anglophone crisis.
 - XII. Declare that we are apolitical, but should not be considered inactive and passive in playing our roles as Religious Leaders in national issues that affect the lives of Cameroonians.
 - XIII. Declare our willingness and readiness as Religious Leaders of Cameroon to use our various institutions and means to objectively, faithfully, fearfully and lovingly assist, if not play a front role to bring about a just and peaceful end to the armed conflict ravaging Anglophone Cameroon and other major national crises.
 - XIV. And call on every God-fearing Cameroonian to pray without ceasing, either as individuals, groups, denominations, or nation until the Lord

hears and answers our prayers and decisively intervenes to transform our country into an oasis of justice, peace, love and progress.

Done this day the 27th of November 2020 at Buea.

The Buea Religious Leaders of Cameroon's Declaration!

Cheikh OUMAROU MALOM DJIBRING
President High Islamic Council
27/11/2020

Amur
Ar Rev Fouli
President; Council of
Protestant Churches in
Cameroon

PASTORS TAKE ORDINATION VOWS AT PCC BAFOUSSAM

by Cecilia Mojoko Kondo 

The divine service aimed at empowering pastors after their theological training to be ministers of the word and sacraments saw fourteen pastors, all male, make public pronouncements and vows to serve God in His church diligently, Friday December 9 2020, at Presbyterian Church Bafoussam, West Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC).

In the presence of Church clergies, colleagues, family, friends and Christians, PCC's Moderator Rt. Rev. Fonki Samuel Forba, Synod Clerk, Rev Miki Hans Abia, Secretary, Committee of the Ministry, Rev. Emmanuel B. Massock, together performed the ordination rites which involves the laying of hands, a process Rev. Emmanuel Massock explains in the following words: *"the laying of hands symbolizes the mission of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given to us in our hearts but, this is a physical way in which those who have being ordained receive power and equally a means through which Christ comes to them"*.

Preaching from the book of Daniel chapter 6, the first ten verses on the theme "watch out on the choices you make", the officiating minister, Rt. Rev. Fonki Samuel Forba, charged the men of God to uphold the virtues of

commitment, endurance and dynamism in the work God has called them to do.

According to the Presbyterian Secretary for West Presbytery Rev. Ngongan Paul, hosting the event for the second time left lasting impressions in the minds of many, and the desire for the host congregation – PCC Bafoussam – to aspire to host more of such events subsequently. The presence of the Holy Spirit, he says, contributed to the enormous success.

On the eve of the ordination, the Moderator's entourage that left Buea, it should be noted, made a brief stop at the Monastery in Babete - Mbouda, West region of Cameroon on December 8 2020, where the Bafoussam ordinands staged the "Batch of Reformed Transformers", together with their spouses, had a retreat to better prepare for the ordination. The Moderator and Synod Clerk used this opportunity to remind the pastors of their spiritual responsibilities. A courtesy call was equally made by PCC's Moderator to the Governor of the West region, Awah Fonkah Augustin, an opportunity the states man used to remind the Moderator of the need for the creation of a Presbyterian Secondary school in the region. This, the Moderator assured him will be realized in the nearest future.



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PCC's MODERATOR RT. REV. FONKI SAMUEL, ORDAINS SOME 18 ASSISTANT PCC PASTORS IN LIMBE

by Diana Neba Nkuh



The Moderator of the PCC, the Rt. Rev. Fonki Samuel Forba ordained some 18 Pastors into the Ministry of Word and Sacraments in PC Beach congregation in Limbe on Wednesday the 16th of December 2020.

A crowd of faithful from various congregations and family members of the candidates for ordination thronged the premises of PC Beach congregation for this event.

The ordination service commenced with a solemn procession during which the candidates were ushered into the sanctuary for the divine rite.

One peculiarity about the ordination of this 2020 batch of ordinands in Limbe, South West

region of Cameroon is that they are those who passed through the crises rocking the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon, so they have been equipped with skills for peace transformation, according to the Dean of the Seminary, Rev. Prof. Mbengu David.

The Moderator of the PCC, Rt. Rev. Fonki Samuel Forba encouraged them to uphold their integrity by refusing to compromise. He said this while meditating from the book of Daniel 6:1-10 on the theme; "Watch Out on the choices you make". The Moderator equally articulated that "whatever you plant now, will determine what you will reap tomorrow," thus a call for the pastors to be pastors committed to doing the work of God.

The Rt. Rev. Fonki, enjoined The Batch of "Reformed Transformers" engaged in ministry at a time when the reformat tradition of the church has been tampered with and messed up by even pastors, to take the challenge to truly be the reformers they call themselves who will transform the church, in their way of ministry and bring it back to its roots.



Before the ordination service, the ordinands had to go through a retreat period at the Synod Office premises, in which they were schooled on contemporary topics crafted out by the Secretary, Committee of the Ministry, Rev. Emmanuel B Masok. The class coordinator of the batch of Reformed Transformers, Rev. Ashu Solange Ashu of Munam in the Bafut Presbytery, acknowledged that the journey was not easy for them, yet worth it. She promised the Christian population on behalf of the



The ordination of pastors in the PCC comes entire batch that they will continue to propel after three years of rigorous theological God's word by living the example, not only formation in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Kumba or another accredited as well, depending on the grace of God. She school of theology, two years of practical work equally went on to plead with the Christian in the parish under the keen observation of the population to always remember them in their Presbyterian Secretary, a recommendation letter prayers for God's power to carry them through. from the supervising Presbyterian Secretary, an interview session with a panel to determine spiritual maturity and commitment to the Call.



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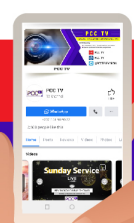


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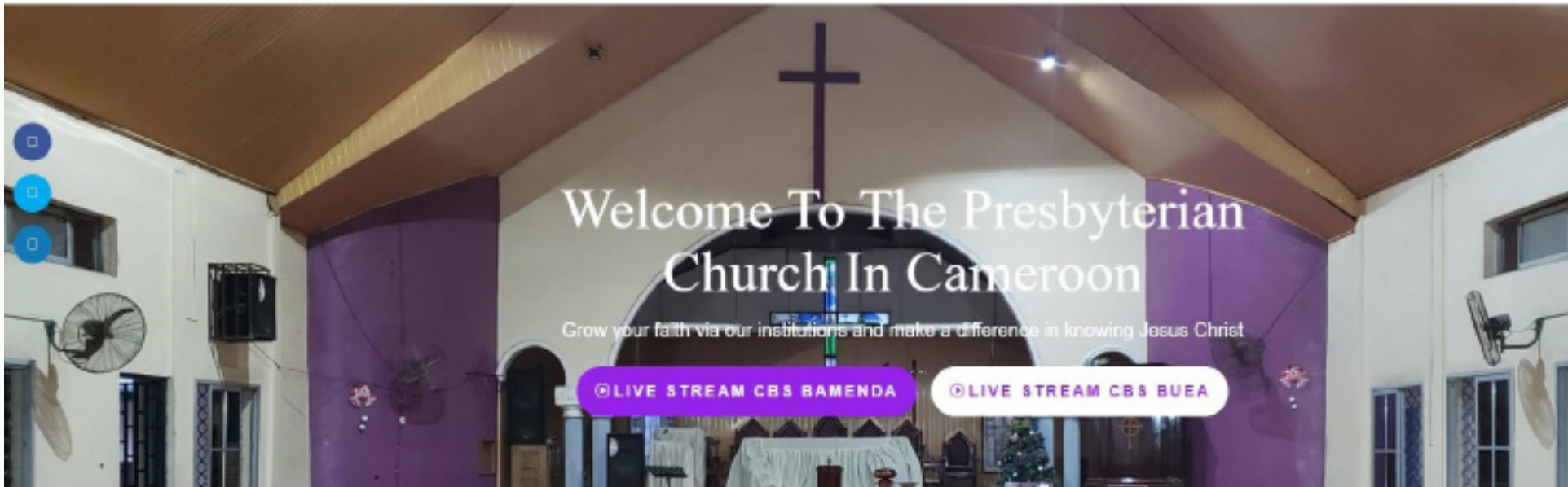



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