## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CAMEROON

Office of the MODERATOR



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New Year Greetings!

Fellow Presbyterians, Dear God's Children of Cameroon:

I bring to you divine greetings of love and prayers for a fulfilling New Year 2024. We should be sincerely thankful to God Almighty for seeing us through 2023 despite all the adversities that characterized the year. Notwithstanding, quite some glorious moments and things happened to us as individuals, a Church and as a nation last year. we can not take this for granted.

We are full of gratitude to all the faithful Presbyterians and the faith based communities who surrendered themselves in God's hands for use, in order to make 2023 a good year. We also commend the efforts of those Cameroonians, government officials, religious and civil society leaders in areas where they showed forth the marks and ideals of good leadership.

However, Cameroonians have continued to remain prisoners of hope, in the midst of menacing poverty

and misery; they have relied on God's steadfast love that never ceases and his mercies that never come to an end. To him be the glory.

As Cameroonian and African Christians, our faith and doctrines remain rooted in the Bible and in our cultural values not in any human ideologies that are unbiblical. We understand and hold firmly to responsible and human marriage sexuality relationships between a man and a woman to which we give our cultural and Christian blessings for procreation and warmth. Any contrary teachings, practices and ideologies are foreign and equivocally unacceptable to us.

The unending 'war' in the restive North West and South West Regions has remained a grave concern. We are saddened by the continuous gruesome killings of our people. As late as the last Christmas Day 2023, innocent Cameroonians have been murdered and Christmas celebrations were partially disrupted. As if that was not enough, our people were kidnapped for exorbitant ransoms. All these things happened after the Egbekaw massacre, sporadic killings across the regions and beyond, and the constant murderous raids in Akwaya by gun men. These occurrences inform us that even the highly advertised 'return to normalcy' is not enough reasons to proclaim peace at the moment. This calls for new energy, intentional and purposeful approaches towards a more conclusive and realistic peace in the two restive regions.

In the year 2024, we strongly call on all Presbyterians and faithful children of God, and the entire Cameroonian nation to turn to God and call upon him in prayers. Trusting that God in his mercy may hear our cry for justice and peace to reign and for his children of this beautiful country to live better lives and flourish. Let us be united in our efforts to shame the devil and hold God's name in reverence.

We also call on the government, traditional and civil society leaders, including the international community to propose a review of the processes of justice and peace, an inclusive continuous genuine dialogue and other long and lasting developmental and reconstruction measures to end this crisis.

If 2024 would mean anything to us, then let even the fleeing people of Bombe, Bakinjaw, Bache and Kekukesin 2 in my native Akwaya know peace; let the Mbengwi - Alabukam - Bamenda road be opened. Let the Bambili – Bamesing - Ndop stretch know peace. Let Kumbo, Mamfe, Kumba and Ndop know peace. May many more of our villages and towns be made safer, and let there be harmony amongst the different social facets of life. Beside the socio- economic crisis in the restive regions; many Cameroonians still lack clean portable water, they experience epileptic electricity power supplies, poor road networks which have become the cause of fatal road accidents including rising number of deaths and bloodshed.

We appeal to the government of our country to look at the plight of the masses. What is governance without basic welfare? What is politics and democracy without the commensurate dividends and the improvement of the living conditions of the citizens?

On our part as Servants of God with a divine mandate; we lend ourselves to prayers for justice, fairness, equity and peace. We hope for a wholistic healing of our Nation from all that denies her the fulfilment of a national dream for the common good of our youths and people.

We call on all Christians of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon to be law abiding and God fearing patriots in both their private and public ambitions. While we do so, Presbyterians must also respect the governance structures of the Church and be vigilant to avoid the manipulations that have destroyed us as a people and affected our unity and growth as we prepare the Church for another spiritual oriented election in 2024. We must allow God to speak through us to select credible leaders at all levels who will be bold to address the issues of injustices and threatening life's issues in our era.

We pray for good health, hard work, and job opportunities that will lead our nation to prosperity, peace and goodwill to all Cameroonians and the spirit of the fear of the Lord. May righteousness exalt our nation Cameroon and may God bless the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon.

Happy New Year

