

ACWAY

A Common Word Among the Youth

REPORT

PEACE THROUGH SPORTS IN CAMEROON-ACWAY

Dates: February 04-5, 2016 (WIHW)

Location: Santchou, Cameroon

Target Group: Young people of 12 to 18 years old

Aim: Promoting religious dialogue and harmony as well as sustainable peace in Cameroon

Summary

On February 4th and 5th this 2016, **Global Compassion's** team organizes a two days activities on interfaith dialogue for Peace leads by Clement Awanfe Ngueto (a Fellow of ACWAY; Morocco Dec. 11-16, 2015) and initiated to celebrate the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week which coincides this year with The Cameroon National Youth Week. The first day (February 04, 2016) activities was a



Family after the dialogue session Feb. 04, 2016

based on interfaith dialogue, youth exchange and football exhibition by young girls as a tool for peacebuilding. The collaboration with three (03) religious leaders, government officials, Global Compassion team, teachers and youth from 03 schools in Santchou to talk about the need of sustainable peace in Cameroon. This event bring 80 people from different religions and cultures together through a dialogue interaction and sport; all under the theme titled “**Love of God and love of the Neighbour**”.

The second day (February 05, 2016) Global Compassion's team visited the Muslim community in Santchou with the leadership of the Imam SAIDOU OUMAROU (Muslim leader) for the exchange of cultures, brainstorming for future actions related to a sustainable peace in Cameroon despite the Boko Haram conflict in the far north of the country. All together we spread the words for a peaceful country and the World by seeking useful ways to avoid radicalization of teenagers and youth in Cameroon. Knowing that Boko Haram uses Teenagers for suicide bombing and other young people as soldiers in their terrorist group; we pledge our voices together, Muslims and Christians in the community to save our country against terrorism and radicalization.

Methodology

During the first day of activities, the seat for participants was in a circle model putting together the panel, students and the moderator at yard of the Government Bilingual High School of Santchou. Religious leaders present the keynotes to lightening the interfaith dialogue by showing how the love of your neighbour is the love of God through compassionate mindset and actions. The moderator (Franklin Ewoukap) uses the theme for the exchange and interaction sessions during the dialogue for peace and organizes a football exhibition by youth girls to bring together people from different religions and beliefs in this community of multiple ethnicities, cultures and religions. The moderator recommends that people having the time of speech can stand to allow everyone to know him and easily interact with him. Everyone was free to speak and the moderator also encourages the intervention of all to show the harmony we seek and collaboration all together for one major goal which is PEACE in the World. A local TV station (CANAL2) was recording thoughts through interviews from some participants after the dialogue session and during the football exhibition; this news was featured in the TV and allows people from other part of the country to know this actions for Peace in Cameroon.

The day two (02) was on a friendship visit, talk and brainstorming for the future of our country due to the Boko Haram terrorism which uses the name of Islam to kill others. All the Muslims was against this type of crime which consists to kill others for religious purposes and share with us some words from the CORAN which condemns the acts of terrorism and hate for others. The Muslim community received us in their Imam's home and grantee us with a friendship dinner to enforce the harmony and Peace between Muslims and Christians. We end up with a family picture together for Peace with our team and all religions.

Conclusion

As **Malala Yousafzai** (Nobel Prize) says -“With Guns you can kill terrorists, but with Education you can kill terrorism”- we agreed all participants during this two (02) days of interfaith dialogue and think about creating a Computer Lab for Children within the area which will provide basic computers knowledge to young people, help us as a platform to combine computers and peace education plus a small library where people can find Islam and Christians books in support of the harmony and religious coexistence in Cameroon. The computer Lab will be start running by mid-March and future plans to launch another dialogue event will be announced shortly according to our vision for a better World where Peace prevail; not conflict and hate for others.

Quotes from religious leaders during the dialogue on February 04, 2016

*Abbé. **Guy TIKI** -“To show that you love God who is not visible, you must love human being you see and who was created by God”*

*Imam. **Saidou OUMAROU** -“God do not say you can kill your brothers and sisters but you must use love and compassion to value human being who Is God”*

*Rev. **Louis FOKA** -“We were created by God to live together and share the same which is Love”*



Video report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ekodcly0bl4>