

YEP/VBS REPORT 2025

This year's theme was "SHINING FOR CHRIST" inspired from the book of Matt 5:14-16. It was aimed at encouraging the kids to shine their lights through Love, Courage, Obedience, Kindness and making wise choices.

This report elaborates the activities, outcomes and difficulties of the 2025 edition.



This year's program ran from June 24th to August 1st in Bomono, Bonaberi, Cite de la paix (CDLP), Tiko, Mutengene, Muea and July 14 to August 17th in Bangangte.

There was a total of 433 kids, a drop from 700 kids in 2024 as follows: Bonaberi (63 down from 76 kids), Cite de la Paix (55 down from 56 kids), Tiko (43 down from 44 kids Muea (57 down from 70 kids) and Bangangte (101 up from 83 kids last year), Mutengene (45 kids up from 41 last year), Bomono (79 kids up from 41 last year)

There were forty facilitators spread throughout the seven locations.

ACTIVITIES:

Activities included: Singing, Bible Studies, Arts and Crafts, Cookery, Sex Education and Personal Hygiene, Environmental Education, Children's Rights, Games, Memory Verses and Drama centered on the theme.

The kids were divided into 3 Classes: Class 1: 5-8years, Class 2: 9-11years and Class 3: 12-15years. The Program ran three days per week in the different locations according to their convenience.

1) SINGING

The kids learned many songs this year about shining their lights. Some of the songs included: Shine like Jesus, This little light of mine, Arise and shine, Love is the very best way to shine God's light, etc. Singing is usually a happy activity for the kids especially as they sing with actions.



Watching and practicing the song "Shine like Jesus"

2) BIBLE STUDY

As earlier mentioned, Bible study was centered on shining their lights through;

1. Love. Drawing inspiration from the Good Samaritan, this helped the children to understand loving kindness. God wants his children to shine their lights by being kind, showing love and caring for people, irrespective of who they are.

2. Making good choices. From the story of Daniel and his friends refusing the king's choice food, the children learned the importance of obeying God and following his ways. They learnt how to make good choices through contentment and self-control. Daniel and his friends refused the king's choice food and were contented with vegetables and water.

3. Courage. The kids learned courage from the story of Esther, how courageous she was to appear before the king without being summoned. They also learned the power of prayers in instilling courage as Esther prayed and fasted before gaining courage to appear before the king.

4. Repentance. Just like the prodigal son, the children learned the importance of repentance. Whenever you make mistakes, you can always go back to ask for forgiveness. Also whenever someone is sorry for what they did wrong, God always forgives. They learned how to forgive others just like the prodigal son's father. In that way, they shine Christ's light.



Word search on the love lesson



Watching the Good Samaritan story

3) ARTS & CRAFTS

There were a variety of hands-on activities the kids enjoyed. They are: paper crafts, love bracelets and balloon lights.

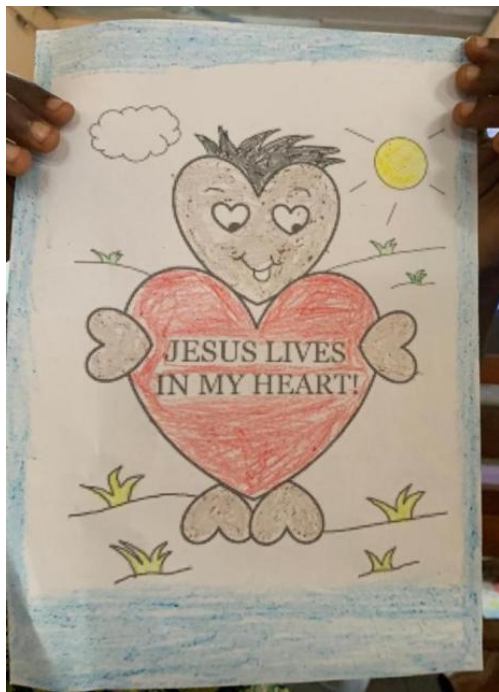
i) Paper crafts



Smiling face sunlight



Candles



Coloring hearts



ii) Balloon bulbs from waste plastic bottles



iii) Love bracelets





4) COOKERY

Cookery this year was focused on teaching the kids how to make various shapes of butter cookies and simple vanilla cakes with shapes that representing various sources of light. They shapes are sun, moon, stars, heart.



Heart shaped vanilla cake and various shapes of Cameroonian cookies (chinchin)

5) **SEX EDUCATION AND PERSONAL HYGIENE**

The different classes were taught according to their age groups. Focus was on what sex is, the private parts, how to detect a sexual abuser, the effects of being sexually active in an early age, resist peer pressure and stay chaste till the right time. They were equally taught how to care for themselves and remain neat as they attain puberty.

This year during the sex education class, the older children were taught what LGBT stands for. As children of God, they were encouraged not to indulge into such acts because the Bible condemns them. God's plan is for male and female to get married and procreate to fill the earth. If same sex people get married, how will the human race continue to exist? The human race will surely be extinct.



Sex Education class in Bomono

6) **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

Lessons on environmental education were focused on sustainability through waste minimization and recycling. Children were encouraged to take good care of God's creation (trees, flowers, animals, birds) and their own personal belongings (books, pencils, clothes, shoes, e.t.c) in order to avoid waste. Used plastic bottles were transformed to balloon bulbs.



Admiring the trees and talking of its importance



Waste plastic bottles into balloon bulbs

7) CHILDRENS RIGHTS AND DUTIES

Children were taught their rights and duties, so that they should be able to defend themselves whenever another person is depriving them or abusing them. They also had lessons on their duties so they will be good citizens.



Lessons on children's rights and duties

8) GAMES

This program was spiced with lots of interesting games using mostly disposable cups coupled with other items like water, balloons, little floatable balls etc. In most of these games their speed and concentration was tested. It was also fun cheering up participants.



9) MEMORY VERSES AND POEMS

Memory verses and poems centered on the theme, environmental education, sex education and children's rights and duties were handed to kids and those who recited well presented them during the closing ceremony.

10) DRAMA

The kids acted dramas on the Good Samaritan, the negative effects of littering, and how to be a responsible teenager by saying, "NO" to corruption. These Dramas were presented during the closing ceremony.

CLOSING CEREMONY

The Closing ceremonies took place between July 13 and August 5 in the first six locations while Bangangte, the last location closed on August 17. The kids showcased their arts works and presented some of the activities they had been learning throughout the program: crafts, drama, memory verses, poems, games and songs.

Gifts of school supplies (customized YEP/VBS umbrellas, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, sharpeners) were handed to all participants.

This ceremony was crowned by sharing the word of God inspired by the theme – Shine your light. Parents were encouraged to be intentional in their parenting. This was done by preachers of the different locations. The welcome speeches were presented by the general coordinator, Linda Bassay and her representatives when she was not present. A common meal was served to all attendees of the closing ceremony of each location. Always a good moment of fellowship.



Closing ceremony activities

POSITIVE OUTCOMES: Four hundred and thirty-three children and forty facilitators gained moral lessons on how to shine their light for Christ through love, courage, obedience, kindness and how to make good choices.

- 1) The games and activities provided a ground for bonding among them.
- 2) These kids were empowered as they worked on creative crafts and cookery.
- 3) During the closing ceremony, parents gave testimonies of how the YEP/VBS program has impacted their children positively and promised to send them every year and even send them to Sunday school classes. The Sunday classes in Bonaberi receive new kids every year after the YEP/VBS program.

This year, due to YEP/VBS, Bomono has registered eight new Sunday school kids and Cite de la paix, three, whose parents are not yet Christians.

- 4) The Gospel was preached encouraging parents to bring up their children in the way of the Lord and to be an example to them in order to build a better Cameroon.

CHALLENGES

- 1) Drop in population

There was a drop of two hundred and sixty-seven kids giving a total of four hundred and thirty-three kids as opposed to seven hundred kids in 2024. This drop was as a result of the exclusion of three locations: Kongwe, Mudeca and Buea. These locations were left out because the missionary family travelled for furlough and so could not handle all ten locations.

Despite the challenges, YEP/VBS 2025 was a great success.

This program has always suffered financial difficulties. But this year was different because Cloverdale is now helping with a greater portion of the financial needs. Glory be to God! The team is grateful. Also there was a tremendous drop in the number of participants.



The problem of transportation has been solved with the coming of the CAMWORK bus. The YEP/VBS team is grateful for this means of transportation.

May the Almighty God continue to bless all donors and facilitators who made YEP/VBS 2025 a success. For the team, Linda Bassay