

FFWPU Cameroon Youth Department convenes General Assembly for youth

Edwin Plekhanov
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We offer our gratitude to Heavenly Parent and True Parents for their abundant grace and inspiration as we gradually usher in 2017. Following the reorganization of the unification movement in Cameroon and the creation of our Youth Department, the newly appointed director of the Youth Department, Nchia Kamran, under the guidance of the national president, Rev. Edwin Plekhanov, convened a General Assembly for young members of the unification movement and for the launching of the new department. This took place on January 14 and 15 at the Pastoral Mission Center of Douala I. There were twenty-eight young people present, which included high school students, university students, an engineer, an accountant, a psychologist and a musician, among other occupations.

Building the future together

The meeting began at 11:00 am on the January 14 with holy songs, the Cheon Il Guk anthem and the Family Pledge. Mr. Tamo Desire, the regional coordinator of YFWP Littoral, offered an opening prayer. The new secretary general of YFWP Cameroon, Dr. Kouakou Laure, gave a welcome

speech. We followed this with the sharing of Hoon Dok Hae by reading an extract from "The Way of Young People." This was very inspiring as we read what True Father had said concerning how young people need to plan for their future before reaching the age of thirty. Many of us in the audience were in our twenties. Thereafter, some youths such as Ndum Benjamin, Mandiefe Gaius and Cindy Agwo shared their understanding of the Hoon Dok Hae. The secretary of the session was Dr. Un-hee and Nchia Kamran, assisted by Mr. Ernst Paul Kamga, the director of the Communication, Sports, Arts and Culture Department, who chaired the meeting.

After Hoon Dok Hae, Soon-Ae Ndasi presented a song before Rev. Edwin mounted the stage to give an orientation of what he expects of the Youth Department. He explained that the mission of the Youth Department is a very serious one, because it encompasses YFWP, CARP, HARP and the Religious Youth Service (RYS). He said the future of the providence depends on how we manage this department, so we who are alive in this era should invest our utmost to see that the future of this department is bright for those who come after us. He also said that when very few young people are in the movement, it means there is not enough life and that we have to give life to the movement by first aligning ourselves with the flow of the providence and multiplying in number.

Together in song and unity

After this, we went on to hear reports from the different youth organizations beginning with HARP, then CARP and YFWP. Victoria Tching-Bobe, who is a sixteen-year-old second-generation member in high school, presented the HARP report. She explained how she had invited WFWP to speak about purity and AIDS prevention on World AIDS Day in December to students at a meeting she had organized. She plans to expand this type of initiative to more high schools through other second-generation teen-aged members.

Next came the report by Ndum Stancia, president of CARP, who spoke about the re-launch of CARP activities and a CARP fund raising project. Later she will tour three regions to see how to organize CARP by first seeking CARP core members who are willing to engage with people. Next, the CARP president of Douala, Soon Ae Ndasi, gave a report about plans to get CARP functioning at the University of Douala. Lastly, we listened to a report by the outgoing YFWP president, Mr. Obam Patrick, who gave an overall report of YFWP activities from the time he became president to date.

He explained the difficulties that accompanied this responsibility and the prospects that waited the next generation. His analysis drew applause and he promised to support the incoming president in whatever area that a need arises. After this, Dr. Marthe Nchia, wife of newly appointed director, Nchia Kamran, entertained us with a song. She sang "*Je Suis Dans La Joie*," [I'm Happy] raising high the spirit of the participants. We had a lunch break at 2:45 pm.



Group investigation

After lunch, we returned for the afternoon session at 4:30. This time we organized ourselves into three groups for group reflection on the internal situation of our movement's young people. Mr. Ernst Paul Kanga coordinated this. Each group tried to identify three problematic situations in the state of the providence in relation to young people and tried to come up with causes and practical methods to resolve the situations at hand. After

three hours of deep reflection and cooperative team work, the three groups presented their findings through three representatives who were Ms. Cindy Agwo, Dr. Kevine Seigning and Mr. Ernst Paul Kanga.

After the presentations, we received more orientation from the national president, Rev. Plekhanov, concerning the various issues that the groups had raised. He emphasized that we should not look at them as problems but as situations in need of resolution. These situations will always be present in each generation until all is restored but that the work done will be taken into consideration and ways will be found to support these youths. We then concluded the first day at 10: 00 pm with a unison prayer and dinner that FFWPU Douala had prepared.

Changes in leadership

On the second day, we all attended Sunday service with the Douala family members. After the Sunday service, Rev. Edwin proceeded with the installation of the incoming YFWP president, Mr. Tchetchoua Rodrigue, and the new executive bureau. Mr. Ndum Benjamin became vice-president of YFWP. Before the installation, Mr. Patrick spoke a bit about the handover before preceding to hand over all the administrative documents to Mr. Rodrigue. Dr. Ndum Benjamin pledged to continue to support YFWP and its new president.

After the handover ceremony, we had lunch and continued with the next session at 4:00 pm. This session began with a presentation on the Youth Department by Mr. Nchia Kamran. He explained the role of the Youth Department and the responsibilities of HARP, CARP and YFWP, which are the current functioning youth organizations. He explained the strategy to be put in place to effectively contribute to increase the number of youths who receive the blessing and establish blessed families.

RYS is yet to be created. After this presentation, Rev. Edwin took the floor. He laid greater emphasis on the strategy put in place and explained in depth that this is what all departments will use to realize vision 2020.

Another perspective on young people

After that, we had a second group reflection in the three groups, this time on the external situation of young people in our movement. The problem centered on why stagnation has existed in the number of youths joining the church and receiving the blessing for the past five years and methods of practically resolving the situation. Three representatives each presented their findings, Ms. Kevine Seigning, Ms. Mihwa Tiba and Dr.

Alexis. Many points were raised and in the end Nchia Kamran asked the three representatives to write a detailed report of the findings, which will serve as a reminder for us and as a guide to improve on the situations we face. He recalled what Rev. Edwin said the previous day that these are situations and not problems and that we need to act as mature young adults and take responsibility in resolving the issues within our capacity. After the presentation, we went out and took a group photo. Then Mr. Tamo Desire gave a presentation on a mobilization project that started in Douala and how this project could serve as an example to inspire young people in other regions to take initiative.

After the presentation, some young members expressed their impressions of the general assembly, which is the first of its kind in many years. The session ended with guidance from the national president. He stated that henceforth our young people should base their activities on mobilization projects, which are reliable and viable.

After a question and answer session, Rev. Plekhanov encouraged everyone to become active. He added that in the end, what matters most is the number of new people who receive the blessing this year and embrace True Parents' vision. He concluded with a deep prayer to offer all the young people to our Heavenly Parent. We prayed in unison to conclude the general assembly.