

LATEST NEWS # 376, October 31, 2006

The following news concerns Cameroon.

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KidsGames promotes peace and unity in Cameroon

CAMEROON — Grey skies failed to dampen the enthusiasm of more than 1,000 children who gathered for the launch of KidsGames Yaoundé 2006 on October 14. Arriving by coach from churches, orphanages and children's centres, they processed in large, colourful groups into the stadium, where the proceedings began with the arrival of the 'Olympic flame'.

The children, who ranged in aged from three to 14, had been invited to participate in KidsGames by the Bible Society of Cameroon, which arranged the event in partnership with local churches and Christian outreach organisations. They were welcomed by General Secretary Luc Gnowa, who spoke about the history of KidsGames and about the importance of churches, schools, organisations and community groups working together for children.

"Sports and games offer practical opportunities to teach children positive values, to encourage them to participate in community projects and to develop their skills," he said.

Mr Gnowa also welcomed the guest of honour, Augustin Edjoa, the Minister for Sport and Physical Education. This was only the second official engagement which Mr Edjoa had attended since his appointment on September 22, emphasising the priority he gives to developing the country's future leaders. Mr Gnowa presented the Minister with a copy of *La Bible Expliquée* ('The Bible Explained').

"If we base the education of our people on this Word," Mr Gnowa said as he handed the Bible to Mr Edjoa, "our nation will be blessed."

"We are very pleased with the work being carried out by the Bible Society among children," responded Mr Edjoa. "We will support it in developing this program."

Following the opening ceremony, the children participated in a wide range of sporting events, including football, gymnastics and water games. All the events were designed to break down social barriers by encouraging children from different backgrounds to work together harmoniously.



“KidsGames aims to help children to get to know themselves and others and to discover the Bible in order to find answers to life’s most important questions,” said Mr Gnowa. “We want to fight discrimination and encourage peace and national unity.”

KidsGames did not end as the children left the stadium at the end of the day: for the next two months, games and Bible study sessions will be held in various local churches. The closing ceremony will take place on December 9. (391 words – CAMEROON.?? .11.06)

Photos (Bible Society of Cameroon):

CAM06DJ-1: Luc Gnowa, General Secretary of the Bible Society of Cameroon (left), presented a copy of La Bible Expliqueé to the new Minister for Sport, Augustin Edjoa, at the opening ceremony for the KidsGames event held in Yaoundé on October 14, 2006.

CAM06DJ-4: The arrival of the ‘Olympic flame’ at the KidsGames event held by the Bible Society of Cameroon in Yaoundé on October 14, 2006.

CAM06DJ-10: A water game at the KidsGames event held by the Bible Society of Cameroon in Yaoundé on October 14, 2006.

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