

11th March 2008

Article for Portsmouth People
From Portsmouth Bamenda Committee

Being an update of the latest allocations of grants to Bamenda from the Bamenda Fund

OVER £80,000 IN GRANTS TO OUR TWINNED DIOCESE OF BAMENDA CAMEROON

Fr Ron, Chair of the Portsmouth Bamenda Committee, writes:

'Dear Father, we can't cease thanking you and your team for the marvellous job you are doing for this local Church. We remain eternally grateful to God for all your efforts and endeavours. Thank you for the detailed analysis of the various projects. From our end we shall see how to follow up the projects in detail. Extend our greetings to the others.'

I recently received the above message from Fr Gregory the Financial Secretary at Archbishop's House Bamenda

The reason for the message was that, thanks to your donations every Bamenda Sunday (the first weekend in November each year), plus money arising from bequests and donations from Parishes, schools and individuals, at the recent meeting of the Diocesan Bamenda Committee, we could allocate more than £80,000 (* see detailed breakdown below) to Bamenda and so respond constructively, even if modestly, to the many appeals we received during the January tour of our twinned Diocese in the North West of Cameroon.

The recent violent unrest that spread throughout the region, thankfully now subsided, indicates the degree of poverty and injustice many, especially in the towns and cities, are suffering. We are privileged to offer Bamenda a helping hand of friendship.

How can you help ensure we continue to help our friends?

Send a cheque, large or small, in favour of: 'PRCDTR Bamenda Commission' or 'The Bamenda Fund' to the Committee's Secretary. Mrs Elizabeth White, 8 Rimington Road, Cowlplain Waterlooville PO8 8UA.

If you wish, you can specify what kind of project you would like to support, or leave it to the Committee to allocate. And why not *make a bequest to Bamenda* in your Will – it is safe way to help the Third World.

To find out more, go on line to our newly registered website: www.bamendaandportsmouth.com. Or you can always contact me personally by e-mail: ronhishon@btinternet.com

* A summary of donations:
£6,000 each to: St. Patrick's Health Centre Babanki Tungo to help roof second phase of building etc.; St. Edmund's Mulang (Azire Parish) to help build catechist's house.
£5,000 to: Diocesan Education Secretary to create 'revolving fund' to pay teachers more justly while awaiting Government subventions.
£4,000 to: Diocesan pastoral Formation Centre towards an all terrain vehicle for outreach to rural areas.
£3,500 to St. Patrick's Mission Station Njinteh – Bafut to help sustain the Catholic School.
£3,000 each to: Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Ndop to forward the building of their new Church; Sr. Hedwig, a Cameroonian sister who has worked so hard for 25 years in the apostolate to prisoners and AIDS victims etc. for a sabbatical.
£2,400 each to: Bambui Water Project towards maintenance facilities for newly built system; Bamenda urban area for Sisters Chiarra and Hedwig's support groups for 500 children and families affected by AIDS; Bafut Health Centre to fund their HIV/AIDS educational and support project; Njinikom Hospital 'Project

Hope' outreach project to prevent the spread of AIDS, and support victims; Njinikom hospital to help build new maternity ward; Diocesan Pastoral Formation Centre for remuneration of full time staff members; Archbishop Cornelius' Scholarship Fund to pay school fees of poor families; Maryvale Bafut Catechists' Training Centre for CTS 'Echoes' Packs; John Paul II New Catholic Comprehensive College in Wum – to help build dormitories; St. Mary's Mission Station Kezon – Bambui to help complete Church; Bawok Primary School to help build new classrooms; St. Francis Xavier's Parish Bali, to help refurbish / rebuild old priest's house; St. Paul's Secondary School Mile 3 Nkwen to help build dormitories
£1,200 each to: humanitarian aid to the Bamenda Prison; to the justice and peace formation in human rights; Sr. Sheila's programme of counselling and support for 75 AIDS victims and their families; Akum Health Centre for essential equipment; Bafut Health Centre for their new operating theatre; Wum Health Centre for their operating theatre; Ndop Catholic School to help repair /replace old classrooms; Bamessing Mission Station to help complete priest's house; Batibo new Deaf and Dumb School to help with equipment.