

2023 Cameroon Mission Report

Well Construction

Four wells have been constructed in Cameroon in 2023, thanks to the fundraising support of St. John's Cameroon Mission volunteers, donors and the work of project partners in Cameroon. These wells are providing clean drinking water for the first time to hundreds of village residents who previously collected water from impure rivers and streams – often the source of disease. The solidly built, hand-pump wells have been constructed at the low cost of \$5,500 per well, thanks to the effective business practices and dedication of local partners.

The wells are located in the villages of Akok, Mvie-Tchengue, Mvie-Yendjock and Kananga. The well built in Akok was generously sponsored by the Jerry Hines family, in memory of Jerry Hines. The Hines family also sponsored the construction of the Janet Hines Memorial Well in Kribi, Cameroon in 2009, still in use today.

A fifth well is currently under construction at a shelter for women and children impacted by AIDS in the village of Mfou. Completion date of this fifth well is scheduled for January 2024.

In gratitude, the mission's "Daddy's Friends Association" project partners in Cameroon have provided many wonderful photos and videos of the well construction which will soon be compiled and shared with the SJUMC community. (Daddy's Friends Association, named in memory of a beloved local pastor, is group of the pastor's family members and church elders engaged in humanitarian efforts.)

Farming and Sewing Projects

In 2023, Cameroon Mission funds were also used to purchase agricultural supplies to support a large cooperative farm coordinated by Daddy's Friends Association with the goal of increasing food security and local employment. These supplies included a chain saw, brush cutter, tiller and auger.

The farm employs agricultural students from the University of Cameroon who provide technical expertise, in addition to many local workers. Harvests of beans, potatoes, corn and leafy vegetables are divided among the workers and donated to families experiencing significant hardships.

St. John UMC Cameroon mission volunteers also continued to encourage a sewing apprentice project in Cameroon and provide some support to Cameroonians needing specialized eyeglass prescriptions.

Fundraising

To support these efforts, St. John Cameroon Mission volunteers organized two fundraising events in 2023. These included the Rummage Sale in June and Craft Fair in October, raising over \$7,000.

Next Steps

A mission trip is being planned for summer of 2024. This will be the mission's seventh trip over a 30-year SJUMC relationship with Cameroon project partners. Travelers will participate in development projects, commemorate well construction and share fellowship with host partners and the local church community.