

**WATER IS LIFE: GIVING LIFE AND FREEDOM TO PEOPLE IN CAMEROON
(CLARET LIFE COMPETITION)**

CLARET-VIDA AWARD

Presented by the Delegation of Cameroon

WATER IS LIFE, WATER IS EVERYTHING, WATER SETS US FREE



Claret Vida Picture 1: Drinking from the Fountain of Life

**WATER IS LIFE: GIVING LIFE AND FREEDOM TO PEOPLE IN CAMEROON
(CLARET LIFE COMPETITION)**

Our Stewardship in providing clean water

Often people say that WATER IS LIFE. Is that true?

We, Claretians in Cameroon come to share our experiences of how we have worked to make WATER IS LIFE come true.

BEFORE



Claret Vida Picture 2: This is not TEA; this is water

CASE STUDY : SAKDJE

When I was thirsty you gave me to drink. Matthew 25:35

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 6) seeks to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for all. Water is one of the most important elements in the daily life of society.

*Sakdje is a village in the Northern Region of Cameroon handed over to Claretian Missionaries in October 2021. It covers 13 villages where our priests celebrate masses for the people. Our focus will be to construct a borehole water in all of these 13 villages and more. **A water well costs 20000dollars, powered by solar energy. After drilling, the water is connected to the nearest schools, markets and public gatherings***

WATER IS LIFE: GIVING LIFE AND FREEDOM TO PEOPLE IN CAMEROON (CLARET LIFE COMPETITION)

In the villages in our parish territory that attracted our curiosity since our arrival in this almost forgotten part of Cameroon, water is so scarce. If during the rainy season, which lasts only 3 to 4 months in the year, the population can collect water as it can, in the dry season it becomes very scarce and undrinkable. Many diseases are observed in this area because of the consumption of river and lake water. This explains our motivation to direct our very first project towards the realization of boreholes and overhead water tanks to thus contribute to relieve the social pain of the people.



Claret Vida Picture 3: The source of life????

THE PROBLEM

Mothers are affected : They cannot cook, wash clothes or bathe their children.

Children are affected: They contract diarrhea and cholera, two waterborne diseases that are the leading cause of death for children under 5 in Cameroon.

Women and Girls are affected: They need to trek for up to 10 miles away to look for potable water. They risk being attacked on their way to retrieving water for basic needs

Farmers are affected: They contract waterborne diseases from drinking contaminated water and suffer failed crops from no irrigation. Farmers who can't earn a living wage are unable to feed or shelter their families.

**WATER IS LIFE: GIVING LIFE AND FREEDOM TO PEOPLE IN CAMEROON
(CLARET LIFE COMPETITION)**

WE ARE ALL AFFECTED

We form one humanity with the suffering People. The Gospel Echoes these words: When I was thirsty you gave me to drink. Matthew 25:35. The suffering of one member of the body of Christ affects us all.

We all need WATER to survive—to drink, to bathe, to grow food without risking disease—is an essential human necessity.

HEALTH WISE MANY LIVES WILL BE SAVED: Diseases from dirty water kill more people every year than all forms of violence, including war.

EDUCATION WISE: Clean water helps keep kids in school, especially girls. Less time collecting water means more time in class. Clean water and proper toilets at school means teenage girls don't have to stay home for a week out of every month.

THE SITUATION NOW



Claret Vida Picture 4: This is a sample of Water wells constructed in different villages.

**WATER IS LIFE: GIVING LIFE AND FREEDOM TO PEOPLE IN CAMEROON
(CLARET LIFE COMPETITION)**

**WE CAN NOW AFFIRM NOT ONLY THAT WATER IS LIFE; BUT THAT WATER
SETS US FREE**

Water sets us FREE:

□ F – This means that Water is a sign of FRATERNITY. It is a meeting point where people come to fetch what they need. In the course of bringing Water, they discuss with one another and help each other put their water pot on their head.

□ R – This means that Water is a source of REFRESHMENT. We see that grasses and animals die because of lack of Water. Water brings back life and freshness. It refreshes whatever it touches.

□ E – This means that Water is a good step towards EMANCIPATION. Women and Girls are the most affected by the Water crises. They need to trek up to 10 miles away to look for potable Water. Some are attacked and even raped on their way to retrieve Water for basic needs. No wonder an author once said: "Water, the promise of emancipation."

□ E - EDUCATION wise, Clean Water helps keep kids in school, especially girls. Less time collecting Water means more time in class. `



Claret Vida Picture 5: Water is Fraternity

**WATER IS LIFE: GIVING LIFE AND FREEDOM TO PEOPLE IN CAMEROON
(CLARET LIFE COMPETITION)**



Claret Vida Picture 6: This is Clean Water



Claret Vida Picture 7: Water is Education

**WATER IS LIFE: GIVING LIFE AND FREEDOM TO PEOPLE IN CAMEROON
(CLARET LIFE COMPETITION)**



Claret Vida Picture 8: Water is Emancipation

Places where Claretians in Cameroon have realized the Water for Life Project

- Saint Dominic's Parish Munyenge, Diocese of Buea
- Martyrs of Barbastro Philosophy Seminary, Nkolbisson, Yaoundé
- Our Lady of Assumption Parish Santa, Bamenda; serving the village
- Saint Claret Relief Academy, Site A, Santa, Bamenda and the village
- Saint Claret Relief Academy New Site, Serving the Population of Njong
- Saint Joseph the Worker Parish Batchenga, serving the Village of Olemebe and Batchenga
- Saint Charles Lwanga Parish, Nkolbisson, Yaounde
- Saint Agnes Parish, Kumba
- Saint Joseph Quasi Parish, Baligham, Bamenda
- Saint Claret Bilingual Academy, Bwang Bakoko, serving the school and vilages
- Claret Youth Training Center, Ndobo, Douala, serving the center and population
- Saint Kizito Parish Pekwa, Baham
- Paroisse Saint Pierre et Paul d'Abang Mindi, Yaounde
- Paroisse Sainte Famille de Mfida, Yaounde
- Saint Anthony Mary Claret Parish Saktje Garoua so far has SEVEN Boreholes: Saktje, Djaba, Dogba, Mayobam, Bawada, Banda, and Guidjiba

**WATER IS LIFE: GIVING LIFE AND FREEDOM TO PEOPLE IN CAMEROON
(CLARET LIFE COMPETITION)**

Youtube Links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWZ1g1Kjtxc&t=8s>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTu5Brj_owo&t=1s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLyZqUwR-qA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waLeRqvPC3A&t=29s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FL5uaSoV65U&t=5s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZWQ-tgNPeA&t=104s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MF2LQOA4GA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08gaNPnFoe8&t=1s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzVcknmRyws&t=17s>

On this note, we, claretians in Cameroon, come to participate in the Claret Life competition because we have been able to bring life and freedom to many people in Cameroon. We have given life to children, youths, adults and the seniors. We have given life to Christians, Muslims and Traditional Religion adherents. We have given above all FREEDOM : FRATERNITY, REFRESHMENT, EMMANCIPATION and EDUCATION.

This report is submitted today, June 20, 2023 as our participation in CLARET LIFE



Fr. Jude Thaddeus Langeh, cmf,
Major Superior

**WATER IS LIFE: GIVING LIFE AND FREEDOM TO PEOPLE IN CAMEROON
(CLARET LIFE COMPETITION)**

Endorsement by Mr Alain Gonroua, President of the Parish Pastoral Council of Saint Anthony
Mary Claret Parish Sakdje

ARCHIDIOCESE DE GAROUA

**PAROISE SAINT ANTOINE MARIE CLARET
DE SAKDJE**



ARCHIDIOCESE DE GAROUA

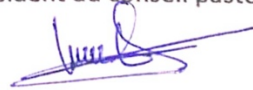
Église notre famille

Sakdjé le 20 Juin 2023

Objet : remerciements et accord favorable

Depuis l'arrivée des missionnaires claretains dans notre village Sakdjé, nous avons reçu la vie car l'eau c'est la vie. Nous chrétiens de la paroisse Saint Antoine Marie Claret de Sakdjé, nous leurs exprimons à eux et à tous les bienfaiteurs notre gratitude et leurs assurons de nos constantes prières. A ce titre, nous marquons fièrement notre accord afin qu'ils participent à ce concours CLARET VIDA.

Le président du conseil pastoral paroissial,



M. Alain GONROUA

695990854