



## Life School is the Starting Point of Education!

Happy New Year!

Your contributions keep us going! Please send a tax-exempt check payable to one of African Action on AIDS' addresses below

### Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/S AC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA's work is based on 3 programmes:

#### "JUST KNOW" Campaign emphasizes" MA YEM, MA BO":

- Knowledge of one's body
- Knowledge that leads to behavior change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

#### "Health before Wealth" Concept promotes:

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands ( hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria (treated mosquito bed nets)
- Vaccination
- Anti worms medicin

"Women's economic autonomy" through our Scholarship Programme. This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence.

AAA End of Year Event 2018 allowed us to do two things. **FIRST**, it permitted us to participate in the celebration of World AIDS Day with an emphasis on AIDS PREVENTION. **SECONDLY, our girls are in the age range part of the most infected group, which are girls between the ages of 15-25.** We therefore prepare them with the mindset and spirit that will permit them to take charge of their own lives and therefore more likely to reach their potential. This mindset we believe, will not only motivate them, but limit the chances of sexual violence and HIV infections due to economic needs. The master lecture of Prof. Charly Gabriel Mbock put this well in perspective for the girls and allowed us to affirm that: **"Life school is the Starting Point of Education!"** "It was the greatest gift for the New Year.

### Key messages from Prof. Mbock

#### In French:

"Chacun de nous est irremplaçable par le talent qui lui est propre et personnel. C'est comme l'empreinte digitale ou l'ADN: aucune empreinte ne ressemble à celle d'un autre....Voilà pourquoi l'école doit partir de la vie et s'en inspirer, pour permettre à l'apprenant de revenir nourrir la vie de sa compétence."

#### In English:

Each of us is irreplaceable. Like the fingerprint or DNA: no fingerprint is like another. This is why school must start from life and be inspired by it. Any school which distances itself from practical life offers a Book instruction without practical intelligence. Book instruction and practical intelligence can no longer be separated in the education of an individual.

Ruth Bamela Engo. AAA President



Prof. Mbock during the lecture



Le Jour N° 2827 du 7 Décembre 2018

Les relations sexuelles intergénérationnelles entre des adolescentes et les hommes plus âgés, la précarité financière, le manque d'informations, l'accès incontrôlé à l'internet et l'absence d'un contrôle parental sont les causes du fort taux de prévalence chez la jeune fille.

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