



# SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN CAMEROON



**BY PETER NEWBURN**

**Country Coordinator for Cameroon**

Peter has served in full-time ministry for over thirty-five years. He and his family spent three years as missionaries in Cameroon, where Peter was a theology teacher at the major seminary. He also worked for almost nine years as a parish life coordinator in the Diocese of San Bernardino, California, where he was responsible for overseeing all aspects of pastoral ministry and the administration of a large parish.

## OUR MISSION

This mission was the culmination of nine years of Renewal Ministries' missions throughout the country of Cameroon, which includes eight dioceses, two national clergy retreats, and the entire Claretian community. Our purpose was to provide training and spiritual renewal to clergy, religious sisters, and lay leaders. We wanted to help them gain confidence and competency in using Unbound's Five Keys, which are repentance and faith, forgiveness, renunciation, taking authority, and the Father's blessing. There were approximately 160 participants—twenty-three priests and seminarians, thirty-seven religious sisters, and about one-hundred lay leaders—from various dioceses across Cameroon.

It was a great blessing to have Matt Lozano on our team. He took the lead in providing the teaching and training. Miriam Wright is very experienced with Unbound, as well as a veteran with Renewal Ministries. She provided a loving, wise, and motherly presence while giving clear and compelling teaching.

I also am once again so grateful to Father Jude Langeh for being part of our team. He was a gracious host, shared in the teaching, leading, and testimonies, and presided and preached at our daily Eucharistic liturgies. He made many sacrifices to be fully present with us and truly served in many significant ways.

## OUR TEAM

The Cameroon team members included (left to right) Catholic Renewal Ministries' Board Member Miriam Wright; Peter Newburn; Fr. Jude Langeh, major superior of the Claretian missionaries in Cameroon; and Matt Lozano, of Heart of the Father Ministries.





## NATIONAL TRAINING

The National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) in Cameroon organized this national formation seminar. The participants were lay leaders representing all dioceses and parishes in collaboration with Bishop Sosthène Bayemi, the episcopal moderator of the Renewal, as well as clergy and representatives from religious women's communities.

The national training contained three components:

1

It provided an experience of personal renewal and empowerment with a strong emphasis on experiential learning. Many experienced profound healing, an ability to forgive, and newfound freedom. The Holy Spirit was powerfully present. People were inspired, grateful, and full of joy.

2

The Unbound content provided a clear and compelling presentation of the Gospel and a method for healing and deliverance. The participants learned the material and had the opportunity to put it into practice immediately after each session.

3

There was an emphasis on sharing Unbound with others, praying with others, and providing formation to others in the use of the Five Keys. Many felt empowered to lead training themselves, and they are now doing that, generally in a retreat format. We are hearing about wonderful fruit from their efforts!

God is blessing the work of Renewal Ministries in Cameroon. It is amazing and humbling to be a part of all that God is doing to renew the Church and its leaders. I am grateful for the prayerful and financial support of all who make these missions a reality.

# THE FRUIT OF UNBOUND

*The following is a testimony from Heart of the Father's Director of Training Matt Lozano about his time serving in Cameroon.*

The conference was exceptionally well received, partly because of the tremendous preparation the participants engaged in prior to the conference. Fr. Jude shared his testimony about how Miriam and Peter ministered to him at a very difficult point in his life—when he had been kidnapped and tortured by a militia group for several days. The forgiveness he was able to release and the healing he received helped him to grow in his relationship with God and say yes again to his call to be a leader in his religious order. Many were moved by this powerful testimony about Unbound.

Another highlight for me was hearing the testimony of Sister Pascaline, who attended an Unbound presentation before the pandemic. Knowing how badly her sisters needed to hear this message, but without access to a ministry team or a trainer, she began to train herself and share the teachings she received with her religious sisters. Over the past three years, she has given eight Unbound retreats and has

ministered to many alongside a priest who became an enthusiastic supporter after receiving ministry from Sister Pascaline!

Thanks to the generosity of our partners, we were able to give each participant an *Unbound* book and a *Freedom in Christ* workbook! Fr. Jude has been diligently translating many of our resources into French and affordable English versions for our African brothers and sisters.

**The people at this conference represented ministry teams from most of the twenty-six dioceses in Cameroon—I believe the impact of this trip will be generational and widespread. The participants left equipped to share and minister using the Unbound model.**

We are so grateful to God for being faithful, and his work is so fruitful in the lives of his beloved children. I wish I could convey the gratitude and joy of my Cameroonian brothers and sisters for having received the gift of Unbound.

