

Basel Mission Archives

"Kamerun/Cameroon: Correspondence for the year 1911, part I"

Title: "Kamerun/Cameroon: Correspondence for the year 1911, part I"

Ref. number: E-02.33

Date: Proper date: 1911

Description: 196 documents arranged in 14 sections, including one for the new Station at Ndunge. The Station in Bamum is now called "Fumban" in the indexes. (NB E-2.34 contains the Quarterly and Annual Reports for 1911; Ausschuss für Kamerun: letters and reports from the Mission's Local Executive Committee and its members, Documents 1-93; No. 2: a Petition by Lutz to the Government concerning the plans of the Bagam people to move to another location and the consequences for the newly founded mission Station. He asks to the Government to stop the Bagam people from moving. See also E-2.3,56; No. 18: Lutz mentions the case of the Witbooi prisoners who had been banished to the Bamum area from Namibia. See also No. 65; No. 29: Lutz mentions the plans of the Breklum Mission to begin work among the islamic populations of North Cameroon; No. 36: copy of a circular from the Inspector for Africa in Basel (W. Oettli) informing all missionaries about his planned visit. He mentions the need for a new version of the Regulations for Congregations (Gemeindeordnung) and sends a copy of the one in use in Ghana (i.e. on the Gold Coast); No. 45: a timetable for the railway line from Bonaberi to Nkongsamba; No. 55: Oettli (in Basel) on his planned visit, Plans to begin womens' work with the idea of placing 1-2 women missionaries on each bigger Station to work with women and girls; No. 69: Lutz mentions difficulties with the Government over buying land for the Ndunge Station. The report goes into the whole question of native land reserves and the land laws in this connection. See also No. 83 below; No. 70: copy of a paper documenting the sale of land by the Chiefs of Ndunge to the Basel Mission, with a sketch-map showing the boundaries of the area; No. 79: Lutz mentions the return to Cameroon of the son of the Chief of Akwa, who had been in Germany for some years. Soon after his arrival he was arrested and accused of inciting his countrymen to violence. See also No. E-2.34,4 below; No. 83: the Ndunge land question is still not settled due to Opposition from the Government; Bonaku: letters and reports from the Station at Bonaku, Documents 94-134; No. 116: Vöhringer asks for permission to baptise a polygamist; and is supported by Dinkelacker and Lutz. (See also No. 139); No. 124: Hüttinger in Basel to the Basel Mission Trading Company in Duala on a court case with the Government concerning requisitioning of Basel Mission land; Nos. 127-129: on the Ordination of the teacher Modi, Vöhringer describes him as a fitting person for Ordination. The other missionaries add their signatures. Modi himself asks for Ordination and sends in an autobiography which has been translated from Duala into German; Bonaberi: letters and reports from the Station at Bonaberi, Documents 135-142; No. 137: Wittwer asks permission to give Holy Communion to polygamists on their death bed. With commentaries by several other missionaries; No. 141: a request from the teacher Ekolo to be ordained, with a copy of his life history and a Statement of report by the missionaries on the Station; No.

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142: a request from Joseph Kuo to be ordained with a Statement of support from the missionaries on the Station; Bombe: letters and reports from the Station at Bombe, Documents 143-147; No. 143: Spellenberg comments on the Situation in the so-called "northern" area (Bavang-Kevaka) and suggests the stationing of teachers in several districts; Mangamba: letters and reports from the Station at Mangamba, Documents 148-168; No. 153: Stolz, Gloeckel and Dinkelacker ask for permission to up-grade the Boys' Boarding School to a Middle School, since up to now there has been no secondary education available for the many schoolboys of this area; No. 154: Mangamba Station asks permission to Start a new mission Station in Yabassa; Nos. 159-165: estimates, plans etc for the new building on the Station; Nyososo: letters and reports from the Station at Nyososo, Documents 169-172; No. 169a mentions the appointment of Wittwer to the new Station at Ndunge; Ndunge: letters and reports from the Station at Ndunge, Documents 173-195, the correspondence deals mainly with the establishment of the new Station; No. 190: Wittwer's first report on his work in Ndunge; Lobethal: letters and reports from the Station at Lobethal, Documents 196-197; Edea: letters and reports from the Station at Edea, Documents 198-214; Nos. 211-214: on the building of a railway line and conflict with the Government in that connection; Sakbayeme: letters and reports from the Station at Sakbayeme, Documents 215-220; Nos. 218-219: proposal for building two additional studies on to the Mission House, and a comment from Hüttinger in Basel; Buea: letters and reports from the Station at Buea, Documents 221-222; Bali: letters and reports from the Station at Bali, Documents 223-280; No. 238: Keller mentions problems with the Fon of Bali. There are also tensions with the Commander of the German garrison in Bamenda. He suggests a new Station should be set up in Bangwa; See also No. 241 and 254; No. 242: a drawing of the proposed Bangwa Station; Nos. 251-2: Geprägs for the Bali Station and Lutz as Local Chairman stress the need for a new Station in the Dschang area, where Catholics are now starting work. See also Nos 256, 269 and 270; No. 260: Striebel asks that Bagam be made a main mission Station; See also Nos 269 and 270; Fumban: letters and reports from the Station at Fumban, Documents 281-296. (NB this Station has been referred to as "Bamum" in the indexes up to now. "Fumban", as the name of the capital of the Kingdom of Bamum is, of course, a more correct designation for the Mission Station); No. 281 mentions the problem of choosing a medium of Instruction for the schools and a language of worship for church Services; Nos. 283-287: on further building on the Mission Station; No. 295: Geprägs mentions a report written by King Njoya on the history of the Bamum people. See also E-10.1,2 and E-20.6,10

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