



The Health Services Chronicle

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Stop Press!!
The CBCHS Press Division wishes her faithful readers a Merry Christmas in advance. Thank you for the partnership throughout 2017.

Bible Verse of the Month

"Do not mistreat an alien or oppress him for you were aliens in Egypt". Exodus 22:21 (NIV).

Africa Mercy Ships Official Speaks Out!

An official of the Africa Mercy Ships has clarified a wide range of issues surrounding the humanitarian organization, which is currently anchored at Douala seaport and offering quality healthcare to poor Cameroonians. He spoke to the CBCHS Press team on a working visit to Douala viz: Wango Barnabas, Bonkung Handerson and Vinyoh Anthony. The official began by introducing himself and the purpose of Africa Mercy Ships. Excerpts...



Pieter du Preez addressing staff of Mboppi Baptist Hospital

My name is Pieter du Preez from South Africa and Director of Staff Development of Africa Mercy Ships. I have the great privilege of working with Mercy Ships. We're currently in Cameroon with one of our hospital ships. We use hospitals as a platform to bring hope and healing to the forgotten poor. Our heart and our desire as we follow the 2000-year model of Jesus is to be able to bring hope and encouragement.

We don't want to come because we want to be needed but we're

hoping that we can work ourselves out has been working for the past several of a job, that one day Africa will not need Mercy Ships to do surgeries and bring medical capacity to the forgotten poor; so it's with that emphasis and that heart that we come to work and encourage the people.

I'm part of a small team that

CBCHS Leaders Concert at COCs Conclave

The leadership of the CBCHS, Hospital Administrators and Chiefs of Health Centres, have reviewed activities for the year gone by and planned for the upcoming year in a successful conclave that held at Banso Baptist Hospital from November 2-4, 2017 in what is fondly called the Chiefs of Centre meeting of the CBCHS. Dr Gad Fokum, Messrs Ngam

Joseph and Warri Denis coordinated the deliberations.

Devotions and prayers set the pace daily with different chaplains handling topics, encouraging leaders from biblical examples. Rev. Nfor Godfrey and Pastor Yangvun Markson who brought devotions drew inspiration from Ps 19:14 on the topic, "The Passion for Righteousness" and Luke 15:20-24 focusing on "Promoting genuine fellowship in the family."

Amongst several things said, the preachers stressed that in carrying out the Mission of the CBCHS we



DHS & Administrators at COC conclave

Can you tell us a little about Mercy Ships? The whole idea of a ship brings to mind Noah and his ark. What does it look like inside and how does it work?

We'll need to revert a little to our

Cont'd on pg2

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Cont'd on pg2

Africa Mercy Ships Official Speaks Out! ..from pg1

vision statement of bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor. Let's just take a moment to go to John 5 where at the beginning of that chapter, Jesus goes to the pool of Bethesda where a man has been sitting there for 38 years wanting to be healed. Anybody could receive healing if they entered the pool when it was stirred. So Jesus comes along and asks this man "Do you want to be healed?" "Yes," the man replies. "But there's no one to help me enter the pool" and Jesus tells him, "Get up, pick up your bed and walk". I think sometimes we are so excited by the miracles that Jesus performed which is wonderful and we can celebrate that. But there's a deeper truth that I think Jesus addressed through that story and that's the heart of *Mercy Ships*. The question we should ask from that parable is, "What is the community sin that Jesus is addressing here?" Others came to the pool and probably had somebody who could help them, so they had resources or they could pay somebody to help them enter the pool. All of them after getting healed never thought of helping somebody that couldn't help himself and part of the community sin that Jesus is addressing in that story is that it is wrong to not help somebody who is helpless.

The true meaning that Jesus wants us to take away here is that we need to help those who cannot help themselves. The pool was next to the Temple so people walked past there to go and worship God and there's a man sitting for not one, two or three years but thirty-eight years! Our heart and our hope and vision at *Mercy Ships* is therefore to find those who literally cannot help themselves and through that perhaps perform a life-changing surgery. When you have a tumor twice the size of someone's head or a fistula that can transform someone's life that is exactly what we want to do—to restore hope.

What kind of specialists do you have?

We are mostly volunteers. We have about 450 staff on board that live on the vessel from more than 30 different countries. We have teachers, we have academy on board, lots of administrative people, nurses and then surgeons and doctors. We remove lots of tumors, correct cleft lip, clubfoot correction, fistula operations, dental surgeries and general surgeries. We adapt what we do to the specificities of the country we're serving at a given time. We're not here to compete with the local medical capacity. Our desire is to enhance and to build the local medical capacity. We're not here to take patients away from hospitals. Our hope is to be able to bring some level of skill or surgery that's not necessarily available or that is not so prominently available. We have four full-time dentists. We have an eye clinic where we remove cataracts. It's just wonderful when you watch someone who has not been able to see, regain their sight and you take that patch off their eye and they literally shout for joy.

How do you get your patients?

We've had different approaches to this in different countries. Sometimes in the past, we had one major point with a screening day when thousands of people come and queue up with different illnesses and conditions and we can then look at who we can help. In Cameroon, we took a different approach because it's a huge country and Douala is a little more developed than the Far North for example and we had to consider how we could get patients from all of the country and so we set up 11 different distribution centres or screening points across Cameroon. Most of our surgery slots have already been filled for this field service and due to the huge numbers sometimes, it is impossible to address all

the cases that come due to their sheer number! But thankfully, we're building a second vessel for Africa so there will be two ships serving Africa and hopefully we'll return to Cameroon sometime in the future.

How long do you intend to be in Cameroon and for someone hearing about Mercy Ships just now, should they still come for treatment?

People can come for screening daily at *Maison de Partie* (Town Hall). We normally stay in a country for 10 months (excluding a month annually for maintenance works on the vessel). The time to get to the maintenance check point also comes into play and so in a year, two months go for this whole phase. We'll be headed to Guinea next and after that, to Senegal.

How has it been in Cameroon so far?

I've personally been in Cameroon about ten days (as of interview time). The vessel has been in Cameroon since August and it's a tremendous opportunity to be in Cameroon. It is also quite a challenging time for Cameroon, politically speaking and working with the government, there's always some pressures, but we have to be able to face those and to live with them. The most exciting part is the people of Cameroon and to be able to serve such a diverse population. Sometimes, we also have issues understanding the languages of these people given that more than 200 languages are spoken all over Cameroon.

Have you seen the number of patients you expected? Are you surprised with the number you've seen?

We've seen all manner of patients. The only area we're really lacking patients for is the fistula area. We hoped to perform many more operations. *Mercy Ships* was celebrated recently on local TV with the first ladies that went through fistula operations. We're working with gov't to get the word out and have more fistula cases. We're completely booked for other areas. Most were screened before the arrival of the vessel. This is to save us time as we start the procedures immediately on our arrival.

How many patients can you treat/attend to?

We have a limit as to the number we can take. We only have a certain number of surgeons and space and so our capacity has a limit. However, we also invite local surgeons and doctors to be trained in new techniques or those they might not be familiar with or things that would be good for them to be reminded about. This ensures that they can address some of the cases we were not able to during our stay in a given country.

You are leading a team of volunteers to Mboppi Baptist Hospital (MBHD). How did you get to know about the CBC Health Services?

Part of my job is to train the long-term staff and crew that joins *Mercy Ships*. Our objective is to enhance the understanding of our staff and crew of the African reality. Our original advanced team that was here before the vessel arrived, made contact with the CBC and put us in touch with Calvin Hohn (CBC Field Director) and we wrote to Calvin and that's how this contact came about.

How can you appreciate your relationship with the CBC so far?

It is such absolute joy to be able to serve at the CBC hospital here in Douala. I cannot tell you how much hope and encouragement we've had as a team here. *I think the CBC is a beacon of hope for Cameroon and also for the world.* I heard some people remark about how good Mboppi is and yes, there are some areas where more funds are needed so as to have nicer facilities, more bed space, etc but that thinking is also represented here in the administration by the way things are run. But then *your holistic approach to medicine is something you guys will need to come and teach us in the West – the integrity of your staff, beginning everyday with devotions and team spirit.* I know God will open up doors for the CBC to be this teacher for the world, especially to the West.

That touches us right in the heart. But we know there are some things we could do better. Did you notice any?

I must confess that I'm not a medical professional. I'm an economist and was a rancher as well. I love looking after cattle and being outdoors. It's a kind of different world. I cannot speak about any of the medical stuff since that's not my area of expertise but I noticed that staff are motivated. Places are clean. Things are organized. Staff are well trained. I'm sure there are areas for improvement since it's also God's thinking as He doesn't want us to become stagnant. I also believe that there are some challenges given the capacity of the city. Rats too are an inevitable menace and to have some way of dealing with them would be really wonderful and boost the quality of care offered.

We understand you trained some CBCHS staff. Can you tell us more about this?

Some of our staff did training here on sterilization techniques which I see was already part of what the CBCHS as an exceptional organization was already doing. We also made a small donation of medicine to the hospital and also, one of the dentists here, Dr. Francoise is working with one of our dentists on the *Africa Mercy* to be able to come back and train his assistants.

If a curious person wants to come on board and visit; is that allowed or will they be interfering with work?

There are different protocols for different countries and because we're in a port area and because of the sheer number of patients we operate on a daily basis, security is fairly tight. However, you need to find someone working on *Africa Mercy* that can host you and bring you aboard as a team member and show you around. You can also ask for a business orientation/tour at the reception.

Any last words for the Cameroonian people and for the CBC Health Services?

My heart beats for Cameroon. My 18-year old son reminds me so much of Cameroon. Looking at him, I can't help thinking the season in which Cameroon as a country is in. It is a make or break season. And my hope is that even for Cameroonians from a region that feels disenfranchised – they will be the Daniels. He had such an ability to respect authority and yet didn't compromise God's moral standards. He was submissively disobedient. My heart is that Cameroon will pray for modern day Esthers and Daniels, people who will speak the truth but have the ear of the government and the president. So I hope that even the minority will not respond to the injustice meted on them with wrong but to respond with forgiveness. ☆

CBCHS Commemorates World Diabetes Day 2017 with a Walk

Diabetics were joined on October 14 in a walk dubbed, "Diabetes Walk" across some streets of Bamenda in commemoration of the 2017 World Diabetes Day. The WHO-sanctioned observance, which had as theme for this year, *Women and Diabetes*, brought together staff of Nkwen Baptist Health Center (NBHC) and those of the CBC Health Services Central Administration in a march from Finance Junction through Ghana Street to Ngen Junction back to the Baptist Centre through Finance Junction with the aim of creating awareness. The CBCHS Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) programme led in the commemoration.

Back at the CBCHS Hall at the Baptist Centre, a drama was staged to depict some of the myths people have about diabetes. The drama debunked the myth that diabetes is witchcraft and highlighted the need to avoid excess sugar intake, avoid a sedentary lifestyle and eat healthily as well as do lots of physical exercise.

In his 2017 World Diabetes Day address read by Mbiydzenyuy Ferdinand Sonyuy, CBCHS NCD Programme Coordinator, the Director of Health Services (DHS). Prof. Tih Pius Muffih wrote about the worrying trend of diabetes thus, "Diabetes is one of four major non-communicable diseases, killing at least 1.5 million people yearly. Prof Tih said this year's theme, "Women and Diabetes" speaks to one of the key principles of our health services namely, gender sensitivity in health care delivery given that out of 415 million people with diabetes globally, 199 million are women representing 1



in 10 women living with diabetes.

The DHS lamented that many do not have access to education, care and treatment. He stated further that 1 out of every 5 women with diabetes fall within the reproductive age bracket. The address further revealed that women with type 1 diabetes have an increased risk of miscarriage or having a baby with malformations while women with type 2 diabetes are almost 10 times more likely to have heart disease.

For his part, Mr. Munshwa Zebulun, President of the Local Diabetes Association said he was grateful for what the CBC was doing to help those with diabetes. He, however, pleaded with the powers that be to drop the price of diabetes medicines because it was quite expensive for them. A fellowship meal and a group photo immortalized the day. ☆

CBCHS Central Administration Staff Exhorted at Retreat to Embrace Adversity

Adversity is an integral part of human life and existence. That is the message that Rev. Ngoh Joel Nyah drove home as speaker at the CBCHS Central Administration end-of-year retreat, which held in the pristine hills of Zenna Resort at Sabga Hill on the outskirts of the metropolitan city of Bamenda.

Preaching from Prov. 24:10 and Jer.17:7-8, the preacher made it categorical that if we yearn for a life void of pain and challenges, we need to wait for Christ's return because as long as we are on earth, adversity in all its forms is our lot.



Encountering God in groups at the retreat

"Laughter is good, and so is adversity," Rev. Ngoh declared. "You cannot live well if you have not been through adversity. However, when you go through adversity, look for something in the midst of that adversity to thank God for. If a woman has two sons and one dies, she will be grieved but in her grief, she can still thank God for the other son she has left. That is the attitude we need to employ in the face of adversity."

Speaking further, the seasoned preacher cautioned "We need to be careful not to look at individuals in our lives as the cause of our adversity. However, ask yourself what lesson God wants you to learn in the face of adversity". He went on to state that there are four factors that can cause adversity in one's life, namely: people, conditions, things and circumstances.

The Chief of Administration (CAF), Mr Warri Denis thanked the spiritual life committee for choosing such an experienced and eloquent speaker to handle such a contemporary subject. The CAF equally thanked the staff who turned out in hundreds. ☆

CBCHS Leaders Concert ..from pg1

should value and desire to do the work of God with an accent for righteousness. They implied that working as a family, we should live with both the good and the recalcitrant workers dealing with each appropriately.

In his greetings, the Director of Health Services (DHS), Prof. Tih Pius Muffih welcomed and encouraged all who made it to the meetings, rendering thanks for the hard work and the good feedback he keeps getting not only from other colleagues but also from people in the community. The DHS told the leaders thus, "As leaders, we are vision bearers; we conceive things. Ensure that whatever has been conceived is guiding you. We must be careful the people we work with do not leave us alone. Guide them as they follow. The people we lead will follow just what we do. Good implementation, good accountability is key! The people are the real assets we have. They help us realise all plans. Don't be so results focused that you forget the transformation that is to take place in people. Be a transformational and not a transactional leader!"

One after the other, the Chiefs of Centre and the Administrators reported on the planned goals, highlighting the achieved and still to be achieved, giving reasons why they are where they find themselves. Challenges were also brought out and solutions proposed after each presentation.

Day two was mostly to pass on information to the COCs. Supervisors of the various programmes and departments within the CBCHS were also given time to brief the leaders on their activities.

The third and last day was designated for the various health centres to work with their supervising hospitals to fine tune their goals for the upcoming year. This was done in smaller groups with the Administrators of the main hospitals taking leadership as they plan towards the November sessions of the Goals and Budgets meetings.

The CBC Director of Finance and Development and his team were also present. On behalf of the team, Mr. Walter Grob brought greetings and appreciated the opportunity for them to be part of the meeting. He called on all to remember that the CBC Development Fund is an asset of the CBC which should be well taken care off.

Dr. Fokum, Technical Adviser Number 1 to DHS brought the closing remarks on behalf of the CBCHS Central Administration. He called on all to listen to the patients saying, "In dealing with patients, don't drop the baton in the race." He challenged the leaders to pay attention to the staff they work with and also encouraged the staff via their leaders to contribute even as little as 200fcfa per month to the CBC Development Fund, which when put together will give much at the end of the year. ☆

MOH Official Applauds CBCHS for Initiating CCCP

The Deputy Director of Human Resource Development at the Ministry of Public Health (MOH), Mrs. Kechia Assumpta has applauded the CBC Health Services (CBCHS) for initiating the Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project (CCCP), which she says will reduce the prevalence of clubfoot cases in Cameroon. She was speaking recently during a 2-day workshop on the Ponseti method of treating clubfoot organised by the



Dr. Ngene presenting on brace fitting

Socio Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD) programme in collaboration with Christofell Blind Mission (CBM). The workshop brought together 10 partner clinics from 5 regions of Cameroon to build their capacities and refresh their minds on the Ponseti method.

Speaking at the opening of the workshop, the Project Manager, Mr. Awa Jacques Chirac disclosed that 650 children have had access to clubfoot treatment services with most of them being boys. A majority of those treated, he disclosed, are from the NW and SW Regions because of much awareness raising given that the project was piloted in those regions. Mr Awa appreciated participants for the work that they have been doing in their different clinics to improve on the quality of life for children with clubfoot

Statistics reveal that 63% of births in Cameroon are done by trained birth attendants with little or no knowledge on the clubfoot deformity with an estimated 2 out of 1000 children born with clubfoot deformity. It is against this backdrop that the CBC Health Services in partnership with CBM in 2014 designed the CCCP with the objective to provide quality treatment to all children with clubfoot deformity.

According to the main facilitator, Dr. Nguene André, an Orthopedic Surgeon in Yaounde partnering with the CCCP, the workshop was an opportunity to upgrade skills and refresh the minds of participants on the ponseti method. He noted that it is the dream of the CCCP to have government incorporates the Clubfoot in the academic curriculum in health institutions.

Presenting on the Ponseti method, Dr Ngene told the participants that there are two phases of treatment being the correction and the maintenance phases. He noted that treatment must always go through manipulation, casting, tenotomy and bracing.

For her part, Stephanie Necdema, Physiotherapy Assistant at PROHAMDICAM,

Yaounde and one of the facilitators emphasized that participants should always let the parents understand that the success of the treatment lies on their commitment to appointments. Given that some parents will always forget the appointment dates, she told them to always get their contacts and call them to remind them.

Maxime Azanguim, another Facilitator from PROHAMDICAM drilled the participants on the difference between clubfoot and a normal foot. He schooled them on when tenotomy, which is the third stage of treatment but emphasized that it must be done by a trained medical doctor.

The workshop brought together 21 participants being physiotherapists, Physiotherapy Assistants and some Medical doctors from the Centre, Far North, North, West, Littoral, and Southwest Regions. It was characterized by practical sessions on plastic models and on five

children with clubfoot present for treatment and 1 of them referred to Douala for treatment given that the parents are based in Douala.

Drawing lessons from the monitoring and evaluation visit to the partner clinics in October and early November by the CCCP team, the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Ndzi Grace recommended that to avoid default, the clinics should have clinic days, involve fathers in treatment, and visit and call the parents.

The CCCP Manager called on the clinics to institute a stock card to ensure the effective use of clubfoot consumables and do proper counselling with the parents before and during treatment. He revealed that the CCCP team had discussions with the Ministry of Public Health and there are plans for the government to take positive moves towards the progress of project. He also revealed that the CCCP is already partnering with Mercy Ships to increase access to clubfoot services. Mr. Awa concluded that the current phase of the project ends in 2018 and the next phase will definitely go operational. ☆

SEEPD Programme Staff, Partners Schooled on Fraud Prevention

A one day workshop organized by the Socio Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disability (SEEPD) programme on fraud prevention took place at the Baptist Centre Nkwen in Bamenda on November 22 2017 to drill programme staff on the CBM Ausaid guideline on fraud prevention.

Speaking at the opening of the workshop, the SEEPD Programme Manager, Mr Awa Jacques Chirac noted that fraud and corruption are all characteristic of organizations. He noted that CBM Ausaid requested the workshop to drill her funding partner, S E E P D programme on how to use CBM's funds effectively.

Drilling the participants, the main facilitator, Mrs Ndong Irene who had received the training in Yaounde from the CBM team said fraud is a specific type of corruption like misusing money, changing documents,

writing false signatures wrong use of project assess and false information. In different groups, the participants made up of doctors who double as project heads from Mbingo and Banso Baptist Hospitals, Physiotherapy staff, SEEPD partners and SEEPD staff identified the common examples of fraud in their different areas of work. Presentations from the different groups pointed to the fact that there is misuse of office time for personal use, use of project assets sometimes for personal use

and sometimes discrimination in services delivery amongst others.

In other to prevent fraud, Mrs Ndong Irene noted that CBM requires that beneficiaries be involved in planning and budgeting, recruitment should be fair and based on merit, whistle blowing should be promoted, measures be put in place to monitor the effective use of funds amongst others. She said CBM and the Department of Fraud and Anti-Terrorism have zero tolerance approach to all fraud and corruption.



SEEPD Finance Officer presenting on fraud prevention

Responding to the group presentations, the Regional Delegate of MINPROF, a partner to the SEEPD programme said that everyone is guilty of fraud in one way or the other. He appreciated the SEEPD programme for the initiative and said they will continue to improve on management. Other participants added their voices to that of the Delegate to pledge effective use of CBM funds. ☆

GRID Network Launches 16 Stories of 16 Days of Activism against GBV

The NW Regional Delegate of Women's Empowerment and the Family has called on all perpetrators of gender violence to put an end to it adding that continues efforts must be done by all actors to fight against all forms of violence against women and girls. Mr Wirba Asan was speaking on November 25, 2017 at the Baptist Center Nkwen while launching the 16 stories for 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV), an initiative of the Group for Rehabilitation and Inclusive Development (GRID) Gender of the SEEPD programme.



Brandishing book after launching

The objective of the launching was to bring together different stakeholders in gender and disability and raise awareness on the GBV through the 16 stories project, share the stories of women with disability who have experienced GBV and draw lessons on impressions and how to prevent it.

The leader of the GRID Gender Group, Mrs Anyangwa Sylvia who is the Programme Support Assistant and Gender Focal Point at Plan Cameroon said the objective of the 16 stories is to tell the stories of women and girls with disability in the community which will create awareness on the violence that they go through on daily basis. She called on all community members to raise their voices and shout against GBV.

The Coordinator of the GRID Network, Dr. Louis Mbibeh, a researcher gave a profile of the authors who have been the brain behind the 16 stories. He appreciated the authors viz: University of Toronto in Canada, the SEEPD programme and the Regional Delegate of MINPROF who worked relentlessly to realize the publication of the stories. He reminded all on the theme of this year's International Day against GBV, which is "Leave no one behind let's end violence against women and girls". Dr Mbibeh challenged all to read the stories and give feedback to the GRID network adding that hopefully another stories will be written next year. He disclosed that the books are not for sale but for free.

Mr Bah Tokoh Emmanuel and Nogining Armelle reviewed the book and pointed to the fact that the stories are emotional but all ended on a hopeful note.

The launching was characterized by a presentation from the Coordinator of Women's

Health Programme in Nkwen who highlighted that violence against women affects their health. He said when violated, the woman faces physical, psychological trauma and limited control over reproduction. According to him, it is time everyone says no to GBV.

The launching was animated by singing; poems with the message of hope and increase self-esteem for women and girls with disability.

As a woman with disability herself, Fonda Violet used the launching to call on all to educate children with disability, report cases of GBV to the appropriate quarters and give persons with disability in general the opportunity to take part in different development actions of the society

The Gender and Disability Inclusive Development (DID) group is a Community of Practice of the GRID Network that consists of professionals in the North West Region who are collaborating together as part of their professional development work to address issues related to gender and DID and the gender based violence experienced by women and girls living with disabilities.☆

CP Presents 5.6 Billion Project at Cameroon Investment Forum

The 5.6 billion industrial plant, the vision 2020 of the CBCHS Central Pharmacy has been presented at the second edition of Cameroon Investment Forum (CIF) that took place in Douala from November 9-10, 2017. This virgin project of the Central Pharmacy is to start an industrial plant to produce and market pharmaceutical products in industrial scale not only within the CBCHS but also in Cameroon and in ECOWAS region.

Partners, donors, different companies of various fields were present during the second Cameroon Investment Forum in Douala. According to reports, CP was the only pharmaceutical company present and their project selected to be presented. The presentation centred on CP's background/history, where they are now and what they intend to be in future with the support from partners and donor. The CP team responded to the many questions from participants; companies, partners. It is worth noting that CP had received

DHS Visits CBCHS Facilities in Centre Region

Nkoabang: The Director of CBC Health Services (DHS) has continued his tour of CBCHS institutions this time with focus on health facilities in the Centre region. He was accompanied by Mr Yongwa Zacks, Administrator of Etoug-eb Baptist Hospital



DHS (3rd from right) pose with Nkoabang H/C staff

Yaounde. The tour started off with the youngest baby of the Health Services, Nkoabang Baptist Integrated Health Centre, which doors were opened to the public on March 3, 2017.

A guided tour of the various departments of the centre led the DHS to lay serious emphasis on circumcision, referring to some health centres and hospitals he had visited with similar challenge. He encouraged the Chief of Centre to promise discount to women who come for Antenatal visit if they deliver in our facility. He said the women should be encouraged to start advancing for their delivery fee before the expected date. He also instructed that the patient toilet should have vents to minimize odor.

After the tour the departments, the DHS met with the staff. He brought greetings from the Executive President of the CBC, the staff of the central administration and the centres he had visited. In his address, the DHS provided reasons why most clients prefer our health facilities, because of the quality care that we offer. He said if a woman cooks good food and serves the husband with humility he will eat and ask for more but if the food is poorly prepared or poorly served it will drive away the appetite of the

Cont'd on pg6

authorisation from the Ministry of Public Health to initiate the project.

Quizzed on why CP's appearance at the forum, the General Manager, Pharmacist Ngha Edward said the purpose of attending the CIF was to increase Central Pharmacy's visibility, meet with donors and partner organisations. He said products such as HESCO Water, hand gel, and liquid detergents were showcased during the forum while roll ups were used to show other products that were not to be displayed like eye drops and infusion fluid.

Some potential partners started visiting CP immediately after the forum and a series of calls coming in from some of the partners. The General Manager said he is optimistic that the project will see the light of day.☆

DHS Visits CBCHS Facilities in Centre Region ..from pg5

husband. He compared our quality services to good food that a woman prepares and serves the husband with all humility and he eats and licks the plate. He called on the staff to be committed and exemplify the Mission and the Vision statement of the Organization.

The DHS lamented on the passing away of the pioneer chief of centre Mr. Sam Pius. He encouraged the staff to continue to pray for the family.

The DHS gave updates on projects and activities across the board. The Strategy Nine Project Package (S9PP) is progressing. Prof. Tih reported that MBH, Kumba Baptist Health Centre and Baptist Hospital Mutengene have been completed and put to use. Ekounou, Nkwen and Baffousam will soon be completed and the 9th project, which is medical equipment which were received and shared to some of the hospitals and health centres.

He encouraged staff to prepare for their retirement now by enrolling into the Health Board Pension Plan and other financial institutions like MUGFIC and Credit Unions. According to the DHS, this will help when they are retired and waiting for their old age pension. He revealed that staff who enrol in the Adopt a Health Worker Fund have 75% assurance for assistance in case they need assistance from the scheme while staff who are not in rolled in the scheme have 25% assurance for assistance. The DHS also cautioned staff on the political situation in the country.

The Chief of Centre, Mr. Lemloh Gerald appreciated the Director of Health Services for the visit though Nkoabang is less than a year old. The COC appreciated the staff for their commitment and sacrifices by working two straight shifts due to inadequate staffing. The DHS visit to Nkoabang like in other centres ended by granting audiences to staff, praying for them and taking a family picture.

Ekounou: The DHS visit to Ekounou Baptist Intergraded Health Center began at 2:45pm with the tour of the departments led by the Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS), Mrs. Nkeh Jenny sitting in for the Chief of Center (COC), Mr. Mbeng Franckline who was on leave. Like elsewhere, the SNS welcomed and thanked the Director of Health Services for taking off time from his busy schedule to visit Ekounou Baptist Health Centre. The Mission Statement song was



DHS & staff of Ekounou H/C

sung to usher the DHS to bring in his speech.

In addition to the regular updates given in other stations, the DHS provided fresh information on the many changes on the Nkwen project. He revealed that the building is going to have six levels with the CBCHS Central Administration at the last floor instead of the CBC Central Administration as initially planned. These changes are due to the fact that the CBCHS has taken upon herself to build the CBC headquarters come 2018.

He said each of our busy health centres now has doctors.

The DHS announced that the Prime Minister donated money for the construction of Jikijem Baptist Health Centre theatre, which is already completed.

Prof. Tih encouraged the staff to voluntarily support the CBC teachers who have gone for 8 months without salary.

The staff were all happy to have been with their leader to listen and give answers to their worries.

Etoug-Ebe: The DHS began his visit at Etoug-ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde (EBHY) on August 22, 2017 by joining the staff at their routine 6:40 a.m morning devotions. In his address, he thanked EBHY staff for the tremendous efforts they are putting in their various departments and



DHS & staff of Etoug-ebe H/C

for the good relationship they with their 'patients in reverence to CBCHS Mission Statement which expands quality care, humility, love and witness about the love of Christ that has existed from time immemorial.

Like in all other stations, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih updates the staff of EBHY on the ongoing projects in the system. He revealed that work on a befitting CBC Central Administrative building will begin in Nkwen, Bamenda by January 2018 likewise another construction in Mbingo Baptist Hospital, which is the highest consulting hospital within CBCHS. The new building in Mbingo is intended to solve the problem of patients awaiting consultation overnight but having nowhere to sleep.

The DHS craved on the indulgence of staff to be devoted and willingly ready to serve and to pray for God's help to meet the health needs of the

Cameroonian population. He encouraged the staff to be catalyst for change and positive impact. In his words, "Your mouth should not give more pain to patients than the injection you administer to them" As a secret to success, he encouraged the staff to maintain a simple life free of complaints and full of hard work, dedication, a sense of belonging and of course never forgetting to seek God's face at all times.

As elsewhere, the DHS granted audiences for a one on one discussion with any staff with major or personal concerns. According to EBHY Administrator, the DHS' presence and speech was a great boost and inspiration to the staff who later resumed duty happily and with great enthusiasm. ☆

CBCHS Staff Gets Recognition for Outstanding Work in HIV

The Pediatric Adolescent Treatment for Africa (PATA) has nominated a staff of Nkwen Baptist Health Center (NBHC), Mrs. Talla Clarisse alongside nine other recipients as the best health care providers making a difference in the lives of children and adolescents living with HIV.

Ms Epie Fanny, CBCHS Coordinator of Care and Treatment programme received the award on behalf of Mrs. Talla Clarisse who was not able to be at the PATA Summit that held in Johannesburg, South Africa from October 23-25 under the theme *Towards an AIDS Free Africa; Delivering on the Frontline.*

Speaking to CBCHS Press a few days after the award, Mrs. Talla said she was elated with the award, which serves as a motivation for her to work harder and continue to impact the lives of children and adolescents living with HIV.

Some of the kids' comments were written in different colors on a flyer that was pasted at the venue of the Summit, with some of them praising Mrs. Talla. She was the sole Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services medical personnel to receive this award, along with nine other nominees from different countries in Africa.

During the three-day meeting, participants focused on three pillars; find, treat and care which all reflect the UNAIDS 90 90 90 goal. It provided a regional platform for action and brought together policy makers, programme implementers and frontline health providers from 15 countries, represented by 58 health facilities including the CBC Health Services.

It is worth noting that PATA is a network of health providers and health facilities in sub-Saharan Africa that provides a platform for regional collaboration, capacity building, peer-to-peer exchange and learning. Its goal is to effect positive change in policies, programme and practices in pediatric and adolescent HIV response with a mission to mobilize and strengthen a network of frontline health providers to improve pediatric and adolescent HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in sub-Saharan Africa. ☆

Infection Prevention Recommendations for Leaders

1. Information on insulin management and storage, needles stick injuries and infection prevention should be included in diabetes education.
2. There is need to adapt toilets in the CBC Health Services to be disability-friendly.
3. Mercury- containing substances like thermometers and BP cuffs should be actively withdrawn from the CBC Health Services.
4. Aluminum ladders should be purchased and made available to housekeepers for cleaning of heights.
5. Wearing of scrubs out of the Operating Room and over coats out of the restricted zones of the hospitals, for example home and gardens should be checked and controlled.
6. Heads of Housekeepers should be appointed to serve cumulatively as Waste Management Officers for all our hospitals and major health centers.
7. Waste management plan for the CBC Health Services should be developed and elaborated.
8. Guidelines for management of electronic waste should be developed.
9. Educative information on waste sorting and disposal should be developed for our OPDs.
10. There is need to improve housekeeping services in the CBC Health Services.
11. Career path for our house keepers should be developed.
12. Salary placement for our housekeepers should be reviewed and improved upon.
13. Hand hygiene video should be duplicated and circulated for our OPDs.
14. Water quality testing should be done for all health facilities of the CBC Health Services. ☆

CBCHS Chaplaincy Association Meeting Holds

The DHS representative to the recent Chaplaincy Association meeting that at HSC Mutengene, Dr. Gad Fokum, urged the hospital chaplains to embrace teamwork as an essence of professionalism. The DHS' representative said he was amazed with the number that make up the chaplaincy pool of the CBCHS, which to him, is a positive indication that the CBCHS is growing.

The chaplains were trained on lessons like the marks of an effective supervisor, pastoral care in alcohol abuse, inter personal relationships and the effects of poor relationship in pastoral care ministry, pharmacological approach to tobacco secession, and the uniqueness of

chaplains in the interdisciplinary team amongst other topics.

In one of the lessons titled, "Marks of an effective Supervisor," the facilitator, Rev. Dr. Ndongnde Godlove told chaplains that in leadership the ideal is to have supervision which is theory based and biblically sound. He added that titles and certificates are of professional importance but they should not stand on the way of the practice. He lamented that these credentials in most cases have disconnected or hampered the effectiveness of the practice.

With the creation of the Family Care unit based in Banso, the chaplains were also schooled on drug addiction and pastoral care in alcohol abuse. ☆

Mbingo Baptist Hospital & her Administration

MBH Administration

Six finance clerks are currently undergoing training in sign language to help them cater for clients with hearing and or visual impairment. The three-month intensive training was in its first week when CBCHS Press visited the hospital recently.

The six trainees are finance clerks from selected Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) facilities viz Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH), Banso Baptist Hospital (BBH) and Kumba Baptist Health Centre. The training is being coordinated by the Integrated School for the Deaf (ISFD), Mbingo and the ENT department at Mbingo. Speaking to CBCHS Press, Mr. Nji Richard, MBH Senior Administrator said MBH was the ideal location for the training given its proximity to the ISFD.

The Hospital has also begun constructing a four apartment house for doctors. "The building is meant to house CIMS and PAACS residents," Mr. Nji clarified, adding that "It is being constructed with funds that have been donated externally".

On a separate development, Mr. Nji said the Chiefs of Centre meeting, which recently held at Banso Baptist Hospital was a fruitful experience. The Senior Hospital Administrator noted that the presentations were educative, especially those on the abusive use of the drug, *Tramadol*.

MBH ENT Department

The Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) expert, Dr. Acha Evaristus paid a support visit to Baptist Hospital Banyo from November 5-11, 2017 to offer ENT services to the locals of that area.

As reported earlier, the ENT Department at MBH alongside the ISFD in Mbingo, is training some six finance clerks in sign language. Mrs. Tenkkeh Evelyne, an ENT Clinical Officer told the CBCHS Press that the ENT department will be "teaching

the finance clerks about causes of hearing loss, hearing loss levels and how to use hearing aids" so that along with the sign language skills, they will better grasp their lessons.

Dr. Ethan Returns Home

After two years at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, Dr. Ethan and wife, Elizabeth-Marie Helm are returning home to the United States. Dr. Ethan who is a pediatrician was responsible for pediatrics at Mbingo maternity, something he says he enjoys doing so much. He was also the brain behind the multimedia project.

The selfless pediatrician told CBCHS Press that his most memorable experience at MBH was saving the lives of as many babies as he could and that his worst was having to lose a few of those babies. "As I leave the CBC family, what I want my colleagues to know is that I love you all and will really miss you. Please take the mission statement of the CBC Health Services seriously and remember that if we take care of the body and leave out the soul, Satan has already defeated us" he cautioned.



Dr. Ethan & family

PAACS/CIMS Progs

Three new PAACS residents are awaited at PAACS Mbingo in about six weeks as of press time. The three comprise of one Cameroonian, one South Sudanese and one Nigerian.

Meantime, four other PAACS residents are going to the College of Surgeons for East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) to sit membership exams of this institution. The four will be gone for one week for the oral part, having done the written part in September. They include: Tabeh Freeman, Ndum Constance, James Joseph Appollo and Tresor Mabanza.

Relatedly, Dr. Deborah Eisenhut, a fulltime missionary and general surgeon was scheduled to go on furlough from November 15 for a period of 12 months. Meanwhile, Dr. Ngock George, a pediatric surgeon who was on two-year Fellowship in Kenya, will be returning soon.

Concerning the Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS), Dr. Ndi Norah travelled to the United States where she was expected to present a research paper on hepatitis B. Reports say her trip to the US is within the ambit of a memorandum of understanding between Loma Linda University in California, University of Minnesota and the University of Cincinnati.

MBH Social Services facilitates Client's Reconstructive Surgery aboard Africa Mercy

The Africa Mercy (one of Mercy Ships' fleet) certainly came with some good news for Nadia* (Not her real name). The 25-year old sustained burns that deformed her facial features after she fell into boiling-hot water. This was during one of her intermittent bouts of fits which she suffers from.

According to Mrs. Florence, a social worker at Mbingo Baptist Hospital, following the tragic accident, Nadia's husband abandoned her and their young baby and the experience is said to have troubled the young mother a lot.

"It was like a dream come-true for her when she learned of *Mercy Ships'* work in plastic surgery and this was such a relief for her" Florence stated. "She had maxillofacial surgery as well as some surgery on her thumb and small finger which she also seriously damaged during her accident".

Social workers at Mbingo made home visits to check on her and to offer psychosocial support, which gave her a sense of self-worth prior to her surgery. Nadia is expected to be discharged sometime in January, everything being equal, Mrs. Florence told our reporter.

This good work, which social workers at MBH are doing is not void of challenges. Carers and relatives abandon corpses of loved ones when they pass on. In some cases, the hospital is bound to obtain appropriate authorization to bury some of the corpses.

Another challenge is that of some clients coming with the preconceived notion that MBH has "much money". According to the social services at MBH, the sight of white

doctors is a confirmation of this for such clients. "One client from Maroua told us bluntly that he had no money to pay for his bills, adding that he had read online that MBH has a lot of money," Mrs. Achu revealed. She noted that the hospital via the social workers is working hard to deconstruct some of these misconceptions.

MBH Maternity to Close Second Year Mortality-Free

Mbingo Baptist Hospital maternity is about closing a second year with no record of maternal deaths. MBH Maternity head nurse and midwife, Mrs. Lukong Doris, made the revelation on November 8 when CBCHS Press visited the maternity.

"We cannot say it's our doing," Mrs. Lukong stated modestly. "We believe

it's the grace of God that we are able to have such a clean slate for one year and eleven months already. Our prayer is that we close 2017 with no single death" she prayed. The head nurse stated that the record has been kept this spotless for two years at MBH in spite of the fact that maternal deaths have been rampant elsewhere across the country. Mrs. Lukong encouraged her staff to keep up with the good work they are doing and not to waver.

To bolster the work of the child-bearing department, five new midwives have been added to the ranks of the staff body, bringing the total number of midwives at MBH to 25. Mrs. Lukong noted that monthly deliveries have dropped to an average of 70 down from an average of 100 in the recent past, perhaps due to the crisis rocking the NW and SW regions restricting movements on ghost town days. She equally remarked that MBH has not registered any delivering for triplets up to the time this year unlike before. ☆

Banso Baptist Hospital & her Institutions

BBH, ISFB Bid Farewell to Barbara Johnson

Staff of Banso Baptist Hospital (BBH) and CBC Integrated School for the Blind (ISFB) in Kumbo have bid farewell to Barbara Johnson, a US volunteer who served at the ISFB for the past 6 months. During the farewell ceremony, which took place at the BBH Rest House on November 8, 2017, the Administrator of BBH, Mr Kangong Joce noted that the CBC Health Services will have spent a lot of money to do the work that Barbara volunteered to do for free. He acknowledged her commitment during her stay in ISFB despite the political instability in the Northwest region.

The Supervisor of ISFB Kumbo, Mrs. Kutwah Magdalene recounted that Barbara was in the school in April 2015 to build the capacity of staff on braille and this year she was there to build the capacity of staff and students in the Higher institution like University of Bamenda. Mrs. Kutwah appreciated Barbara for her financial and material support to ex pupils like Wirdzerem Isabel and Bafon Bertrand, all ex-students in ENS Bambili. Mrs Kutwah also revealed that Babara has also supported the school with one new braille embosser and some learning and teaching aids, some personal learning aids to individual staff which will go a long way to ease the work load of the staff.

According to the Supervisor of the School, Administrator of BBH, and the Chief Medical Officer of BBH, words alone cannot express the appreciation of the CBCHS to Barbara, reason why a symbolic gift of a traditional bag containing some craft items as demonstration of love was given her by the Administrator of BBH on behalf of the CBCHS. The BBH Administrator requested her to come back again next time.



Barbara Johnson receiving souvenir gifts from BBH Administration

Responding to the speakers, Barbara expressed joy for the receptive spirit of the school and the hospital that facilitated her stay in Kumbo. With the knowledge imparted on the students and staff, she urged them to use it judiciously to facilitate learning for learners with visual impairments. She expressed the wish to come back and continue with the work. As a woman with visual impairment herself, she said she better understands the learning challenges that learners with visual impairments face.

The fellowship ceremony was attended by some staff of BBH, ISFB, Community Based Rehabilitation Office, and the SEEPD Programme Officer who represented the SEEPD Programme Manager.

BBH Trains First Emergency Responders

Whitman Spencer, a paramedic and Fire Fighter with Spokane County Fire District 9 and a member of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) from Washington DC in the United States was in BBH from October 16-30, 2017 to facilitate training on First Emergency Response.

In a PowerPoint presentation to BBH staff during morning devotions of October 16, Mr. Spencer was clear on the fact that domestic, road and other forms of accidents have come to

Cont'd on pg9

BBH Trains First Emergency Responders ..from pg8

stay. He added that in 2010, a total of 6,234 people were injured through road traffic accidents in Yaounde and that the trend keeps increasing. "We want to reduce preventable trauma deaths in Cameroon," Spencer stated. He explained that an Emergency First Responder (EFR) is one who takes action to resolve an emergency incident by ensuring the safety of all involved, treating patients with appropriate care through knowledge, experience and making sure of effective transportation of patients to the appropriate place of care.

Two days (October 19-20) were reserved for training 15 staff who will go deeper into each subject and become trainers. The training started each day at 8:30am and ended at 4:30 pm drilling trainees on topics such as scene safety, the respiratory system, blood circulatory system, airway, shock, trauma, bleeding, patient assessment, triage and transport amongst others. The trainees did practical exercises on how to apply bandages, tourniquets, splints, how to carry an injured patient into and out of the vehicle, rescue individuals from fire incident, and opening the airway etc.

Opening the training earlier on, Mrs. Ngoran Julia, BBH Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS) on behalf of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), encouraged the trainees to be attentive and accommodate what the trainer brought for them so that the community will be able to benefit.

On behalf of the trainees, Mr. Kinen Martin thanked the facilitator and course coordinator for imparting in them knowledge on First Emergency Response which is very vital to the community. The spokesperson for the trainees promised to put the lessons into practice and also to train the staff and the community.

During the certificate award ceremony during morning devotion on October 30, Mr. Spencer expressed satisfaction on the level of awareness that the trainees have acquired and declared them as trainers. He also appreciated and enjoyed the hospitality vested on him and promised to come back.

It should be noted that Spencer came along with his father, Dr. Cunningham and his step mother, Mrs. Cunningham Nancy, a teacher by profession. Reports say Dr. Cunningham (an ophthalmologist) has been instrumental at BBH eye department where he spearheaded the construction of the eye department building and furnished it with ultramodern equipment.

BBH Administrator, Mr. Kangong Joce praised the Cunninghams for their support during the 2-week stay, which he qualified as brief and fruitful. The Administrator pleaded with them to come back as soon as possible. He presented gifts to them as a show of appreciation from the BBH family.

"We are the ones who are wonderfully blessed, our stay has been so brief, we promise to come back anytime soon. Keep on offering the best of your best," said Dr. Cunningham in response. He thanked the BBH administration for the wonderful gift and expressed hope that the trainers will take it as a responsibility to train the entire population of Bui division and beyond so

that complications from accidents will drastically reduce.

A cross section of staff, bike riders, taxi drivers and some members of the community were also trained during Mr. Spencer's stay in BBH.

At press time, a meeting of the trainers had been convened to map the way forward.

BBH Care and Treatment Centre

The recommended Option B+ (Test and Treat) initiative has necessitated many HIV patients to be placed on treatment as soon as they are diagnosed positive. According to BBH Care and Treatment Centre site nurse, the government has responded with the creation of more Treatment Centres to take care of the teaming number of patients in the countryside. Consequently, more Treatment Centres have been created in CMA Jakiri, CMA Kumbo, Catholic Health Centre Tatum, Ndu Baptist Health Centre, Ndu Urban Health Centre, Ntumbaw, Binka, Tabenken, Misaje, Fonfuka, CMA Ibal, St. Kisito Sabongari, CMA Mbiame, Ako and Nwa Health Centres. Reports say the creation of these New Treatment Centres will reduce rate of defaulters and ease movement to the existing Treatment Centres such as BBH, Oku, Ndu and Nkambe.

The BBH site nurse says the programme is facing challenges from the patients, facility and the government. Qualified personnel are critical in keeping these new centres functional but regrettably, some centres as Ndu Urban has only the chief of centre on board. Out of stock commodities is another worry. Many patients need to do the test but the strips are not available. Traditional beliefs, witchcraft, prophets promising miracles and deliverance, and lack of money for transportation to the Treatment Centres are some of the challenges hindering HIV patients to access care.

However, the programme is committed to overcoming the obstacles through HIV testing campaigns, sensitization via radio, churches, and during games etc. reports say, there are plans to open more Treatment Centres to meet the 90/90 objective by 2020.

Oku Field Welcomes Dr. Fomengia

Oku Field Christians have thrown a welcome 'party' for their new resident doctor, Nkeangu Fomengia Joseph. The ceremony held on November 17 at Jikijem Baptist Health Center in the presence of authorities, including the Oku Field Pastor, Association Pastors, Church Pastors, the National Combined English Choir (NACOMECH) of the Cameroon Baptist Convention among others.

The Field Pastor gave devotions based on John 15: 1-8 from where he encouraged staff to do their work with joy and happiness. He also endeared God to foster a spirit of collaboration among staff.

The new doctor, for his part, was elated and on behalf of Jikijem Health Center staff, thanked the Field for thinking of them and bringing gifts. He wished them God's blessings and promised to do his work in the fear of the Lord and to ensure that he puts a smile on those whose paths cross his.

In a related story, the Jikijem Men's Association led by Mr. Aban Martin paid a visit to Jikijem Baptist Health Center on November 19 in keeping with Biblical admonition to care for the needy. The men brought gifts comprising laundry soap (savon) for each of the 17 patients they met at the health center.

The kindness of the men was lauded by the Chief of Center, Mr. Mbiga Emmanuel, himself a member of the Men's Association. He encouraged the men to keep up with these good works.★

Baptist Hospital Mutengene & her Institutions

BHM Administration

Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) like other CBCHS hospitals and health centres around the country is creating much impact in the community and attracting not only clients who seek quality healthcare, but also, it is attracting government institutions seeking more meaningful partnership. The latest of such partnerships took place on October 25, 2017 when medical officials of the Rapid Intervention Battalion known in French acronym as BIR in Limbe and the 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland visited BHM to assess the hospital's capacity and readiness to receive and treat their patients (soldiers) in times of emergency or when the need arises.

According to BHM Assistant Administrator in-charge of Personnel, Mr Ngum Samuel, the BIR medics left with a positive impression but for the fact that the hospital does not have a developed emergency unit and ambulance services.

Another important visit was that of the Divisional Officer (D.O) of Tiko during his maiden meet-the-people tour to BHM on October 19. Reports say after a guided tour of the facility, the D.O. left equally with good impressions, promising to make use of the services of the hospital.

In a related development, three leaders from BHM visited Bafia Baptist Health Centre on Saturday, October 26 to encourage the staff and assess the progress of work going on at the health centre, especially the landscaping that has given BBHC a new look. The BHM leaders included: the Assistant Administrator in-charge of Finance, Mrs. Chasieh Lilian, Assistant Administrator in-charge of Personnel, Mr Ngum Samuel and the Associate CMO, Dr. Madimba. (Details under Bafia Baptist Health Centre)

In a separate development, the new maternity building that was received recently

BHM Administration ..from pg9

developed signs of poor finishing with water licking from the walls and floor and some of the ceiling falling off. During his official visit to BHM on October 6, 2017, the Director of Health Services (DHS) caused the Construction Company, Essoka to return to BHM and correct the errors on the building. At the time of this report, the repair works are seriously going on.

BHM Security

The security department of BHM suffered a major setback following the killing of one of their elements, Mawo Valerie during the October 1 uprising in the NW and SW regions. BHM security chief, Mr. Nkuh Ignatius told CBCHS Press that the demise of Valerie dampened their morale as individuals in particular and as a department and hospital as a whole, especially as the guard was jovial and friendly with his peers. The security chief, however, praised God for granting them grace to gradually come out of the shock. Mawo Valerie leaves behind a wife and three children, the youngest barely 2 weeks old at the time of his death.

New PT Supervisor Visits BHM

The new CBCHS supervisor of physiotherapy services, Mr. Fanfon Timothy visited Baptist Hospital Mutengene from November 2-3, 2017 to assess the quality of clubfoot care. He was accompanied by a team that is working to improve clubfoot data collection. One of the key things the supervisor discussed with PT staff was the need for training to deal with the different challenges they face.

YONEFOH Trains Single Mothers

Single mothers between the ages of 15 and 25 attended a training organized by Baptist Hospital Mutengene Youth Network for Health on October 14 at the Health Services Complex. Often feeling rejected and weighed down by their situation, the event was an opportunity to boost the self-esteem of 43 young mothers to help them make a fresh start. The training was sponsored by the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatrics AIDS Foundation Milestone Project.

The participants learned about healthy relationships, the harmful consequences of abortions, tips on building self-esteem and coping with the pressures of raising a child as a young adult. They were taught life values and how to prevent STIs. Youth educator, Mr. Chuye Edward told CBCHS Press that they found out that young single mothers have unique challenges that need to be addressed separately. "They are usually not prepared for the psychological, financial challenges and rejection they face," he said. Together with YONEFOH Supervisor, Mr. Kwalar Rene they plan to follow up the participants to help integrate them into society, schools and trade.

Bafia Baptist Health Centre

Bafia Baptist Health Centre (BBHC), on October 28, 2017 played host to sets of august visitors. According to the chief of centre (COC), Mr Katu Philemon, CBC Churches of Bafia Association announce their arrival and presence in singing and dancing led by the Association Pastor, Rev. Tatah Henry. The pastors, women, men and youths of the Bafia Association Reports say the visit coincided with that of the CBC Women's Union of Bafia Association who came to encourage the staff and patients morally and materially. Reports say other satellite health centres under BHM are also pulling on well notably Kumba and Churches brought 4 bags of rice, 1 bag of corn, 2.5 cartons of savon (washing soap) 2 bags of cocoyams and plantains to encourage the staff for the good work they are doing in providing quality and compassionate healthcare for the community. They prayed for the staff, the patients and for the services.

On hand to receive the Bafia Association Churches were the COC, staff and three leaders from Baptist Hospital Mutengene who arrived earlier on for a similar objective of encouraging the staff of BBHC. BHM Assistant Administrator in-charge of Personnel, Mr Ngum Samuel and the COC, Mr Katu Philemon appreciated the churches for the gesture and urged them to continue with the largesse to other places of good will.

Health Services Complex Mutengene CP Gets New Chief of Drug Unit

Mr Wirba Livinus, erstwhile head of pharmacy in Baptist Hospital Mutengene is now the new Chief of Drug Unit at the CBC Central Pharmacy (CP) in Mutengene. Mr Wirba Livinus took over from Mr Wanyu Nathan who occupied this position since 2013. He goes to BHM to equally replace Mr Wirba.

Presiding at the handing over ceremonies on November 7, 2017, the CBCHS Chief of Administration and Finance (CAF), Mr Warri Denis highlighted that focus on team work will enable the CP team to bear more fruits. He congratulated the in-coming Chief of Drug Unit for his appointed and appreciated the out-going for his output at the position.

For his part, Mr Ngang Paul, Administrator of Health Services Complex (HSC) Mutengene who doubles as CP Operations Manager (OM) praised Mr Wanyu for the hard work as Supervisor of CP since 2005 and as Chief of Drug Unit for 4 years. The HSC Administrator and OM encouraged Mr Wirba to be a team player and help CP realize its 2020 strategic vision



Wanyu (left) handing over keys to Wirba as new CP Chief of Drugs
of making drugs available and affordable via effective procurement patterns and automation of pharmaceutical production processes.

The brief handing over ceremony was witnessed by CP General Manager, Pharmacist Ngah Edward alongside other CP leaders. It should be noted that the in-coming Chief of Drug Unit is a seasoned pharmacy technician with several years of work experience in the pharmacy at Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde and BHM.

CP Fabric Workshop Gaining Grounds

The Central Pharmacy (CP) Fabric workshop that began on March 7, 2016 is well on course to meeting the objectives for which it was created. Speaking to CBCHS Press, the head of the Workshop, Mr Fambfu Fabian Wirnkar said the increasing need of hospital linens caused CP to open the Fabric Workshop as an extension of the North American Baptist (NAB) Conference White Cross Sewing Unit to provide hospital linens ranging from roll bandages, beddings, baby layettes, screens, surgical linens and all other hospital garments.

The Fabric Workshop has three staff and has so far done 44 sewn projects. At the time of this report, they were completing linens and uniforms for the entire CBCHS dental clinics. Reports say the NAB Field Director (FD), Mr Calvin Hohn is upbeat to upgrade the department with more equipment so that White Cross materials from the USA are sown here and relieve the NAB tailors, most of who are getting old.

Quizzed on the vision of the Fabric Workshop, Mr Fambfu said they intend to pursue to the letter, the other objectives of the project, which include among others; to minimize the cost of sewing hospital linens and production garments, ensure consistent availability of all types of hospital linen in all the CBCHS facilities and work in partnership with all the fabric services in the different institutions to ensure uniformity according to the CBCHS dress code. He revealed that his next move is to approach schools such as the Baptist Training School for Health Personnel, Banso, all hospital departments, church choirs needing uniforms.

The head of department is also conscious of the changing times. He noted plans to expand the workshop to other CBCHS stations and the need to upgrade the skills of the tailors to meet up with the trends and new designs. ☆

Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala

MBHD Secures Land for Health Centre in Kribi

A hectare of land has been acquired in Kribi for the Baptist Health Centre that is expected to begin there in January 2018, all things being equal. Mr Nfor Daouda, Administrator of Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD) says the health centre will begin in a rented building in the heart of Kribi before the land, which is also strategically located along the Chad pipeline road is exploited. The Administrator is extremely happy for achieving one of MBHD's major goals for expansion. He revealed that it has not been possible to open another health centre in Douala because of the high cost of land and for the fact that priority has been placed on buying drugs.

At the time of this report, documents for the authorization for the health centre in Kribi were being processed via the District Medical Officer, the Regional Delegate of Public Health and the Ministry of Public Health. According to MBHD Administrator, the envisaged health centre in Kribi has lots of prospects with presence of the deep seaport, pipeline to Chad and the absence of a standard health facility in the town. He boasted that we can make all the difference with the right set of staff at the beginning.

In other news, MBHD has a good working relationship with the Africa Mercy Ship that is currently being anchored at Douala seaport for a period of 10 months. MBHD Administrator noted the ongoing training of PT staff for 9 months, one biomedical technician and 6 nurses on sterilization. At the time of this report, 7 Mercy Ship volunteers rounded up their 2-week period of socialization and work at MBHD. During their stay, they interacted with staff and patients, socialized with them and shared experience with others. The volunteers donated a modern portable examination bed to the PT department.

MBHD Eye Department Tests Staff Knowledge on Eye Care

A survey has been conducted by the eye department at Mboppi Baptist Hospital to assess how staff perceive and respond to eye care. The results of the survey rate staff knowledge of eye services at 50 percent, according to HOD Mr. Tontu Zik Michel.

The eye department will use the information to improve staff knowledge of eye care so that they can act like ambassadors in their homes and communities, giving the right information to people and referring clients. Staff will also be taught basic safety tips that they can share. The HOD told CBCHS Press that lectures will continue throughout next year to promote this goal. ☆

Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde

EBHY Administration

Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde (EBHY) has received a haematology analyser at the laboratory from the Strategy Nine Projects Package (S9PP). EBHY Administrator, Mr Yongwa Zaccs told CBCHS Press that the new analyser will render the laboratory more functional and greatly improve on patients' waiting time. Relatedly, the hospital has completed and put to use a second borehole that is capable of solving the water crisis in the hospital once and for all.

Meantime, the administration is putting in place every measure in receiving newly posted or transferred staff and intentionally orientate them to fit into the work culture of the CBCHS with an overriding purpose of providing compassionate care to all and sundry. The Administrator highlighted that this social orientation is more critical now because of the fact that many staff are deviating from the ideals that have kept the CBCHS in the limelight. He noted some of the deviant attitudes to include: lateness to work, bad behaviour in the quarters and rudeness among others. The Administrator posited that although these irregularities are expected with every growing organization, he emphasized that ours is a special one with a dignified mission. He, however, congratulated those shining the light in their good example and called on the wayward ones to sit up and emulate the good ones.

EBHY runs two shifts of work at the OPD consultation, the registration and the pharmacy while the other departments run a straight shift. The first shift runs from 6:40am to 3pm and the second from 10am to 6pm. The Administrator predicted the possibility of third shift following another evaluation that was done showing that some patients still come after 6pm. On this premise, he said there is need to precipitate with plans for the construction of the medical block to enable the hospital to provide 24-hour services.

Presently, EBHY has 5 doctors down from 7 given that one went on further studies and another transferred to the HIV Free project; 3 screeners down from 8 in the recent past and a robust and collaborative management team.

EBHY Dental Department Taking Lead in Orthodontics Repairs

Orthodontics, the dental practice of correcting teeth that are not properly positioned is now well established at Etoug-ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde

(EBHY) dental department since it was introduced in early 2017. Teeth that do not fit correctly are harder to clean and as a result easier to lose through decay. They also cause stress to the chewing muscles, and can even lead to shoulder and back pain.

Since the treatment started at Etougebe in January this year, Dr. Bouetou Theresia and her team have treated over ten clients whose teeth are not properly aligned. For a condition that is common in Cameroon, Dr. Bouetou says there is little knowledge about the existence of treatment. "Many people do not even think it is a problem," she says. They are trying to create awareness within the CBC Health Services and other channels. They are also working to get the necessary equipment they need for the procedures as they continue to improve the health and social lives of their clients. To read more about Orthodontics and dental care, read the next issue of the *Health Mirror* magazine (No.10) which will cover oral hygiene, with expert advice from some of the most experienced dental surgeons in the country.

The dental department at Etougebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde receives an average of 40 patients per day for several other dental conditions. The Head of Department, Mr. Numfor Henry says they have a staff of 12 and four dental units (dental chairs) to attend to the increasing number of clients.

CBCHS ENT Supervisor Visits EBHY

The CBCHS Ear, Nose and Throat supervisor, Dr. Acha Evaristus visited Etougebe Baptist Hospital on November 15 to work with his team at the ENT department of the hospital and assess the challenges they face. He also received patients with many of them scheduled for audiology tests, using an audiometer that he brought along. The ENT clinical officer in EBHY, Mr. Liale Honore says there is need to procure an audiometer for the hospital which sees over twenty patients a day for ENT consultations.

Ekounou Plans Move to New Site

Ekounou Baptist Health Centre (EBHC) is preparing to start operating from its new site at Ekoundoum, a move they expect to make in January after construction work is completed. The move will create space to introduce other services like x-ray/ultrasound, an in service maternity, KYN and others. The Chief of Centre, Mr. Mbeng Frankline says they have been informing their patients, an average 3.500 every month of the move. Hosting World Diabetes Day at the new site this November was an opportunity to promote the new site. The COC also hinted that they are thinking about a day care at the new facility so that staff can keep their children in safe hands while they work. ☆

HIV Free Centre Updates: Expansion of HIV-Free Project Recruits, Trains more PSWs

The HIV-Free project that began in 2011 in the NW and SW Regions of Cameroon created more employment following the expansion of the project to the Centre and Littoral regions in 2015. The expansion created more Cluster sites and Sustained sites for the next COP 17 and FY18, requiring the recruitment of 50 new psychosocial workers (PSWs). CDC/PEPFAR, which sponsors the HIV Free project, also supports 21 other priority countries in Africa seriously affected by HIV and AIDS.

Correspondent reports say the initiation of the project in the Centre region witnessed several challenges that necessitated acceleration and marathon actions to meet targets. These efforts included among others, a recent two session training of 25 participants, each to train PSWs on their job descriptions and what is expected of them on the field professionally and ethically. The training equally briefed them on project activities.

The first session took place from October 16-17, 2017 at GUIKO Hotel while the second session held from October 18-19, 2017 at CASBA Hall Elig-Essono. Both sessions carried the same Agenda and had the same facilitators.

Considering the fact that the HIV-Free Center region expands within the region, a technical review meeting held at Etoug-ebé Baptist Hospital Yaounde to orientate office and field staff on the new project year (COP 17) which started from October 1, 2017. The meeting also revealed key activities and working modalities for the transition period and the first quarter of COP 17.

During this meeting, strategies to meet the target of FY18 were mapped out. From October 1, HIV Free Centre project will be covering 23 districts with a total of 147 sites. Out of the 23 districts, 5 are clusters (scale up) districts. Meanwhile, 25 out of the 147 sites of COP 17 are scale up sites called clusters found in the five priority districts.

Consequent to this new geographical coverage and upgrading and downgrading some sites in the 5 scale up sites, there shall be redeployment of site level staff in order to ensure effective coverage.



The ever increasing number of robust staff of HIV Free Centre

HIVF Centre Management Strategies for COP17 with Partners

Particular to the fact that a new project year (COP 17) started from October 1, 2017 a regional Informative meeting was scheduled with the various districts and partners to map out strategies to meet the target of FY18. In the presence of the DLMEP, the Centre Regional Delegate of Public Health, and other partners such as MAC, EGPAF and CHP, the Project Principal Investigator, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih spoke on the latest developments in the project announcing the project extension and expansion in the Centre region. He proudly congratulated all for the tremendous work done to bring the project this far.



Management strategies for COP17 with partners

In his presentation, the Project Manager, Dr. Katayi Edouard appraised how the project started in the Centre and Littoral regions and equally carried an outline of the difficulties faced during this period. Similarly, the Project Manager analyzed the operationalization plan to meet the activities in the next year COP17. He gave a run down on the strategies to attain the UNAIDS' objectives of 90 90 90. He equally analyzed targets of sites in the Centre region covering 23 districts with a total of 147 sites. Out of the 23 districts, 5 are cluster (scale up) districts while 5 out of the 147 sites are scale up sites called clusters found in the five priority districts namely: Biyem Assi, Cite Verte, Djoungolo, Efulan and Nkolndongo.

The presentation further revealed that 15 of the above clusters are sites that were sustained sites in COP 17 (FY 17) but have been upgraded to scale up and are mostly made of HIV Care and Treatment Centers (UPEC) sustained and another 15 are scale up sites. Equally, 15 sites that were scale up sites in COP 16 have downgraded to sustain sites in COP 17 while 10 of the scale up sites in COP 16 have been maintained as such in COP 17 (also called aggressive scale up sites).

To end the meeting, recommendations were made to improve on Contact tracing, Systematic testing, tracking LTFU, viral load, activity and site supervision, DQA and several others, that can help in the life of the project within the next COP year and beyond.☆

Baptist Hospital Banyo

Baptist Hospital Banyo (BHB) has intensified on physical and spiritual nourishment of both clients and staff alongside the main stream activities in accordance with CBCHS objectives to improve quality of healthcare for all, not under estimating the spiritual and physical components of the WHO definition of health. This follows the inaugurations of BHB Choir new outfit (uniform) and the Njang Dance club.

Correspondent reports say BHB Choir has as objectives to contribute to the health services mission statement through health talks, drama and Christian songs, and cooperate with any Christian group in spreading the gospel especially through singing. Meanwhile, BHB Njang dance club has as objectives to improve the standard of our health by reaching out with Njang Dance to all for physical strengthening and awakening of our physical bodies and spirit.

During the inauguration, the entire staff body including special guests of honor such as Dr. Acha Everestus and Dr. Nana Christopher of MBH ENT/SMILE TRAIN and orthopedic departments respectively gave generously into the Lord's offering basket to foster ministry to the needy clients of the hospital. The Pastor of Wouroum Baptist Church, Rev. Fibuin Emmanuel joined his colleague Pastor Kengok John, the Hospital Chaplain to dedicate not only the uniform, song files and musical instruments but also the men and women of BHB who have decided to serve the Lord in these aspects. The Administrator, Mr. Fambombi Dickson appreciated all the groups and encouraged other staff members to emulate these examples so that the light of God will shine where there is darkness. ☆

HS Visitors

1. Dr. Gabriel Chedister, GS, from USA, to MBH.
2. Dr. Lauren McClain, GS, from USA, to MBH.
3. Dr. Dana Petr, GS, from Czech, to MBH.
4. Dr. Charles & Janice Larson, ER/IM, from Canada, to MBH.
5. Dr. Gerald & Carla Rothacker, Orthopedics, from USA, to MBH.
6. Dr. Peter Elleckvist, ID, from USA, to MBH.
7. Dr. Jacob Zukoski, from USA, to MBH.
8. Dr. Steve Miller, from USA, to MBH.
9. Dr. Carole & Walter Loescher Ob-gyn, from USA, to MBH.
10. Dr. Lorraine Elit, from USA, to MBH.
11. Dr. Amos Chege, from USA, to MBH.
12. Dr. Rebecca Steuart, from USA, to MBH.
13. Prof. Wayne & Deborah Koch, ENT, from USA, to MBH.

Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, MPH, PhD
Director of Health Services

