STEP Evaluators Commend CBC Health Services for Touching Lives of Underprivileged... page 2

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“Remember me with favor, O my God, for all I have done for these people”. Nehemiah 5:19 (NIV)
The Support Tool Enabling Project (STEP) evaluation team has commended the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services for extending services in the community which are greatly beneficial to the less privileged. Lyndal Alanzeder and Kate Cherry, Occupational Therapists, from South Africa were speaking at the end of an evaluation visit to the West and Center Regions where the project has been piloted for one year.

According to the evaluators, the visit was to get an appraisal from the direct beneficiaries and stakeholders of the project on the impact of interventions, lessons learned during the project phase and recommendations on how it can be improved.

The visit took them to 3 homes in the Centre Region and 9 in the West Region during which the parents of children with Cerebral Palsy shared their challenges in taking care of their children given that it is a condition that cannot be fixed but can only be managed. Parents took turns to share the stories of their children from birth till present.

“It was so difficult to accept that my child may never walk because of her condition, given that her biological mother abandoned her upon delivery to me and left. I have got to let go of my farm work just to take care of the child”. This was expressed in sadness by the grandmother of Rejoci, a child living with CP. Her face, however, brightened up when she explained how the fieldworker has been working with her to rehabilitate the child who can now sit on her own even though the progress is so slow but she has accepted it.

“It is difficult for me because she takes a lot of my time in feeding her. I wish she can one day be able to eat and walk like other children”, says the smiling and loving brother of Emmanuella who puts in a lot of energy to assist her mother and give Emmanuella a better life. Her mother also quizzed to know from the Occupational Therapists if CP cannot be cured abroad and was informed that there is no cure but the management of the situation, given the damage done on the child’s brain. Scientific research, the therapists added, has not yet found a solution to this problem but hope that there will be some good news in the future.

Listening to all the stories in the field, the evaluators with their rich therapeutic background provided the parents and field workers with some skills on how to better improve on the functionality of the children. The parents and field workers appreciated these skills given that for the field workers it is going to add value to their work.

Both visits to the Centre and West Regions wrapped up with a feedback session with the field workers and Physiotherapy Assistants in their respective hospitals. This allowed them to share their experiences on the project and recommendations which will improve on the next phase of the project in Cameroon and other countries where the project is being implemented.

The evaluators expressed satisfaction after this meet-the-families tour of children with CP. To them, the objectives were met in the field. They encouraged continuous access to services by clients while noting that the lessons learned from the pilot phase of the project will be shared and replicated in other places.

The staff members, on the other hand, expressed gratitude to the Liliane Foundation and the STEP project. The collaboration of parents to ensure a better life for their children is evident in all families, and with continuous enablement, love and happiness will continue to reign.
The brief but colourful graduation took place on August 3, 2019 at the Director of Health Services’ Conference Hall in Bamenda in the presence of dignitaries and family members.

Presenting the graduands to the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services, the Director of CECPES, Rev. Dr. Ndongnde Godlove highlighted the importance of CPE for everybody. He said through CPE, you can diagnose your personality disorders and how to deal with them as a means of dealing appropriately with others in the society at large.

The program is gaining grounds as it is now a requirement for students of Social Work in some institutions of higher learning who are expected to undertake the course before graduating. On this premise, Rev. Dr. Ndongnde revealed that the Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary (CBCTS) Ndu has monopolized the course in the past four years, especially for her Master’s level students.

Ms. Tabi Rose, CBTS Provost’s representative at the graduation saluted the partnership with CECPES. The same appreciation came from Dr. Fai Lilian, Head of Guidance Counseling at the University of Bamenda (UBa) who acknowledged the quality of training at CECPES, which she confessed, “Can be more than what we offer at UBa”. As an external faculty member at CECPES, Dr. Fai Lilian admonished the graduating social workers to apply very well their knowledge of psychology in treating their clients on an individual basis given that no two persons are the same. She reiterated her institution’s resolve to continue using CECPES as a practicum site for UBa students.

Receiving the graduates on behalf of the Director of Health Services (DHS), the Assistant Administrator at the CBCHS Central Administration, Mr. Wango Wabua Barnabas on the hands-on training at CECPES said, “Quality in the CBCHS is in practice”. He challenged everyone to be ambassadors of CECPES.

The DHS’ representative, Mr. Wango and the Personnel Manager, Mr. Ndosak George used the occasion to hand over to Rev. Dr. Ndongnde a Training of Trainers certificate for going through a national course in Yaounde recently on Addiction and Disorders organized in collaboration with the US Department of State.

The student representatives took turns to appraise their training at CECPES. Pastor Matthew brought a reflection on How CPE affects Pastoral Ministry. According to him, CPE brings out the real person in you and enables the pastor to deal with his sheep from the background of a wounded healer.

On behalf of the social work students, their leader said the training is timely. She submitted that the social workers will be a light wherever they go after graduation.

Bamenda Field Pastor of the CBC, Rev. Ekwo Emmanuel Jato spoke on behalf of the CPE class coming from the faith communities of CBC, PCC, Winner’s Chapel, and Full Gospel denominations. Among them were two pastors, one Rev. Sister, a clinical psychologist and five student pastoral care students from the Seminary. Academically, 6 of the CPE graduates have Bachelor degrees and 3 with Master degrees. “Our time doing CPE has been one of great learning, discovering and better understanding who we are and being equipped to be incarnational in seeing people and ministering to them as Jesus would want us,” Rev. Ekwo remarked.

Both the CPE and Social Work graduates took separate oaths to live up to expectations during their period of practice as professionals.
The Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) field workers of the CBC Health Services have during a two days’ workshop mapped out strategies on how to ensure access of children with disabilities (CWDs) to the CBC pilot inclusive schools. The workshop was organized by CBR and the CBC Education Board partners of the Empowerment Disability and Inclusive Development Program (EDID) with the objective to drill field workers on the Sustainable Inclusive Education Project (SIEP) and their role in increasing the enrollment of children with disability in the pilot schools.

The workshop took place Yaounde within the context of the SIEP Project run by the Education Board in six pilot schools with funding from the Liliane Funds through the EDID Program of the CBC Health Services.

Presenting an overview of the SIEP Project, the Project Officer, Dr. Atanga Napthali decried that many children with disabilities are not accessing education because of ignorance of existing inclusive schools and poverty, amongst many other barriers. To overcome these challenges, he noted, the field workers have a leading role in creating awareness, identifying and referring children with disability from the community to the inclusive schools.

The CBR Supervisor, Mr. Kenchi Joseph drilled the field workers through a session on strategies to fish out children with disabilities from the community so that they can acquire education. He called on them to carry out continuous advocacy in churches, schools, njangi (local thrift and loan) houses, in collaboration with religious, traditional, municipal authorities and other influencers in the community. Mr. Kenchi charged the field workers with the task of ensuring an increased enrollment of children with disabilities in the inclusive schools in 2019/2020 academic year.

The EDID Program Manager in an interview described the field workers as those directly in contact with children with disabilities in the field. “Their role in identifying and referring those children to inclusive schools cannot be overemphasized. With the skills given them, the field workers are expected to take decisions in the field in favour of children with disabilities in all their interventions as well as identify and work with key stakeholders in the community and continue networking,” Mrs. Agho Glory reiterated.

The EDID Program Manager noted that the field workers took commitment to penetrate the communities and fish out children with disabilities so that they can have access to the SIED pilot inclusive schools.

The workshop was preceded by a two-day workshop held for the CBR field workers, Physiotherapy Assistant staff and Bursars of the CBC Health Services directly involved with the EDID funds and activities. The participants were drilled on the expectations of Liliane Funds, the founder of the EDID Program and their role in providing holistic services to achieve the goal of the program which is to improve on the quality of life for children with disability.

At the end of the workshop, participants attested that the workshop was educative as it equipped them on how Liliane Funds are disbursed and reconciled.
UN Population Fund recognizes Standard Operating Procedures Document for GBV

The Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services continues to set the pace in efforts on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection (CP) and disability. The CBC Health Services has demonstrated her prowess in these areas through partnerships with national and international organizations.

Through its Services for Persons With Disability (SPWD) program, the CBCHS used her rich experience in GBV to facilitate in a workshop on the validation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for GBV and CP for the North West and South West Regions organized by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Douala recently.

The Standard Operating Procedures document was developed by the Community of Practice Project under the SEEPD program together with other actors on GBV. The document set a standard for the intervention of GBV at all levels to avoid duplications of practices. The SOP won the recognition of Humanity and Inclusion, who were willing to fund workshops for GBV stakeholders in April 2019, to review the draft document so that it can go into implementation.

Being the working document that spells out its referral pathway, and its disabilities undertone shared with UNFPA, they invited the CBC Health Services to the workshop in Douala to lead in the facilitation of a session focused on “special consideration for children and persons with disabilities”. The Gender and Child Protection Officer of the CBC Health Services, Ms Nsono Josephine seized the moment to thrill participants through a session highlighting child protection concerns and what to consider in mainstreaming both child protection and disabilities in programs and project cycle management.

In her presentation, Nsono Josephine lamented on statistics presented in January 2019 by UNOCHA that doesn’t intrinsically highlight the prevalence of disability. “Although WHO (2015) maintains that global prevalence stands at 15%, [there is more to it] several persons who live with disabilities lived in both regions before the crisis and several others have and continue to sustain one form of impairment or the other as the crisis lives on,” she pointed out.

During the workshop, the organizers, in consensus, agreed on the dire need to make the SOP inclusive of the needs of affected populations (GBV survivors) with disabilities.

It is interesting to note that the strides being made on advocacy with partners is leading to mainstreaming of disability in humanitarian and development actions particularly in the development of SOP at national levels on GBV with UNFPA.

FP Services: A Means to Reduce Unplanned Pregnancies, Maternal Mortality

The Women’s Health Program (WHP) of the CBC Health Services has launched a project dubbed “Addressing Barriers to Family Planning (FP) in Urban Slums in two cities of Cameroon”. The launch took place on August 7, 2019 at the CBCHS Resource Center in Yaounde.

This Project has as objective to strengthen the capacity of 30 existing Community Health Workers (CHW) to integrate Family Planning (FP) Services in their routine community activities within urban slums in the cities of Yaounde and Douala in Cameroon by January 2020. The project has been granted by the United Nations Foundation (FF 2020 RRM), a global partnership that supports the rights of women and girls to decide freely and for themselves whether, when and how many Launching the Project in an event which brought together all its stakeholders, the Director of CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih, called on CBCHS WHP Supervisor, Mrs. Manjuk Florence to get the team working while stressing on the limited time for its implementation to be used effectively and attain the required results.

It is hoped that by the end of the training project, the knowledge and skills of 30 CHWs and 22 FP providers on the provision of different FP methods/techniques on evidence-based information and counseling will be increased. This will consequently increase access to FP information, services and supplies for women and girls living in urban slums in the cities of Yaounde and Douala children they want to have.
First Central Facilitative Supervision on PMTCT

The HIV Free Project Senior Supervisor for Family Planning and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Services, Dr. Florence Tumasang has embarked on a two-day facilitative supervision on PMTCT cohort monitoring in some facilities in the South West (SW) Region of Cameroon. Being the first central level supervision, some four sites; Regional Hospital Buea, Baptist Hospital Mutengene, Regional Hospital Limbe and Tiko Central Clinic/CDC Cottage Hospital were visited for the exercise from July 31 to August 1, 2019.

The Senior Supervisor was accompanied by the HIV-Free SW PMTCT Cohort Monitoring Focal Point and the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Supervisor. The objectives of the two-day facilitative supervision were to check the availability of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), enrolling women and children into the different cohorts, the implementation of the new viral load algorithm for pregnant women, the viral load coverage, collection of PCR samples and the availability of PCR results in the register.

Giving feedback on the supervisory visit during the coordination meeting on August 2, 2019, Dr. Tumasang said she was impressed with the fact that all trained service providers who met at the facilities know the objective of the approach which is to ensure that babies born of HIV positive mothers are negative for HIV at the end of at least 18 months.

Given that the risk of transmitting HIV is much more reduced when a client is virally suppressed, Dr. Tumasang stressed on the need for the mothers to do a viral load test, ensure proper counselling for adherence and enhanced adherence counselling for those whose viral load are unsuppressed. Of the four sites visited, Baptist Hospital Mutengene was noted to be the best in terms of performance.

Some lapses noticed in the facilities visited called for a reminder and orientation on how to effectively implement PMTCT Cohort Monitoring. For the past 7 months, 206 HIV positive women have been enrolled in PMTCT maternal cohort with 202 active and 127 in the infant cohort.
The Muslim family of Sorro Soulemanou Bello and wife were on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 blessed with a set of triplet. The precious babies were born through a Cesarean Section (CS) at the Bafoussam Baptist Health Centre (BBHC) in the West region of Cameroon.

Mother of triplets, Rougaitou, heavily pregnant and due, was discovered with multiple gestations after an ultrasound check during one of her regular ANC visits in a local health center at Koutaba. Mr. Bello and wife were referred to BBHC for proper medical care.

Mme Ngum Mary B., Midwife in charge of the maternity at BBHC narrates that Rougaitou arrived on the 22 July from Koutaba and her results showed multiple gestations. "I examined her to confirm the positions of the babies in her womb," she said.

"She was programmed for July 23, 2019. A lower segment CS was done and all 3 children had a good APGAR. The female child weighed 2.16 kg and both boys tip the scales at a total of 3.81kg.

The new multiservice hospital structure provides quality healthcare to clients 24/7. BBHC has efficient maternity and family planning services fighting against maternal and neonatal mortality in the West Region and beyond. This would benefit the new occupants (triplets) of the maternity.

"In the ward, we noticed that one of the children had problem breathing. We placed him on oxygen. The third child had difficulty feeding directly from the mother. We used a nasogastric tube to ensure that the baby feeds from the mother," the midwife recounted.

This delicate situation turned out well for the Bello family and the staff of the BBHC maternity wards and brought joy and emotions to the entire hospital family.

Mr. Fambombi Dickson, the Hospital Administrator commended his staff for the work done, "We are happy because the children, mother, and father are all doing fine. There are some necessities we will take care of. We hope by the end of their treatment the babies are going to respond to life just fine, as God helps us," he said.

According to our Bafoussam based correspondent, Fosso, the three children remained under observation at the maternity ward for full recovery before discharge. At the time of this report, the mum and her babies were responding to medical care in the health centre while awaiting further recommendations from the doctors to return to their temporal home in Koutaba.

The parents are said to be unemployed, with three older kids to carter for. Obviously, life seems difficult for this couple. They testified that they are not financially stable to take care of all the children thus; they seek any form of assistance from ambassadors of goodwill to help them.

The Bello family hails from Sop-Ndu in the Northwest region as internally displaced persons (IDPs) who fled their home town because of the current socio political crisis and been seeking refuge in Koutaba for over 4months now.
Smart Strategies Prescribed in Attaining Target for Quarter 4

The HIV Free Project Technical Director, Dr. Albert Bakor, has prescribed 'Smart' strategies for the attainment of project targets in Quarter 4 of the financial year 19 (FY19). Dr. Bakor was talking to HIV-Free SW project staff during Quarter 3 (Q3) coordination meeting that took place on August 2, 2019 at the CBC Health Services Complex in Mutengene.

From the presentation of Q3 results, there was a general improvement in the attainment of targets although still not meeting the desired outcome. For instance, there were gaps noticed in HIV testing, and especially those tested positive and those initiated on Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment. At the end of Quarter 3 with an annual target of 149,492, the South West (SW) has so far achieved 99,171 given 66% instead of at least 75%, ART initiation achievement rate as per the annual target was just 29%.

It is from this premise and other key indicators that the Technical Director outlined Smart strategies that centered on case identification, treatment initiation, retention, viral load suppression and performance monitoring. He noted that for project staff to be more efficient in Quarter 4, they must work hard and work smart. Some of the Smart strategies were to, focus on index testing with keen interest on sexual contacts of newly diagnosed clients, contacts of patients with unsuppressed viral load, test sexual contacts of key populations, strategize to test all contacts of index cases already elicited and notified, identify entry point, and linkage agents with challenges and support them to improve performance.

The treatment retention improved from Q1 to Q3: In Q1, the retention was -134%, 51% in Q2 and experienced a sharp increase to 135% in Q3. Observing improvement in retention, the Technical Director urged staff to continue implementing the strategies to improve retention and turn all the 'reds' to 'greens' for some specific sites. To ensure that clients are on treatment and current in care, it was emphasized that clients who come in the month should be refilled for at least two months if ARVs are available.

Senior Management Team (SMT) Trains Stakeholders on Baseline Assessment of New PEPFAR Supported Sites

The 32 stakeholders of the HIV Free NW were coached on the use of tools for the upcoming site assessment of the COP (Country Operational Plan) 19. This training/orientation session on the assessment of the new PEPFAR Supported Sites for COP 19 in the NWR took place in Bamenda on August 16, 2019.

The participants during this training had a unique opportunity to understand all about the tool to be used during the assessment which is provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to assess the 32 eligible sites mapped out in the North West Region of Cameroon.

Addressing the participants, the Project Principal Investigator (PI), Prof. Tih Pius Muffih noted that this was a crucial step in the lifespan of the project; hence the true picture of the facilities should be presented. He, therefore, called on the team to keenly assess the following key indicators like infrastructure, staffing, and equipment to better understand the specific needs of each facility for appropriate intervention come October 2019.

At the end of the training, the NW Regional Technical Group (RTG) Coordinator for HIV and AIDS, Dr. Tayong Gladys encouraged and called on the participants to ensure that they make the most of this opportunity to learn and give a true picture of the sites during their assessments. The assessment is expected to end on September 13, and data sent to the SMT latest September 18, 2019.
HIV Free NW Team Assesses Progress

As it has become a routine activity for the past three months, project staff converge during their weekly meeting to report achievements, express challenges and receive smart feedback from management to tackle identified challenges promptly.

Present during this meeting was the Technical Director, Dr. Albert Bakor who called on project staff to leave no stone unturned from now till September 29, to ensure that targets are met. He called on staff to intentionally go through VCT (Voluntary Testing & Counseling) registers as part of their weekly follow-up activity for possible identification of cases that could be index contacts. He also called on staff not to miss on “low hanging fruits” by exploring the Viral Load registers to sort out clients with high viral load and contact trace their sexual partners for HIV testing.

The M&E team scrutinized data per facility to paint a true picture of what is happening on the ground, while the finance department presented the weekly expenditure sheet while cautioning profligacy. The session ended with a question and answer session, with management calling on each staff member not to relent efforts.

Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD)

MBHD Eye Department standing Out

The eye department of Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD) stands out as one of the leading departments that bring patients to the hospital. The department received two sets of 13 Assistant Ophthalmic Medical Assistant (AOMA) students from the Baptist Training School for Health Personnel in Banso for practical experience for two months each.

The first set of 7 AOMA students came in May and left in June while the second set of 6 came in June and finished in July 2019. Tatat Julius, one of the two Ophthalmic Medical Assistant (OMA) students in training was also at the department for practical experience for two months as well.

The Head of Department (HOD), Mr. Tontu Zik confirmed to CBCHS Press that the students find fulfillment with the experiences they get during their period of stay. As eye consultants in training, the HOD noted that the students’ presence at the department brings relief as they greatly assist in reducing the workload.

Relatedly, three AOMAs have been transferred to the department as against one transferred from the department to Baptist Hospital Mutengene. The three coming in were due to assume duty on August 12, 2019. Meantime, the ophthalmologist, Dr. Kamdem spent the last week of July at Mbingo Baptist Hospital to assist in cataract surgeries.

MBHD eye department offers the following services: comprehensive eye services (preventive and curative) optical services including refraction prescription and mounting of glasses, cataract surgeries are done by a resident ophthalmologist, availability of good equipment such as OCT for glaucoma and other retinal testing and referral clinic.

MBHD Mental Health Department making Strides amidst Odds

The oddities and other forms of the stigma attached to the Mental Health department are not strong enough factors to weaken the zeal of the two committed nurses towards their clients. Nyamba Odilia Mboh, a psychiatric and mental health nurse and Scholastica Macoba Nanga, an Advanced Practice Nursing Assistant (APNA) say their greatest challenge is stigma to their clients even by fellow staff and the need for more space to adequately attend to patients who are sometimes violent and need a place to sleep and rest.

Another major challenge is the lack of funding to carry out community sensitization and follow up given that the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEE PD) program activities do not extend to the Littoral region.

MBHD Mental Health department went operational on January 2, 2018. The clinic sees an average of over 100 clients per month. At the clinic, the staff do effective treatment and follow up of people with psychosis, depression, dementia, and epilepsy. People who are addicted to substances such as marijuana, tramadol, cigarette, diazepam etc and willing to stop are attended to.

Reports say, there is a positive community response to the mental health services, especially from those who come to the clinic and get help out of their predicament.
MBHD Mental Health Department making Strides amidst Stigma

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Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM)

BHM Trauma Center to go Operational this Year

Construction work on the Trauma Center of Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) is well on course, thanks to external funding. The decking was completed and technicians were busy with plastering, wiring and I.T. installations when CBCHS Press visited the site.

BHM Assistant Administrator in-charge of Personnel, Mr. Gamngong Emmanuel revealed that the hospital is committed to complete work on the ground floor and put the Trauma Center to use before the year runs out. According to him, the Center would be very useful to the numerous trauma cases resulting from car accidents along the Douala-Tiko-Limbe highway. On this premise, the Assistant Administrator observed that the orthopedist and initiator of the Center, Dr. Ndasi Henry is upbeat and working hard to see the Trauma Center in BHM go operational in no distant time.

In other news, BHM now runs a Provision Store at the entrance of the hospital. BHM Assistant Administrator in-charge of Finance, Mrs. Chasieh Lilian noted that the decision to begin the initiative came from patients and caregivers who are frustrated not knowing where to buy basic items, especially on ghost town days, on public holidays and in the evenings when all the shops around the hospital are closed. The shop was inaugurated on Tuesday, August 6, 2019.

Bafia Population wants its Health Center Re-opened

The population of Bafia says they are dying from lack of basic health care and wants the CBC Health Services to re-open the Bafia Baptist Health Center (BBHC), which was closed down following disruption of services and destruction of some equipment causing the staff to flee into the bushes at the heat of the ongoing socio-political unrest in the Southwest and Northwest regions of Cameroon.

Upon this request in line with the CBCHS’ mission of providing care to all who need it, BBHC will re-open on a low key as a Primary Health Center in anticipation for total normalcy.

On a similar note, BHM Administrator, Mr. Loke Samuel, and the Assistant Administrator in-charge of Personnel, Mr. Gamngong Emmanuel visited Ekondo-Titi on July 10, 2019 to encourage the staff of the health center and to condole and pray with the family of the chief who was dragged out of church service and killed also within the context of the crisis. According to reports, the population, the health center staff and the family of the chief felt happy that they could be remembered and visited at such a difficult time as this. Mr. Gamngong remarked that they went to Ekondo-Titi by sea via Idenau because the road is very bad at this rainy season and very insecure with several armed groups on the way.
The female workers of Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) have been given skills to cope with balancing their careers and home chores. CBCHS Social Work Supervisor based at BHM, Mrs. Kyota Therese explained that the exclusive Female Conference that held recently in the hospital premises was prompted by the fact that many female staff come to the social services department expressing the challenges of balancing work and home.

Two presentations were made at the Conference; one on "Building Capacity to Enhance Women's Self Esteem" by Mrs. Wanyu Marilyn and the other on "Marital Problems faced by Women and how to Handle Them" by Mrs. Kyota Therese. Workshop sessions punctuated the presentations.

In the first presentation, Mrs. Wanyu who is a senior social worker presented eight things that the women staff can do to build self-confidence. These included: stand or sit in the posture of confidence, affirm yourself, care for yourself, question your inner critic, give your permission to be in the process by trying to do what you can do, clarify your goal, visualize confidence and exercise regularly.

On marital problems, Mrs. Kyota highlighted four main areas where problems arise in the home namely: adultery, addictions, abuse, and agendas. The workshop sessions focused on burnout, financial challenges, and absentee husbands.

The Conference came out with seven key areas as a coping mechanism for the female workers. They were: respect your husband (Eph. 5:33), accept him as a spiritual leader, wisely and lovingly appeal to your husband, develop inward and outward beauty (1 Peter 3:1-4), express genuine gratefulness to your husband, accept your husband's effort to protect you when the man is not a Christian, apply 1 Peter 3:1-4; Eccl. 10:10b, and seek professional help.

Chaplain Nfah Mercy brought devotions at the Female Conference while the Assistant Supervisor of Nursing Services, Mrs. Epie

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Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde & her Institutions

CBCHS Institutions in Center Region Chart Strategies to improve Health Care

Medical Doctors and leaders of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services' hospitals and health centers in the Center Region of Cameroon have discussed ways to improve the quality of care clients receive in their facilities. The resolve was made during an enlarged meeting held recently at Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaoundé (EBHY).

Mr. Yongwa Zacks, EBHY Administrator while chairing the meeting called on the leaders to more than before, commit to work hand in glove for the common good of the organization. He noted working in synergy was the surest way towards improving the care offered to clients as well as meeting the set objectives included in the vision of the organization. The come together presented the leaders an opportunity to interact and know each other better.

Dr. Bouetou Theresia, EBHY Chief Medical Officer appreciated the doctors for their hard work. The senior doctors of Ekounou, Dr. Kinne Virginie, the Internist and Dr. Kamsang Pius, the Ophthalmologist took turns to encourage the doctors.

One of the high moments of the meeting was the resolve by doctors to meet quarterly and the administrative team to meet twice a year for continuous information sharing and sharpening.

Participants to the meeting were drawn Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde, Ekounou Baptist Health Centre, Voundou Baptist Health Centre, Nkoabang Baptist Health Centre and Mvan Resource Centre for Excellence.

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MUFIG Cash Office goes operational at Ekoumdoum

Clients of the Mutual Guarantee Financing Company PLC widely referred to as MUFIG in and around Ekoumdoum, Nkoabang, and Awae will no longer travel long distances for their financial deals, thanks to the beginning of a new cash office at Ekoumdoum Baptist Health Centre in the outskirts of Yaounde.

According to Martin Nfor, Branch Manager the cash office which will in no distant time be a full-fledge branch will greatly limit the movement of staff to and from Etoug-Ebe for transactions. The MUFIG cash office is already of great service to the staff at Ekoumdoum Baptist Health Center especially those whose salaries are paid through this institution.

“We are ready to pay workers from this office during the July payout,” detailed Martin.

At the moment, the cash office is offering two services; daily savings and establishments of saving and salary accounts. At MUFIG clients with salary accounts have the latitude to manage their finances as they wish and can obtain loans at just 1% (one percent) interest rate. It is worth recalling that salary accounts have no charges.

The financial institution established way back in 1999 has a common goal of working together for the good of all her customers.
Nkoabang BHC Takes Healthcare to Community

The populace of ‘Awae Village’ a locality in the Center Region of Cameroon on August 1, 2019, had some of the services of Nkoabang Baptist Health Center (BHC) right at their doorsteps. This was during an outreach visit to that community.

Speaking to the Health Services Press on behalf of the Chief of Center, Sharon Tata, Bursar said the outreach aimed at spurring the population to take charge of their health. “Getting health services closer to underserved communities is paramount to attaining the institution’s mission of quality healthcare to all,” she added.

During outreach, the consultation fee was reduced to FCFA 500 which is half the standard consultation due during a visit to the health center. The outreach had a combined team from the Women’s Health Program, Dental, Eye, and Out-Patient Departments.

Donatus Ngobe, Assistant Ophthalmic Medical Assistant at the health center’s Eye Department remarked that the outreach was timely given that many people benefited from eye screening and other conditions affecting them. He further noted that since many people only get to the health facility when there are critically ill, to make them see the need to come for care early is by getting the services closer to them through outreach.

Quizzed on how long the community outreach initiative will last, Sharon said it’s already part of the health center’s key activity. “We are already making plans for the next outreach billed September 2019,” she added.

It is worth noting that the health center currently runs a maternity and inpatient services. As challenges are part of the everyday life of corporate citizens, the health center has been and is witnessing a low patient turnout especially from May through August.

Prayer Concerns

1. Thank God for the leadership of the CBCHS that is still holding on in spite of the huge challenges imposed on it by the ongoing socio-political crisis in the NW and SW regions.

2. Thank God for the resilience of CBCHS workers serving especially in the NW and SW regions. Pray that they will not get weary soon.

3. All our institutions in the NW and SW regions are heavily affected by the crisis. Pray that God will provide a means of sustenance as He chooses.

4. It is the beginning of another school year of frustration in the two English speaking regions. Pray for pupils and students who have not enjoyed the right to education in this part of the country for three years now.

5. Pray that God should provide a solution to the diverse challenges of Cameroon at this moment; that He should punish evil and reward good as He so deems.