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STOP PRESS!!

Read the HS Chronicle and
pass it on to the next person

BIBLE VERSE

*"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,
a workman who does not need to be ashamed and
who correctly handles the word of truth".
2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV).*

CBC Gets New Leadership

Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne is the new name in whose hands the vision and mission of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) lie in the next 4 years. The erstwhile Yaounde Field Pastor emerged during the 29th CBC General Session that took a twist following the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Initially planned for March 2020 in Yaounde, the CBC General Session was cancelled and pushed forward in compliance with safety norms to stop the spread of the novel COVID-19. And it came to pass that God provided wisdom to the leaders to find a way out of the impasse, without which, a leadership gap was staring us in the face. The General Session would finally be held in 10 Centers in what has become known as 'Mini General Session' with a single agenda: Election of CBC and Wing leaders. The date was November 13, 2020, and the Centers regrouped Fields around them. The Centers included: Nkambe, Mbuntzi, Ndop, Bamenda, Bafoussam, Buea, Kumba, Mamafe, ADNOFAN, and Yaounde.

The incumbent Executive President, Rev. Dr. Ncham Godwill had come to the end of his mandate, having served two terms (8 years and additional 8 months due to COVID-19). Therefore, the race to replace him was hotly contested by Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne and Rev. Dr. Mokake Paul Wose who is current Director of Evangelism and Missions. Both candidates stood neck to neck in almost all the Centers except in Yaounde, Mbuntzi, and Ndop Centers that made clear distinctions for Rev. Dr. Nditemeh to carry the day when the Elections Committee released the results in Bamenda same day, thanks to technological advancement that facilitated the easy turning in of results from the Centers.

In his acceptance note, the EP elect pegged his tenure on Truth, Equity and Balanced Development for the transformation of the Cameroon Baptist Convention with Psalm 35:4 as his guiding verse.

The incumbent CBC Chairman, Mr. Yosi-bom Mkong John got another term when he

emerged from his two contenders: Mrssrs Albert Luma Efase and Ngwang Raphael.

The incumbent CBC Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Ekema Diana Eposi also renewed her mandate over her contenders: Mr. Kongor John Ngwang and Mrs. Sylvia Funfe.

The National Pastors Fellowship and CBC Men's Fellowship also witnessed new names. Rev. Wepngong Samuel emerged over Rev. Shu Divine to take over as Chairman of the National Pastors Fellowship from the incumbent, Rev. Ambola David Njong who stepped aside. The CBCMF welcomes Dr. Aghi Aaron who comes into the shoes of the incumbent, Mr. Yuniwo Edison who also stepped aside.

The Women's Fellowship renewed their confidence in their incumbent President, Mrs. Chia Margaret. Meanwhile, the Youth and Students Ministry got as President, Njilah Brain Bunyui to replace the incumbent, Kwalar Rene who came to the end of his tenure.

BIHS Graduates More Specialist Doctors

The 2020 batch of the Post-Graduate Medical Specialization programmes of the Baptist Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS) has been beseeched to embrace teamwork as they begin offering specialized care henceforth.

Dr. Ron Johnansen, a Cardiologist made the call in a commencement address at the graduation ceremony of the Institute. "Medicine is team sports. You have to be a team player. Listen to the nursing staff, appreciate and acknowledge them always because they spend more time with the patients," advised Dr. Ron.

The graduation at Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH) on November 28, 2020, saw Dr. Mabanza Kibuka Tresor from the Democratic Republic of Congo triumphed as a surgeon after 5-long-years of studies at the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS). While Dr. Epande

Richard Enang and Dr. Nkwetateba Eugene Andre all from Cameroon graduated as Internists after 4years at the Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS) programme.

Delivering a charge to the graduates qualified as the most succinct in the history of PAACS and CIMS graduation, Dr. Kouya Francine, Oncologist admonished the now termed specialists to model after the Hebrew midwives in Exodus 1:15, who feared God and didn't yield to Pharaoh's order to kill every male child birthed at the time. "Thanks to these midwives, we are today celebrating a 'Moses'. The way you do your work, treating all patients equally and being a voice to them in health crises, you will be letting a 'Moses' in this generation to live," retorted Dr. Kouya, herself a product from CIMS.

In a response shortly after receiving the ac-

colades from the Directors of the two programmes, Dr. Nkwetateba Eugene Andre on behalf of the graduates appreciated all who turned out en-masse to support them. "We are grateful for the love and support you have shown us. Thank you for coming despite the prevailing circumstances in our country," he said.

"We wish to by extension, express our appreciation to the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services, Mbingo Baptist Hospital, and the Baptist Institute of Health Sciences for organizing this colourful graduation in our honour. Many thanks go to all the clinical staff whose support through our training was invaluable. To this, we say thank you," quipped Dr. Nkwetateba.

cont....pg 3



Specialists Doctors poised to render exemplary health care

From pg 2

Retirees Honoured

On the sidelines of the graduation, four staff of Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH) were honoured for outstanding services to the hospital, the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services, and Cameroonians as a whole. Mrs. Kah Theresa kuneh is retiring from active services after 41 years, Aluv Victorine after 32

years, Elijah Kuimichi Chikeh after 29 years, and Kongla Edith after 21 years.

Presenting retirement certificates and retiree identity cards to them, Mr. Wango Barnabas, Assistant Administrator in the Director of Health Services' Office, appreciated the retir-

ees for hard and diligent work. "As you go on to have well-deserved rest, pay attention to your health. Take advantage of the organization's yearly physicals to know the state of your health," he recommended.

Long Serving Staff decorated for Admirable Services

November 24, 2020 in Bamenda marked a historic connotation in the lives of some staff of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) and the institution as a whole. The day witnessed the decoration of 21 individuals who have served the Convention and humanity in different areas of work, over the years. These awards categorized those who have served the CBC from 10 to 25 years, and counting.

Standing on their feet to receive this distinction, the laureates were adorned with shining medals ranking in gold, silver, and bronze by the Inspector General Number 1, representing the Governor of the Northwest Region. It is worth noting that this award is in part, a token of recognition of hard work, commitment, and achievement over time, of the selected number from the Education Department, Health Services, and the office of the Bamenda Field of the CBC.

Listening to their names being called out,

some of the recipients could not hide their joy when it was their turn to be decorated. Among these were Mr. Nyanganji Job, Education Secretary, Mr. Haddison Paul Luma, former CBC Education Secretary and Rev. Ekwo Emmanuel, outgoing Bamenda Field Pastor. They all received labour medals in gold.

With both hands joined together, bended knees, and wreathed in smiles, another gold medalist, Mr. Kuma Daniel of the CBCHS revealed just how he was feeling. "I am grateful for this award because it shows diligence in the work that God has granted me to offer in the CBCHS. This award has come to make me start afresh and recommit myself to work for the good of humanity," he expressed.

Addressing the occasion, the outgoing Executive President of the CBC, Rev Dr. Ncham Godwill ably represented by Rev. Godlove, used the opportunity to thank the State for recognizing hard work within the organization. The

EP's envoy also encouraged all the staff of the CBC to dedicate themselves to working hard. "May this occasion of labour medal award spur us to render more services as unto the Lord," he added.

Concurring to the EP's charge, the lone gold medalist from the Health Services, Yuh Margaret Musi of the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) department openly conveyed her deepest gratitude for being recognized and swore to do more henceforth. "For my colleagues in this department, be patient and devoted to your service and surely you will complete the journey," she cheered.

Participants of the event were left with a charge to serve humanity where ever they may find themselves because this demonstration is 'a rehearsal of how God is going to reward us on the last day'.

CBC Health Services Showcases Prowess in Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Treatment

The Board of Directors and staff at the Paediatric-Adolescent Treatment Africa (PATA) from Wednesday, November 11 to Friday, November 13, 2020, hosted the PATA 2020 Summit, under the theme: "Reaching Goals and Rebuilding on the Frontlines of Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Service Delivery during COVID", and titled Breakthrough and Build Back together. This year, the summit was held in both physical and virtual sessions.

The Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services hosted this summit in Cameroon at the CBC Health Services' Resource Center, Mvan, Yaounde. The physical and virtual summit was in response to travel restrictions and various COVID-19 lockdown regulations. PATA 2020 Summit was held via a centralised virtual hub that connected to in-country main spokes and satellite spokes.

The PATA 2020 Summit is a collaborative meeting that focuses on bringing frontline health providers together with a diverse community, united in a renewed call to action to acceler-

ate efforts to end AIDS in Children and Adolescents. It is a unique activity in the HIV sector that features programming focused on home-grown solutions and also offers a platform that brings frontline health providers, global experts, National Programme Managers, and young leaders living with HIV together in a collaborative Linking and Learning forum.

The thematic focus of the PATA 2020 Summit was to breakthrough and continue striving to reach the missed 90-90-90 global targets with a focus on rebuilding and overcoming COVID-19 related setbacks. The summit provided a dynamic and productive Linking and Learning platform to highlight best practices, examine progress, identify gaps and barriers, and feature accelerator game-changing strategies against different service delivery frameworks.

The CBC Health Services used the occasion to discuss country-specific issues, evaluate progress, and chart the way forward in Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Care and Treatment Services. Launching the event, the Director of the

CBC Health Services Professor Tih Pius Muffih enjoined all participants especially the Peer Supporters and Adolescent Champions to take lead in the discussion and challenge experts in order to contribute purposefully to strategies that will enable the attainment of epidemic control in Cameroon by 2021.

Adolescent Champions who attended the summit in Cameroon, used the event as an opportunity to meet other peers around the globe, and also present their challenges, successes, rekindle their enthusiasm as Peer Supporters, and benefit from the knowledge shared by experts across the globe.

Closing the summit, the Chief of Service for the HIV Department at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Ketchaji Alice thanked the CBC Health Services for the planning of the Satellite Spoke in Cameroon. She equally appreciated the commitment of the institution in working with Peer Champions and the committee for the great care rendered to Adolescent Champions.

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Champions and the committee for the great care rendered to Adolescent Champions.

She urged the Champions to use the knowledge gained to benefit them and other adolescents that they will be working with.

The CBC Health Services continues to improve its service delivery in the domain of HIV and AIDS in the country. It is worth noting that the CBC Health Services was shortlisted in a video competition titled with the hashtag "#JerusalemChallenge", as well as an article dubbed, "Show and Tell", showing how the institution has adapted the delivery of its service alongside the novel coronavirus.

Pioneer Hygiene, Safety Committee Goes Operational at CBCHS Central Administration

The first-ever Hygiene and Safety Committee at the Central Administration of the CBC Health Services has met with the resolve to set the pace worth emulating within the system. According to Mr. Shuye Joseph, Assistant Administrator in-charge of Special Duties at the Director of Health Services' (DHS) Office who facilitated the creation of the Committee, the team will be officially installed in the days ahead in the presence of officials from the Delegation of Labour and Social Security.

The 10-man Committee met on November 11, 2020, at the Director of Health Services' (DHS) Conference Hall in Bamenda with Mr. Chiambah Abraham as chairman and Mrs. Bantar Doris as secretary. The other members include Nge Denis, Aboki Margaret, Bonkung Handerson, Lukong Usheni, Deng Methuselaha, Chubi Peter, Tantoh Emmanuel, and Njerim Christa.

In his address, the Chief of Administration and Finance (CAF), Mr. Warri Denis congratulated the Committee members for accepting additional

responsibility at a challenging time when much is expected from the staff to sustain the CBC Health Services. The CAF said issues of hygiene and safety will henceforth be more intentional at the Central Administration with a Committee now in place. He challenged the chairman to use his well of experience to initiate action plans and document every activity so that his Committee should stand out as an example for other CBCHS institutions to follow.



CAF empowering Hygiene & Safety Committee of CBC Health Services' Central Administration

The main facilitator at the meeting, Mr. Shuye Joseph explained that the Hygiene and Safety Committee is a government regulation clearly spelled out in the Labour Code, the reason why he has taken the pains to go round all the CBCHS institutions to educate staff and put in place this Committee, because as he put it, "Ignorance of the law is no excuse".

Shuye drilled the 10-man Committee through what could be described as "Terms of Reference"

for Hygiene and Safety. Issues discussed included among others; the definition of hygiene and safety, why the creation of such a Committee, the procedure for creation, membership, frequency of meeting, and working documents. Mr. Shuye also facilitated the Chemistry of Fire while Mr. Nge Denis demonstrated the use of the fire extinguisher.

The Chairman, Mr. Chiambah Abraham led the Committee to formulate a 6-point plan of action

to be executed in November and December 2020. Key among the actions are the creation of Assembly Points in case of an incidence, the acquisition, and installation of fire extinguishers in strategic locations, the acquisition, labeling, and installation of more dust bins in various locations, and regular education on hygiene and safety. The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2020.

CBC Health Services Launches Scholarship for Children, Youths with Disability

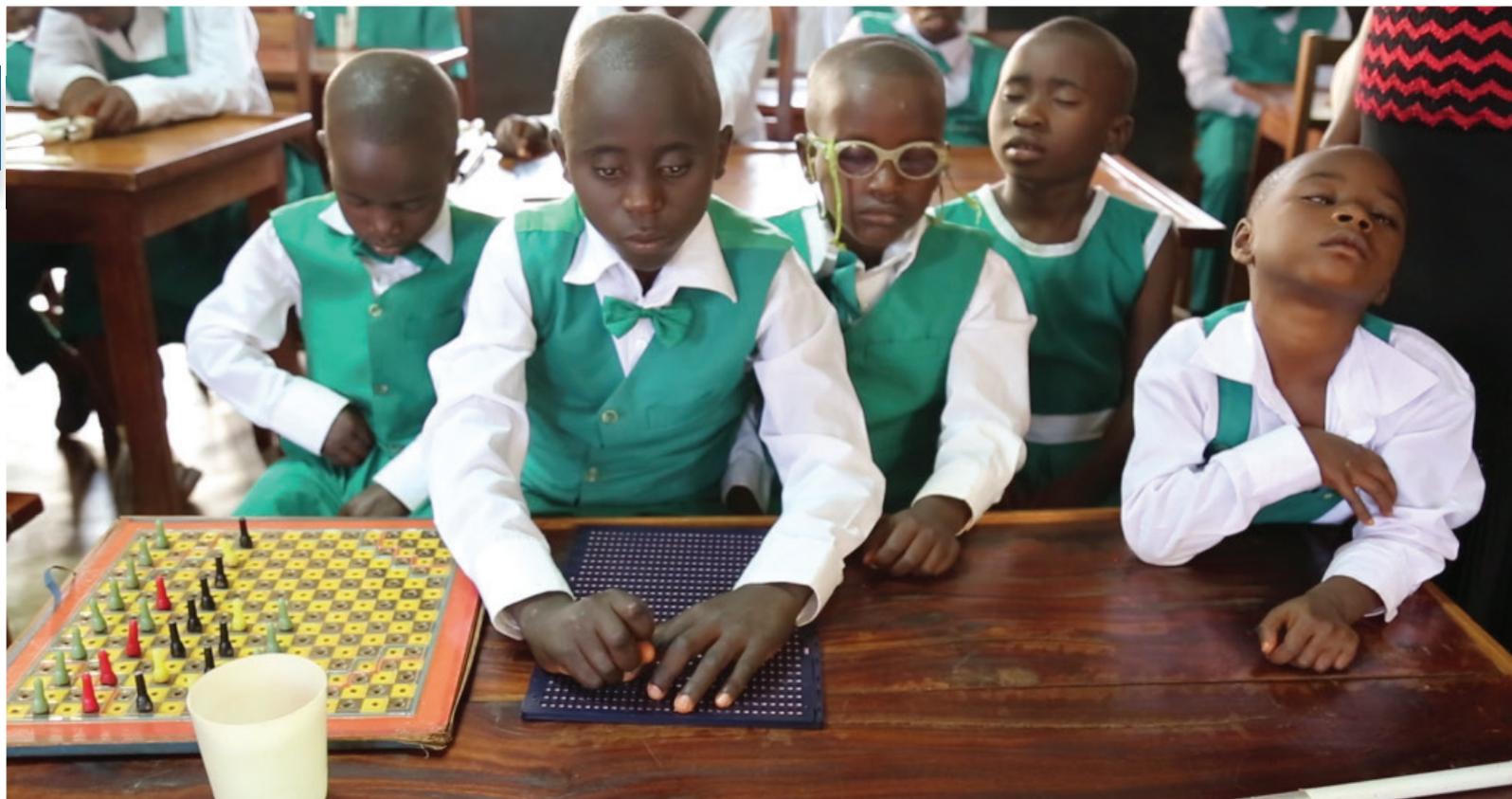
November 10, 2020, marked another milestone in the work of the CBC Health Services for persons with disabilities. The day witnessed the official launching of a Scholarship Service for Children and Youths with Disabilities in Cameroon managed by the Services for Persons with Disability (SPD) program of the CBC Health Services. The scholarship is run with funds donated by Organisations and individuals with interest in specific disability areas.

The launching took place virtually in respect to COVID-19 preventive measures and brought together potential donors and beneficiaries of

the Scholarship from within and out of Cameroon. The Director of the CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih used the occasion to present background information on the work of the institution with respect to support for children with disabilities in general and education in particular.

In his succinct presentation, he highlighted that the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services is noted for its Promotion of the Right to Education for Persons with Disabilities since the 70s. Thus, CBC Health Services' journey alongside persons with disabilities

started three decades back. The institution initially began supporting children with disabilities as part of its mission towards vulnerable groups. In those early days, the support was essentially limited to health care. Over time, the CBCHS identified other critical challenges faced by persons with disabilities, including education. Then, to address the educational needs of persons with disabilities and for ensuring holistic and more strategic responses to the academic gap observed, the CBCHS created in 1981 the Integrated School for the Blind, based in Kumbo, and later in 2001, added the Integrated School for the Deaf in Mbingo.



With support from the Christofell Blinden Mission (CBM), the CBCHS piloted an Inclusive Education project in the Northwest region in 2010 which results were later used to inform robust national-level advocacy for inclusive education. Since 2014, the Netherlands based Liliane Fonds (LF) has supported the CBCHS in its noble mission towards promoting the education of children with disabilities in Cameroon. Through this support, the CBCHS has continued expanding its services towards children with disabilities, including direct educational support to needy children from birth to 25 years and strengthening some 24 LF grantee Partner Organizations providing education to children with disabilities in eight regions of Cameroon.

Overall, the CBCHS has remained a key partner to the government, ensuring good health for people and socio-economic empowerment

with various impairments. Since engaging on this challenging path, the CBCHS has made great efforts in offering children with disabilities opportunities to fully access education as a right in Cameroon.

Therefore, this Scholarship Service translates the CBCHS' resolve to keep looking for ways to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. Many of these children have dreams, sound intellectual capabilities, and academic prowess. Yet, they lack the means to harness their knowledge and skills to become that doctor, pilot, engineer, academician, writer, and what have you, for financial reasons. Through this Scholarship scheme, destitute children with disabilities will have the opportunity to enjoy their fundamental right to education, and reduce the education and opportunities gap between children and youths with disabilities and their peers without disabilities.

The Scholarship Service is operating six scholarship schemes beginning with the Wil Schijvershof Scholarship for deaf girls in primary schools in the Northwest Region of Cameroon and the Blind Scholarship for Learners with severe to profound visual impairment irrespective of sex and level of education in Cameroon.

According to the World Health Organization, there are one billion persons with disabilities worldwide, 150 million of whom are children. The majority of these are children with disabilities from low-income families. In most cases, these children are considered uneducable. Experience has proven that with the right environment, structures, attitudes, and pedagogic strategies in place, these children can and do learn. This Scholarship will therefore give the children a right to inclusive education and contribute to inclusive societies.

SEEPD Program builds Capacities of Communication Officers of Partner Councils



A one-day workshop on Inclusive Communication organized by the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disability (SEEPD) Program has been held at the Baptist Center in Bamenda with a call for Council Communication Officers to mainstream disability in their communication. The workshop, which took place on November 13, 2020, had as objective to build the capacity of Communication Officers from partner Councils on inclusive communication.

As part of its commitment to the Memorandum of Understanding signed with Councils, the SEEPD program has for the past months carried out a couple of activities with Councils such as modification of Council buildings to make them inclusive, developing inclusive and accessible websites to ensure Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) is practiced and communicated to the masses amongst others. Training the Communication Officers on inclusive communication was therefore one of the activities intentionally mapped out by the program as a strategy to

get them to develop functional websites with funding support from the CBM.

At the start of the workshop, the Clubfoot Coordinator, Mr. Tamon James, on behalf of the Director of CBC Health Services, implored the participants to invest efforts in disability issues given that it is one of the under-reported areas. He commended the Councils for their collaboration with the CBC Health Services in promoting CBID.

The workshop brought together participants from 10 Councils namely: Nkambe, Bamenda 1, 11, 111, Santa, Tubah, Jakiri, Magba, Fundong, and Wum. They were schooled on CBID, story writing, inclusive reporting, Cooperate Social Media Reporting, and Website management. Drilling participants on these topics, facilitators who are experienced in disability reporting, and website developers, all highlighted the need for the participants to pay attention in reporting disability issues in the municipality so that it will always cause the authorities to want to mainstream disability in their actions.

Participants testified that the different presentations at the workshop were an eye-opener to them given that in the past they were not very keen on reporting disability issues. They promised to set the pace in their communication so that other Councils will follow.

At the close of the workshop, the SEEPD Program Officer, Loshie Eugene noted that the Program is working on providing signage on CBID in each of the Councils and also to renovate the signboards of the Council, thanks to funding still from CBM. He also provided participants with updates on the development process of their websites which is expected to be completed soonest and handed to them for use.

Participants applauded the CBC Health Services and its funders for the initiative of developing websites for the Councils given that some of them do not have a website and some who have are not accessible or functional.

STAY SAFE



CFLI Project Donates Sewing Machines, Dignity Kits to some Vulnerable Persons

The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) Project of the CBC Health Services has donated a consignment of 6 sewing machines to some 2 persons each from the Mboro community, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) respectively. The donations took place in Bamenda on November 3, 2020.

The donation of these machines is in part, the project's means of causing the community to be part of the implementation of the various preventive measures against the COVID-19 Pandemic. The criteria for choosing these beneficiaries were based on their level of vulnerability. Within a period of one month, they are

expected to produce threefold face masks to be distributed free of charge to members of their community in a similar vulnerable state. They're also expected to produce and distribute reusable hygienic pads to their fellow women in the community free of charge.

After the month of November, all the beneficiaries will own the machines and are free to use it for the improvement of their livelihood. Each of the beneficiaries also benefited from startup materials of good quality and other accessories of their sewing machines. All of them were already trained seamstresses with very little or no means of standing on their own. They will also receive additional training

on the production of a threefold face mask and reusable pad.

Meanwhile, the project also donated 20 dignity kits to some 20 selected vulnerable Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who were either vulnerable Mboro women/girls or female PWDs living in at least one of the target health districts of the project implementation in the North West Region. Each Dignity Kit contained at least one reusable pad, loincloth, 3 pants, 4 toilet tissues, 2 bathing soap, 4 cubes of Savon, 1 toothpaste, 1 toothbrush, 1 rechargeable torch, and 1 litter detergent.



Representing Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, the Director of CBC Health Services, the Chief of Administration and Finance, Mr. Warri Denis caused the beneficiaries to understand that the CBC Health Services is active in the fight against and the prevention of COVID-19. Hence, it is of

paramount importance that they produce face masks and reusable pads within the next one month and share them with the vulnerable in their communities.

The various beneficiaries of both sewing ma-

chines and dignity kits extended their sincere appreciation to the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) Project for the kind gesture towards them.

Mbingo Baptist Hospital:

Two Giant Projects Growing Up in Mbingo Baptist Hospital

At a time when the ongoing war in the North-west and Southwest regions has dealt a blow on Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH), the hospital is strategizing and taking significant actions to

remain a reference in the African sub-region. Two major projects and possibly a third will soon see the light of day. The hydroelectricity project and the oxygen project are well on

course while the radiology project is in the offing. All three projects are spearheaded by the indefatigable Dean of the Baptist Institute of Health Sciences (BHIS), Dr. Dennis Palmer.

cont.....pg 8

The realization of the hydroelectricity project will solve the energy needs of Mbingo Baptist Hospital for good. The project, which started on April 20, 2020, is in seven components namely:

1. Digging of the penstock line as recommended.
2. Construction of hydroelectricity power dam.
3. Construction of hospital switchgear and D/G building.
4. Rebuilding and maintenance of roads.
5. High tension line.
6. Construction of deviation dam at Back Valley and
7. Construction of turbine building at an airstrip.

Considerable progress has been made in all seven components. In particular, the dam measuring 73m long, 7m in width, and 5m in height has been constructed at the Coffee area about 2km above the hospital. Mr. Lambi Daniel of the Technical Services Department of MBH is supervising all the components of this project. All things being equal, the hydroelectricity project should be completed by March 2021.

On the other hand, the oxygen project will go functional in the days ahead, according to MBH Senior Administrator, Mr. Nji Richard Nkeh. At the time of this report, all the installations have been done by two experts, one from Douala – Cameroon, and the other from Cote D'Ivoire. This new technology eliminates the oxygen tank that is usually brought to the patient's bedside

who needs resuscitation. Oxygen is now captured and purified in a building where the machines are installed and distributed to the wards and theatre just as electricity is distributed. Any patient in need of oxygen easily plugs into it at the bedside.

MBH Senior Administrator is hopeful that the difficult times will be over sooner than later in order to give patients and other visitors the freedom to come to Mbingo and get expert healing as well as enjoy the beautiful scenario and the major developments. For now, the crisis has restricted movements, especially for patients leading to a drastic drop in turnout in all the hospital departments, consequently, a drop in finances to adequately function as before.

MBH PT Department applauds Leadership for Support

Senior PT staff and head of MBH Physiotherapy department, Pastor Suh Promise has lauded the hospital administration for providing his department with the basic needs to function well in spite of the prevailing financial squeeze emanating from low patients' attendance. He told CBC Health Services Communication Unit that such support boosted their morale to stay committed in the midst of the challenges.

The HOD said patients' attendance has slightly improved recently from what obtained a few months back, which is an indication that people are developing a coping mechanism in the face of the crisis. The department now receives an average of 20 patients per day. He rejoiced that all of the five staff in the department are involved in clubfoot care and busy handling both in and outpatients. Two of the five staff are Advanced PT Assistants who are able to ca-

ter for other specialized aspects of PT.

In the area of challenges, Pastor Suh lamented that all the five staff at the department are males, which is not comfortable for some clients, especially female staff. Although the success rate is appreciable, the senior PT staff confessed that it is quite challenging to treat stroke patients using exercises.

MBH commemorates World Prematurity, Midwife Day

The midwives of MBH have created awareness on the plight of immaturity, which they say, is a major public health problem that can be prevented. The midwives were joined in the celebration on November 17, 2020, by the hospital administration led by the Senior Administrator, Mr. Nji Richard, and the Supervisor of Nursing Services, Mrs. Tamon Eveline who applauded the midwives for their hard work and promised them a gynecologist at the maternity in no distant time.

Quizzed on the significance of the day, Mbomngbo Geraldine, midwife, revealed that prematurity is a major cause of neonatal death with 15 million children born prematurely worldwide. She added that the role of midwives is

not as popular as that of nurses, thus, the need to tell the world the importance of midwives in health care provision.

To prevent prematurity, the midwife recommended screening for prospective mothers before they become pregnant, the use of a preconception package, and appropriate follow up with their doctors.

The day witnessed the presence of a premature baby and the mom, the display of a sketch by the midwives depicting the burden of prematurity when neglected, and the cutting of the celebration cake that raised funds to support premature babies.

Back at the maternity, the effect of the ongoing crisis could be visibly seen. This reporter saw only three newborn babies in the 20-bed maternity ward that used to be full in normal times. The midwife on duty, Kabbey Olive attributed this low number to the inability to access quality care due to the intermittent insecurity atmosphere and the fact that not all who attend ANC return to put to bed at MBH on the pretext that the fee is high, whereas others still come from far off places like Bamenda, Yaounde, and Douala to give birth in Mbingo.

MBH maternity is well staffed with 15 midwives, three functional incubators, and doctors covering for the gynecologist who is highly expected.

MBH Eye Department

The effect of the ongoing crisis is noticed at MBH eye department on the dwindling patients' attendance as the year grows old. Blocked roads make it particularly difficult for patients from Boyo division, which is the hospital's catchment area to come to the hospital. The head of the department, Mbuyee Macpella says the situation is compounded by the coming of COVID-19, which some people dread coming to the hospital altogether.

However, reports say the eye department is faring well in providing specialized care. In the present context, the HOD noted that cataract

surgery is elective and not an emergency except in cases that cannot wait. They are admitted on Tuesdays while the ophthalmologist, Dr. Kamsang Pius from Nkwen Baptist Hospital comes to do the surgeries on Wednesdays together with those referred from Nkwen.

The department received two new staff; an Assistant Ophthalmic Medical Assistant (AOMA) and an Optometry Assistant trained in mounting special eyeglasses. Meantime, a staff is undergoing perioperative training to gain skills to better assist in the theater.

The HOD announced that the YAG laser machine has been repaired and it is once more functional after four years when it got bad. The machine is used in cleaning the blurred lens of cataract patients post-operation.

The department is strictly following recommended measures to keep COVID-19 under control. Given the difficulty of maintaining physical distance during screening, transparent shields have been put on all the examination slit lamps in addition to wearing of face mask and the regular use of hand sanitizer.

MBH Women’s Health Program begins HPV Screening

The Women’s Health Programme (WHP) of Mbingo Baptist Hospital has embraced and launched the HPV screening method that enables clients to collect the specimen at home and bring the clinic for screening. The self-collection method was launched on November 13, 2020.

Program data clerk and peer educator, Nguo Zita Nange says the HPV testing is advanta-

geous in that it can dictate other diseases such as STIs. Self-collection of the specimen at home gives the client optimum privacy and eliminates shame and stigma in those who feel uncomfortable to open up to service providers at the clinic. The peer educator laments that the ongoing crisis has drastically slowed down the number of women coming for care. A majority of the few who struggle to come from extreme places are tested positive, especially

because it is no longer possible for the clinic to go out for outreach and identify such clients on time.

The WHP clinic currently sees an average of 50 clients per month and 64 clients per month for family planning uptake. The department has 4 staff and one will retire in December 2020.

MBH ENT Audiology Lab, a Model in Cameroon

The audiology laboratory of MBH remains a reference in Cameroon. The lab is well built and covered with quality foam to facilitate accurate testing of hearing loss, it has two well-trained audiology staff backed by three clinical staff from the main ENT clinic and up to date equipment.

However, one of the audiology staff, Ten-

keh Evelyn expresses the need for additional equipment to ensure proper functioning. She notes that when a team is out in the field with the laptop machine, clients that turn up at the clinic during this time suffer because they need to wait until the team returns from the field. She also expresses the need for more audiology staff.

Meantime, seven ENT students are in training in Mbingo to last for 18months. The program also has one resident in training, Dr. Kyota, a surgeon at Baptist Hospital Mutengene. At the time of this report, Prof. Koch from the USA was in Mbingo where he spent two weeks at the ENT residency program. He is due to return to Mbingo-Cameroon in February 2021 for similar purposes.

MBH Dental Department making Strides

MBH dental department is making progress in the midst of the challenges. The department now has two dental therapists following the posting of Mr. Gemuh Samuel in September 2020 after his training. This brings to 6, the number of staff.

The HOD, Mrs. Kusi Miriam welcomes her for-

mer staff in a new capacity with additional skills to bring relief on her shoulders. The HOD, however, expressed the need for a dentist at the hospital department, especially for medico-legal purposes.

MBH dental department sees an average of 100 patients per month given the ongoing

restrictions on free movements. There is an urgent need to set up the dental lab to satisfy clients who need healthy teeth for the end of year festivities. The common procedures carried out are extraction and root canal therapy among many others.

Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde

Fight against COVID-19: EBHY Staff Cautioned Not Relax Gear Use

Staff members of Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaoundé (EBHY) have been admonished to continue adhering to the use of protective gear against the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) both while on duty and in the general public.

Theresa Tantoh Zenepoh, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) made the call on November 4, 2020, to the staff body during morning devotions. “COVID-19 is not over. We must continue to respect the barrier measures spelled out by the World Health Organization and the government. Wear your mask while out of your home. Let’s keep watching each other’s back

while on duty,” she advised.

Her call was coming barely two days following Cameroon’s Government’s reprove on Cameroonians not to relax the respect of COVID-19 prevention measures for fear of the rising number of cases tested in recent times, which might lead to a second wave as it is the case in other countries.

In a chat with Health Services Press, Dr. Therese commended EBHY staff for their excellent adherence to hygiene and sanitation as well as infection prevention measures that were put in place during the first wave of the advent of the

Coronavirus spread.

“Thanks to the fight against COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), services have been improved here at EBHY,” underscored Dr. Therese.

EBHY, at the time of this report, had 136 hand-washing and hand rub points and two well-furnished toilets for clients. Dr. Therese said all the achievements have been made, thanks to an active COPE, IPC, WaSH, and Hygiene and Safety Committee.

PRACTICE DISTANCE MEASURES

EBHY Staff Voice Unalloyed Support to CBC Health Services

The Staff of Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde have expressed their readiness to save part of their salaries to enable 'their own'-the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services - to get medical supplies, which is the life wire of the organization.

Following due consultations with the staff body and expressing the need for such a move, Dr. Theresia Tantoh Zenepoh, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) said, many have accepted and developed strategies to be efficient and effective at work. "We are to meet in staff socials this day (November 4, 2020) to discuss how we can meet up with other financial contributions even after the 50% savings," she added.

"While others have accepted to save 50% others have already agreed to save 100% salaries to sustain the Health Services during these difficult times," disclosed Dr. Therese. "This gesture, to me, is a great sacrifice and a show of ownership. Indeed it will go a long way to sustain the CBC Health Services for today and posterity," the CMO remarked.

In a separate development, daily attendance at morning devotions at EBHY has improved a great deal. This, thanks to a flexible programme that the two chaplains at the hospital have put in place. The morning devotions programme, according to Dr. Therese, has each department on schedule to lead in singing, has spurred staff to be present in the chapel

on time. "As early as 6:30 am those on schedule for the day are already there leading in the singing," she said.

"Apart from being a work routine and the organization's principle, morning devotions are pivotal in shaping the character of staff towards rendering compassion care to clients," underlines Dr. Therese.

Besides attending morning devotions, more and more staff of EBHY are now willingly organizing devotions in small groups with clients who do not have the luxury of meeting with the general staff body in the chapel.

EBHY grooms General Practitioners towards Specialized Care

All medical doctors who are general practitioners (GP) at Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital (EBHY) have been assigned to specific health areas, especially those they are interested in specializing in later in their careers.

Theresia Tantoh Zenepoh, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) says assigning the GPs to focus on specific health areas or concerns will boost

performance and quicken the process towards specialized care which is the way to go in the era of modern health.

Some of the areas GPs are actively working in include sickle cell anemia, mother and child health, hypertension, diabetes, malaria, HIV and AIDS care, and Pediatric health.

The move to groom young general practitioners at EBHY towards specialized care is in line with Value in Health's assertion that specialist doctors and specialized hospitals offer superior quality health care thereby enhancing financial performance - a premise EBHY and the Cameroon Baptist Health Services hold dearly. No doubt she is a reference when it comes to health care in the country.

WHP fly CBC Health Services Flag at National Family Planning Workshop

The Women's Health Programme (WHP) has represented the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services at National Workshop on Family Planning and Reproductive Health Forecasting. The goal of forecasting was to ensure that family planning and reproductive health commodities are purchased and served to women at a subsidized cost.

The National Workshop rallied family planning and reproductive health staff from all the regional delegations in the Ministry of Public and private health facilities. Mrs. Florence Manju, WHP Supervisor who represented the CBC Health Services says the objective of the workshop was to take stock of the consumption rate of family planning commodities, as well as make projections into what is needed

for the coming year.

The workshop organized by the Department of Family Health in partnership with the United Nation's Population Fund (UNFPA) ran from October 26-31, 2020 in Cameroon's Economic Capital Douala.

Ekoundoum Baptist Health Center

Dental Care: EBHC Attracts More Clients

Yakossa Wanmoh Ankiambom, Dentist at Ekoundoum Baptist Health Centre says the demand for specialized dental care at the facility has hiked since they moved into ultramodern structure. "Some of the specialized services we offer almost every other day are; orthodontics, prosthodontics, oral surgery, periodontology, traumatology, and conservatory dentistry," she said. She added that the demand for more of these services is thanks to confidence stemming from the good infrastructure clients see

here.

Despite the hike in demand for specialized services, Dr. Yakossa says the perennial problem of low patient turnout to the unit especially during back to school keeps resurfacing. "The low patient turnout at the time was lower than it was during the coronavirus scare," she quipped.

Nonetheless, department staff is using the low turnout to follow up on the few clients

who consult at the unit at the time. "We now give more attention to tracking patients' past health history and equally educating them on how to care for their oral health," says Linjo Promise, Dental Assistant.

The emphasis on good recording keeping of clients' information is due to the performance-based financing (PBF) scheme that the dental clinic and the health centre, in general, is part of.

Ekoundoum Fetes 'Pink October'

Ekoundoum Baptist Health Centre under the flagship of the Women's Health Programme (WHP) has taken part in activities marking the Breast Cancer Awareness Month fondly called "Pink October". The WHP for over two weeks

in October 2020 organized a subsidized breast cancer screening campaign for women and girls.

Beatrice Futuh, WHP Coordinator says the

cost of the screening had 80% covered by the Welisane Foundation while the health centre covered 20% especially those who were asked to do a mammogram.

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The two-week breast cancer screening campaign culminated in sports walk along major stretches of roads in Yaoundé. The walk was to raise awareness of breast cancer as well as the importance of sports in fighting other Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs).

During the walk, Dr. Sintieh Ngek, General Practitioner entreated bystanders to regularly engage in physical exercise to avoid being affected by breast cancer. "Besides sports, you must regularly conduct self-examination of the breast," he advised.

Speaking during the walk, Walisane Mokwe Nkeng, Founder of the Welisane Foundation

said the trend of one in eight women developing breast cancer in life is a call for concern. "Therefore we must raise awareness to support those living with it and equally to encourage survivors to form a coalition against breast cancer," she said.

It is worth underscoring that October is referred to as Pink October; pink being a colour attributed to breast cancer. The entire month is dedicated to raising public awareness of breast cancer.

On a similar note, throughout September, the WHP offered family planning methods to women at a discount of 50%. A total of 105

women signed up for one of the birth control methods during that period.

Beatrice Futuh, WHP Coordinator says the department used the period to deconstruct misconceptions women have about family planning methods in the community. She detailed that following the findings from a survey they carried out during the family planning campaign, the department will in the days ahead organize a service conference amongst consultants in the health centre. The conference is to enlighten consultants on the need to refer more women to sign up for family planning services.

Ekoumdoum lays Ground Work for World Diabetes Day 2020

Preparations for World Diabetes Day 2020 have heightened at Ekoumdoum Baptist Health Centre. At the time of putting together this report, the health centre had already sent out invitations to members of its diabetic clinic to be part of the day come November 14, 2020.

According to Isabelle Nina Mefogno, Nurse In-charge of the Diabetic and Hypertension Clinic, the commemoration on D-day will come to crown a month-long screening campaign for diabetes and hypertension. "During the campaign, we have been involved in intensive

sensitization in churches and mosques in and around Ekoumdoum," she said.

Some of the activities on World Diabetes Day proper will be a sports walk led by members of the Diabetic and Hypertension Clinic, sketches, and testimonies from diabetics on healthy living. The focus at the 2020 World Diabetes Day is on promoting the role nurses play in the prevention and management of diabetes. The day's theme is "The Nurse and Diabetes".

It should be noted that Ekoumdoum Baptist

Health Centre runs a weekly clinic for diabetics and hypertensives. During those clinics, the nurse in-charge takes vital signs, tests for blood sugar and pressure level, and also does refills for those on insulin.

This year's World Diabetes Day is celebrated at a time the International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) predicts that one in ten people are living with diabetes. "Given the continuous rise in the number of people with diabetes worldwide, the role of nurses and other professionals become increasingly important," states the IDF.

Nkoabang Baptist Health Center

Nkoabang Opens PT Department

One of the departments to begin offering services to clients at Nkoabang Baptist Health Centre is the Physiotherapy Department (PT). The department fondly called PT flung its doors open to the public on September 7, 2020.

Yuh Killian, Physiotherapy Assistant and pioneer staff, says services at the department are gradually picking up powerfully as the days

go by. "Given that the department is relatively new we circulated announcements in churches about the services offered. We hope that this will boost the patient turnout sooner or later," he added.

Some of the services the unit is currently offering to clients are the management of musculoskeletal conditions such as low back pains,

fractures, and joint pains.

Quizzed on the short-term goal he has for the department, Killian says "My short-term goal is to create space where consumables, crutches, and equipment needed to run the department will be kept.

Mvan Resource Centre Stands Tall in Hospitality Services

Barely five (5) months after opening her doors to the public, the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services' Resource Centre for Excellence at Mvan-Yaoundé, is now a place for all in search of world-classed hospitality services in Cameroon.

Kadzem Claude, Administrator says the new building has parking space that can host more than 30 vehicles, one level for office space, two levels for 14 guest rooms, and the last level for a multi-purpose hall, all in full use.

"The centre is very much appreciated by everyone who visits or lodges here. Many who visit the center are astonished at the wonderful structures and services offered here." Mr. Kadzem boosted with a broad smile.

The centre is indeed a reference and place of attraction as regards hospitality services to all. According to Mr. Kadzem, from May to October, that the centre was put to full use, 210 out of 420 nights in the new Rest House were already booked, and booking has not stopped.

"This is telling of the fact that the services are highly appreciated," he added.

It should be stated here that the CBC Health Services' Resource Centre for Excellence is located opposite the Military Airport precisely at Carrefour des Careaux, Mvan. Indeed, the centre is a citadel of hospitality to its clients at every length and breadth!



CBC Health Services Resource Centre stands tall in hospitality services



1. Thank God for gradually bringing us to the end of the year 2020.
2. In spite of the upheavals in 2020 marked by the ongoing war in the NW and SW regions as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, a majority of us are still alive. Thank God.
3. Many of us lost family members and property in the ongoing war. Pray for sustained comfort to the aching hearts.
4. The CBC as a Church obtained a new leadership for the next 4 years during the 29th General Session that was held recently in ten centers. Pray for the new team and thank God for the outgoing team.
5. Continue to pray for Cameroon, Africa, and world peace.

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