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STOP PRESS!!

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

BIBLE VERSE

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work". Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NIV).

CBC Inducts New Executive President

Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne Mbeluh has received the instruments of office as Executive President (EP) of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC). This was in an induction service at Nkwen Baptist Church on January 10, 2021.

Conducting the induction proper, Rev. Dr. Ncham Godwill, Outgone Executive President called on Rev. Dr. Nditemeh to guard his life and doctrine as he assumes office. "The meas-

ure of your godliness and the enthusiasm you exhibit for Christ will become what people will follow," he said.

The Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne Mbeluh on his part implored CBC Christians to pray for him. "Pray for me, my family that my vision and mission for the CBC, and work as Executive President be an acceptable offering to God, as well as add value to Ministries of the CBC," he

said.

The new EP's mandate will hinge on a mantra he calls TED (Truth, Equity and Development). According to the eloquent prelate, the truth has been tortured a lot in the church. "As such I want the CBC to be a trailblazer as far as truth is concerned," he stated.



Incoming CBC EP, Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne (right) installed

I equally look forward to serving on the basis of equity, fairness, and justice to everybody. We know that injustice is one of the destructors of the world today. I look onward too, to lead the CBC based on holistic balance development; spiritually, infrastructurally, emotionally, and physically, added Rev. Nditemeh.

The Rev. Dr. Nditemeh is the fifth leader to as-

send to the helm of the CBC. But since the change in nomenclature from General Secretary to Executive President in 2014, following the adoption of a new constitution, he is the second EP taking over from the outgone, Rev. Dr. Ncham Godwill.

On the sidelines of the induction was the dedication of Mr. Yosimbom Mkong John, Chairman,

Diana Efosi, Vice-Chair, Rev. Ngalla Godlove, Director of Theological and Christian Education, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, Director of Health Services, and Rev. Dr. Paul Mokake, Director of Evangelism and Mission. The dedication slot was led by Rev. Nyumloh Peter, erstwhile CBC General Secretary, and the Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Chalemagne Mbeluh.

A New Dawn for Former CBC Leaders

The unprecedented presence of former CBC leaders at the send-forth and induction ceremonies of the outgoing and in-coming Executive Presidents of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) in Bamenda on January 9 and 10 respectively signals a new dawn for these past executive officers. They selflessly served the church in their hay days but are quickly forgotten and almost abandoned as soon as their mandates came to an end and they proceeded either on retirement in their homes and villages or into other ministry assignments.

The brand new CBC Executive President (EP),

Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne is bringing hope to them. "All past CBC chief executives who have attained the age of retirement will be placed on a monthly stipend from the Convention for their upkeep," the incoming EP made it known to CBC exco members on the eve of his induction.

To many, this is a welcome relief, because the fate of CBC top officials after they leave office has been a source of worry and pain in the hearts of those who care.

For the first time, one could count in good

number the presence of past CBC leaders who came together in one occasion. They included among others three past General Secretaries and Presidents. Rev. Donald Ndichafah witnessed the official handing over ceremony from Rev. Dr. Ncham Godwill to Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne at the Baptist Center Conference Hall. Meanwhile, Rev. Peter Nyumnloh and Rev. Charles Tangwa together with Mr. Chebonkeng Joseph, former CBC President and Mrs. Wango Monica Bih, former CBC Women's Union President witnessed the induction of the new EP.

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Also for the first time, a former General Secretary took center stage in an event of such a magnitude. Rev. Peter Nyumnloh was given the honour to dedicate the CBC Chairman, Mr. Yosibom John Mkong and the Vice Chairman, Mrs. Ekema Diana who both were re-elected for another 4-year mandate.

Vividly, the former CBC General Secretaries and President whose presence were felt during this period of transition would be remembered variously. Rev. Peter Nyumnloh strengthened CBC Fields, Areas and Associations by upholding sound doctrine and preaching of the Word. Rev. Charles Tangwa consolidated CBC landed property, especially the Mile 3 land in Bamenda; he also initiated the CBC Radio and the Printing Press. Serving only a term of 4 years, Rev. Donald Ndichafah would be remem-

bered for instituting the 27 percent funding to the CBC Central Administration, an initiative that has propelled and sustained the Convention to a great extent.

As President, Mr. Chebonkeng Joseph will be remembered for using his professionalism as a senior journalist in a state run media corporation to bring the CBC into the limelight of government machinery.

For his part, Rev. Dr. Ncham Godwill will be remembered as the last General Secretary and the first Executive President; he served during that transition from 2012 to 2020. His tenure plunged into two major crises which he properly managed with care and wisdom and is now handing over the chal-

lenges to his successor namely: the Anglophone crisis and the deadly Coronavirus (COVID-19). Rev. Dr. Ncham achieved three major projects for the CBC; the construction of a befitting head office, a better house for the EP and the creation of the Development Fund, which is currently propelling development in the entire system. Rev. Dr. Ncham also motivated growth and expansion in the other CBC departments through his leadership style.

A new dawn indeed for past CBC leaders! As Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne takes up by recognizing the contributions of his predecessors, one would leave with no iota of doubt that his three-prong mantle of Truth, Equity and Development (TED) has much in store to take the CBC a great leap into the future.

CBC Health Services' Leaders Meet to Strategize for 2021

Leaders of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services convened on January 15, 2021, at the Nkwen Baptist Center in Bamenda to strategize a better way to run the first six months of the CBC Health Services. The meeting was the first Leaders meeting of the year 2021, focused on improving the quality of services in health facilities and sustainability in management, especially after the difficult year 2020.

The year 2020 was plagued by daunting challeng-

es like the COVID-19 pandemic that came to compound on the effects of the raging war stemming from the ongoing socio-political crisis in the two Anglophone regions where many CBCHS institutions are located. The CBC Health Services like other organizations have been greatly affected by the disease outbreak.

Director of CBC Health Services (DHS), Prof. Tih Pius Muffih during the meeting said, workers especially leaders need to take caution, be accountable, and

bear in mind the interest and progress of the organization in their decisions.

"It is what you do in your respective offices that build or break the organization. That is why we need each other to build a common goal to enable us do better and scale through the numerous challenges," he said. "Planning is a success stone, we need to put in action the rules that will bring long-lasting results and solutions to the problems we have", he added.



Prof. Tih Pius tells CBCHS leaders that Planning is a success stone to bring long-lasting solutions to the problems we have

It should be noted that the Crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon and the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to closure of many organizations, and others cut down number of employees. However, the CBC Health Services is one of the few organizations that have stood the test of time, and wants to maintain credibility and stay afloat.

The newly elected CBC Executive President, Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Chalemagne who was part of the meeting encouraged the leaders present, emphasizing his policies of good leadership. "My policies for good leadership are Truth, Equity, and Development. To succeed, we must serve with transparency," he cautioned.

Like Nehemiah in the Bible, the leaders were urged by Rev. Dr. Ndongndeh Godlove to depend on God in mobilizing resources, and trust Him to do a good and sustainable building of the organization.

CBC Health Services' RTC prioritizes Universal Health Coverage through Capacity Building

A 3-month Course on Leadership Management and Governance for Health System Strengthening has taken off at the Regional Training Centre for Excellence (RTC) Mutengene. The online orientation session took place on January 21, 2021 bringing together a cross-section of leaders and Administrative staff of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services.

The course designed for senior and mid-level health managers and practitioners at National, Country, State, District and Sub District Health Systems in Public and Non Governmental institutions, is thanks to a partnership between the CBC Health Services and AMREF Africa, an extension of the tripartite capacity building program.

The Partnership for Health Systems Strengthening in Africa (PHSSA) is a tripartite capacity building program between the Ministry of Health (MoH) Kenya, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and AMREF Health Africa. The program is implemented under the auspices of the Africa Health Leadership and Management Network (AHLMN). JICA through the Kenya office provides both financial and technical support for the project.

Students shall officially graduate with the award of certificates. Applications are currently open for all prospective applicants who can access the course in English and French languages.

It is a noteworthy fact that Human Resource

for Health (HRH) capacity building is a public health approach to improving and enhancing knowledge, developing skills, and enabling health systems to improve on the management of health systems, health programs, and health conditions.

The World Health Organization developed a 2009 -2013 Strategic plan for capacity building which emphasizes that capacity building needs should include those related to human resources, institutional and infrastructural capacity networks, and partnerships. This is in line with meeting the progress towards achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) targets by 2030.



First batch of the LMG course

However, capacity building on HRH has been limited. The Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) started a Regional Training Centre (RTC), as a special institution for human resource development in the health sector. The center aims to enhance knowledge, develop skills and improve human resources, institutional and infrastructural capacity and move toward achieving UHC targets.

In partnership with specialist health training institutions such as Mildmay Institute of Health Sciences in Uganda and AMREF Africa based in Kenya, the CBCHS RTC runs short and work-based modular diploma and degree courses in Health. The training program is unique and provides a problem-learning approach where candidates receive blended face-to-face lectures and self-studies at their workplace in consulta-

tion with their assigned academic supervisors online. This keeps learners on the job as they study.

Currently, the RTC in Mutengene has 14 students in BSc (Hons) Health and Social Systems Management, 17 in the Public Health Diploma, 35 for Diploma in Health logistics and supply chain Management and 61 in online Leadership Governance and Management. A total of 43 have completed their courses as follows: 16 with a BSc in Health and Social Systems Management, 8 with a Higher Diploma in Pediatric Palliative Care, 7 with a Diploma in Community HIV & AIDS Care and Management, 12 with a Diploma in Human Nutrition and Clinical Dietetics.

Current intake is for BSc (Hons) Health and Social Systems Management, Diploma in Public

Health, Diploma in Human Nutrition and Clinical Dietetics, Diploma in Paediatric Palliative Care, BSc in Biomedical Engineering Technology and Management, and an online certificate course in Strengthening leadership Governance and Management.

Capacity building is one approach towards increasing human resource development for health to increase the number of qualified and skilled personnel to offer preventive and curative health care services while also effectively managing human and financial resources as well as infrastructural development. This training program is contributing to fill this gap that exists in Cameroon and other developing countries. There is a need to evaluate the performance of the trainees in the workplace to determine the impact of the training on the population.

NBHC Launches Theatre, Surgical Block Project

Construction works for the Theatre and Surgical block project at Ndu Baptist Health Centre (NBHC) have begun. A groundbreaking ceremony to that effect was held at the site on January 13, 2021.

Presenting the project to the populace of Ndu and staff of the health centre, Mr. Chiambah Abraham Bujof, Technical Services Department Supervisor said the project constitutes a theatre, a surgical ward including two private wards, a common room, and toilets. He stressed that all things being equal, the project will span over a period of 4 months.

Ntala Florence Nfor, Chief of Centre (COC) of

Ndu Baptist Health Centre during the groundbreaking event, called on the inhabitants to give their full support when the need arises, in order to ensure that the project is realized as soon as possible.

According to Rev. Koyoh Mformi Lawrence, Ndu Field Pastor, the coming of the Theatre is a welcome relief to the Ndu Man. "We had to travel far and wide when one is in need of a surgical procedure or referred to have one elsewhere out of Ndu," he bemoaned.

"When this theatre project comes to fruition, we know that we are a great step towards the acquisition of the status of a hospital. So we ea-

gerly await this project and whatever it takes to mobilize the community to be a part, I will do just that," assured Rev. Koyoh.

Reports say, the long awaited theatre project has precipitated by the blockage of the stretch road linking Ndu and Bansa, greatly hampering the referral of patients to Bansa Baptist Hospital (BBH) and elsewhere. The restive nature of the town and a hike in fares from FCFA 1.500 to 15.000 to BBH, with the lone means of transport being motorbikes, only further made an already bad situation worse. Hence, it dawned on the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services to construct a theatre at NBHC to ensure continuity of care right at the facility.



Groundbreaking of Ndu Health Center theater

In line with the theatre project, Mr. Jean Sama, BBH Administrator quipped that it is a feeling of relief to have a theatre at NBHC. "Throughout four years of living the Anglophone Crisis, I know many we have lost, I know many who have suffered which ordinarily would not have happened due to lack of facilities like this. This theatre will be a great relief to the Ndu community and Donga and Mantung Division at large," he added.

Sermonizing at the groundbreaking ceremony, Rev. Nyumloh Peter, erstwhile General Secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention

(CBC), told the project team that the foundation of the theatre and surgical project they are laying, is not in their strength, but in the Lord Jesus who himself is the foundation that cannot be broken. "Therefore, I urge you to put your trust in him as you work," he admonished.

Dr. Nkede Simeon is the pioneer resident Medical Doctor posted to Ndu Baptist Health Center to rescue the critical patients who could not honour their referrals to BBH due to the prevailing challenges. The young medic said the construction and setup of the theatre will go a long way to enable the health centre to of-

fer complete care to patients. "It's been a long desire we have had, to have a complete setting like that in a hospital. Given that we have all departments but for the theatre, this project is in line to have that complete unit for holistic healthcare provision," he added.

The theatre and surgical block project will cost over FCFA 80,000,000. Staff of the CBC Health Services and the people from Ndu around the country have been contributing in cash and prayers to see this project achieved within the stated duration of time.



Always Have Your Face Mask On

Risking it at all cost for Healthcare: An Unusual Expedition to Ndu

When my Editor-In-Chief scheduled me (Olives) to go with him to Banso Baptist Hospital for newsgathering, the thought of it hit me like a boomerang. I almost refused because I have not been to Banso for about three years due to the socio-political crisis, which quickly turned into a full-blown armed conflict. The stories on that stretch of road like on other roads in the Northwest and Southwest regions are horrible; gun battles, road blocks and sky-rocking price hikes in the transport fair. The thought of having such an experience in my profession encouraged me to go anyway. "If people are traveling that road and living in Banso, why not me?" Little did I know that our trip would go beyond Banso!

Although I traveled in a system vehicle with many other senior staff, the journey was still frightful. The scenario changed as soon as we climbed above Bambili towards Sabga. The road went dead: the grass had overgrown and almost covering the road, bullet wounds could be seen on every house near the road and all the mini markets along the road had been deserted and grass growing over them. No signs of people living in those houses although I was told that the situation was getting better with some people gradually returning to their homes. This atmosphere continued all through our safe arrival in Banso.

After our work in BBH for two days, a further plan into 'Ground Zero' was hatched. We had to continue to Ndu where the Project technicians had to set out the plan towards the launching of a theatre and surgical block for Ndu Baptist Health Centre the following day. Critical patients, especially pregnant women referred to BBH had died because the road from Banso to Ndu had remained blocked for the past four years. Only motorbikes are plying the bumpy road, which is offensive and very costly to these critical patients. These bikers and their passengers go through scrupulous controls from both the military and the separatist fighters. Both belligerent camps need 'settlement' from the poor road users.

It's January 11, 2021. The sun is yet to shine forth. The weather is freezing cold in Bui Division and we're at Banso Baptist Hospital. A team of five brazing up for the trip to Ndu Baptist Health Centre in the heart of the "Anglophone Crisis" where movements to such places is likened to a journey of no return.

One of the team members, Chiambah Abraham Bujof, General Supervisor of Technical Services Department (TSD) asked another teammate, "Are you heading to Ndu?" Yes, my Editor-In-Chief responded. "See you when we get there," Mr. Chiambah giggled to the amusement of the team.

His question by implication was just a gentle reminder of the uncertainty that looms along the Banso-Ndu stretch of road. Plying on this road, which has had the circulation of cars prohibited



Getting to Ndu is an experience in the prevailing context

for four years and counting by Separatist Militia (Amba boys), is not an easy ride, to say the least!

We boarded our motorbikes and the infamous journey had begun! Less than 100 meters, we were halted at the first checkpoint made up of eight amba boys, armed to teeth. "Take off your mask we are told". As one of our team members tried to make out a case for us, telling them we are protecting dust, one of them latched out with a practiced look, "I said take off the mask," he retorted. "When there were no masks people moved without them," he added while caressing the trigger of his gun.

The wearing of mask is mandatory as one of the measures spelled out by Cameroon's government to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. Despite many COVID-19 cases recorded even in the fief of the amba boys, all they care for is that the wearing of a mask is in respect of a government they're against. As such, whether the mask can prevent the spread of diseases is not their concern.

Biking along the hilly, stony and dusty road was fun. But, a quick look at the relics of houses razed down by whosoever in the name of war, drives your fun to pity and tears. A thought of raging gun battles that have claimed lives here further chokes your pity and brings fear to the heart anew.

After 20 minutes of riding, a signpost reads, "Welcome to Donga and Mantung Division". Getting this far is not easy. The cold, teary eyes and all dusty faces, is the best description of everyone in our team. The earth had emptied enough dust on us as we rode along.

By the time we got to Ndu Baptist Health Centre we had gone past 14 checkpoints. At each point, our bikers paid money to those that manned these controls. This is what has brought the hike in fares from FCFA 1500 as of 2016, to now ranging between FCFA 10000-15000.

Touching base at Ndu Baptist Health Centre was enlivening to us. Immediately after dusting off the dust, we got to work. As diverse as our team

was, the cream of technicians began the setting out of the site for the theatre project, while the Communication team went about their newsgathering task.

The theatre project is aimed at meeting the surgical needs of people in Ndu and its environs. Many critical cases that needed referral out of Ndu had to go through thick and thin getting to Banso, with many dying on the way. Imagine a pregnant woman in need of a cesarean section being transported on a bike on a stony, dusty, and hilly road.

Amidst the biting morning cold, we are set for the groundbreaking ceremony of the theatre project. In all camaraderie, Rev. Nyumnloh Peter, former General Secretary of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC), and a host of other leaders led the groundbreaking, declaring construction works started.

2:00 pm is the time we said goodbye to Ndu Baptist Health Centre on January 13, 2021. Task accomplished! Lip-smacking meals served during our stay there was what we were grateful for. At least keeping body and soul together in such trips is necessary.

Our ride back to Banso promised to be fun. At least we had braved it to Ndu without major hitches. Little did we know, what has become the 'Mah Encounter' was just a wink away. Mah is one of the quarters in Tatum along the Banso-Ndu road. At Mah, we were intercepted by a squadron of amba boys.

They conducted a thorough search of our travelers' bags right down to undergarments, ransacking laptops, and toolboxes. It was not a friendly encounter. The thought of being kidnapped or gunned down if the regular forces suddenly showed up filled every one of our minds. This is what people are subjected to, plying this road. After the search and interrogations, they let us continue our trip to Banso and subsequently back to base in Bamenda.

That's risking it at all cost to keep healthcare alive even in crisis plagued zones.

Stakeholders renew Commitment for Quality Education to Learners with Disabilities

The Regional Delegation of Secondary Education in the West Region and the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services' Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) program have signed a partnership agreement in the domain of facilitating access to Quality Inclusive Education in mainstream secondary schools for learners with disabilities in the West Region of Cameroon.

The event took place at the Regional Delegation of Secondary Education (RDSE) in Bafoussam on December 31, 2020 during the Stakeholder and Management Committee Meeting of the Quality Education for All project. The meeting held to appraise the implementation of the project in 2020 and present the plan of action for 2021.

This vital document was signed by the Regional Delegate for Secondary Education in the West Region, Dr. Ngabnya Francois and the Program Manager of the EDID program, Mrs. Agho Glory Tsangue who signed for and on behalf of the Director of the CBC Health Services. The 2-year renewable agreement extends to December 2023. During this term, both parties shall work collaboratively to improve the participation and performance of learners with impairments in Secondary Education in mainstream Government Secondary Schools in the West Region of Cameroon with the goal of improving access of learners with disabilities to quality education in all Divisions and Sub Divisions in the West Region.

In addition to collaboration in strengthen-

ing access to quality secondary education for children with disabilities in the West Region of Cameroon, other objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are for the Regional Delegation to ensure the continuity of the 'Quality Education for All initiative' after the pilot and funding phase by the CBC Health Services' EDID program ends in 2021, work collaboratively in the training of inclusive teachers in the Region, and support each other in the implementation of activities seeking to promote inclusive education in the West Region.

It is worth noting that the CBC Health Services has worked in partnership with the West Regional Delegation of Secondary Education since 2017 and putting pen to paper only goes a long way to solemnize an already existing cordial working relationship. Mrs. Agho used this event to appreciate the work done in this union especially the impact in the lives of children, youths and adults with disabilities in the West Region. Her assurance to the Delegate is that the partnership will enable the work to be extended to more people in need.

Mrs. Agho relayed the message from the Director of the CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, in which he appreciated the role played by all stakeholders to ensure that children with disabilities get access to quality inclusive education. She emphasised on goal number 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals on the provision of 12 years of free publicly-funded, inclusive, equitable, quality Primary and Secondary Education with 9 years compulsory study that leads to relevant learn-

ing outcomes, a goal she appreciated the Government of Cameroon for intentionally implementing through the Ministry of Social Affairs in collaboration with Disability Inclusive Development partners like the CBC Health Services.

After signing the MoU, the Regional Delegate on behalf of the Minister for Secondary Education congratulated the CBC Health Services for the work they are doing to uphold the rights and dignity of children with disabilities in education. He noted the importance of the partnership which legalises the collaboration between the two partners in inclusive education.

The West Regional Delegate for Social Affairs, Mr. Njie Fidelis weighed in by appreciating the work done so far in Lycee Classique and Lycee Bilingue in Bafoussam, noting that services for students with disabilities have greatly improved, alongside knowledge on children, youths and adults with disabilities. He announced that the Social Action Services instituted and functional at Lycee Classique, will be extended to Lycee Bilingue. This service helps to facilitate the work of different stakeholders in the work for children with disabilities. To this, he promised working to ensure that the Minister of Social Affairs deploys a social worker to begin this service at Lycee Bilingue.

The event was witnessed by the representatives of City Mayor of Bafoussam, Mme Nouafo Augustette, the Mayor of Bafoussam I Council, Foko Christian, the Administrator of Bafoussam Baptist Health Centre, Mr. Fambombi Dickson, and all other stakeholders in the QEA project.

Banso Baptist Hospital

BBH Administration forging on in the face of Crisis

Banso Baptist Hospital (BBH), 73 years old and the mother hospital of the CBC Health Services, is undoubtedly the most affected CBCHS institution in the ongoing armed conflict emanating from the ongoing Anglophone crisis affecting the Northwest and Southwest regions. Three of her supervised health centers have been ceded over to Bafoussam Baptist Health Center for easy supervision. These include: Ngounso, Koussam and Kouhouat Baptist Health Centers.

BBH and her remaining supervised health centers and one hospital are located deep into the region where the crisis is hottest. These include: Ndu, Ngeptang, Lassin, Romkong, and Bangolan Baptist Health Centers and Dunger Baptist Hospital Mbem. For easy management, BBH now also supervises Finkwi Baptist Health Center on behalf of Mbingo Baptist Hospital.

Proper functioning in crisis requires a leader-

ship that is courageous, diplomatic, firm, objective and compassionate. At first sight, one could quickly dismiss the current BBH administration that is youthful. Not at all! "The taste of the pudding lies in the eating," is an African proverb that can aptly describe the current BBH leadership.

Quizzed on how he is coping with running the hospital in the prevailing circumstances, the Acting Administrator, Mr. Ghepejem Jean Sama answered with a smile. "Information management is the key in crisis situation," he stated emphatically. This summary statement, he said, is critical because the hospital and health centers are there to attend to every patient and not discriminating who to treat.

Mr. Ghepejem took over on November 20, 2020 as BBH Administrator from Mr. Wirba Samuel who becomes Technical Adviser to the Director of Health Services. In the face of the

security challenges, the BBH Administrator is grateful to the supporting team of collaborators. He held a strategic meeting on January 4, 2021 with all head nurses and heads of department, paramount among which was strengthening the outreach team and resuming diabetes clinics in Jakiri, Djottin and other places.

BBH Assistant Administrator in-charge of Finance is no different. Mr. Kembong Ishmael Wantoh confided to CBCHS Communication Unit that the challenges are huge but his confidence is anchored on the fact that God is with the righteous few and not with the wrong majority. For this reason, the Assistant Administrator in-charge of Finance said although BBH has outstanding bills of over 500 million fcfa, the second highest in the system after Mbingo, he is bent on reversing the tide. He rejoiced that despite the security challenge, patients' attendance is timidly getting improved than what obtained in the recent past.

BBH CMO challenges Head Nurses to take their Role



BBH CMO, Dr. Jam Divine

BBH Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr. Jam Divine has charged head nurses and clinical supervisors to take their rightful role not only to give assignments and make evaluations but also to train and empower the junior staff under their care. The astute and soft spoken medic came out stronger on January 11, 2021 during morning devotions in a presentation titled, "Making 2021 a Year of Difference".

The CMO used the occasion to announce the resumption of weekly clinical presentations in 2021 but the difference is that the presentations will henceforth hold at the level of the departments and no longer in chapel as before except in rare circumstances. He instructed the depart-

ment heads to coordinate such clinical sessions with support from the nursing office and doctors as the case may be.

In a chat with CBCHS Communication Unit, Dr. Jam Divine commended the committed staff of BBH for providing care with zeal and purpose to achieving the overall mission of compassionate care to all who need it. He said patients turnout has been fair but regretted that many more are suffering at home because they cannot come to the hospital due to the prevailing insecurity. He named out of stock of some essential drugs and multiple lockdowns as some of the challenges impeding health care provision.

BBH Care and Treatment Center

The Care and Treatment Center of BBH is leaving no stone unturned to achieving 95 percent in each of the three target areas namely: 95 percent testing, 95 percent treatment for those tested positive and 95 percent viral load suppression for those on treatment.

The site physician, Dr. Fozoa Mbi Vanessa and the site coordinator, Mrs. Shey Enny assured that every hand is on deck to meet the targets. They work closely with the community agents, counselors and site nurses to follow up clients both at the facility and in the community. They have also adopted the index and self testing methods as well as set up six testing points around the hospital to reach out to many people.

Quizzed on her passion for community outreach at such a difficult and challenging moment, Dr.

Vanessa revealed that she believes more in prevention, which is cheaper and affordable to the people who in their majority are poor. The medic who remarked that her passion for community medicine began while she was still in medical school came to the Center in January 2020. She has regularly been in the community raising the hopes of patients. She has been to Ngeptang, Mbonso, Romkong etc where she spent days to consult hundreds of patients. She noted that neutrality is paramount in penetrating the community in face of the security challenge.

The BBH Care and Treatment Center needs more counselors and case managers. Reports say only two counselors are available to cover the six testing points around the hospital while only four case managers are on hand to attend to the 2,640 registered clients.



Dr. Vanessa, the community doctor

CP Banzo

Getting drugs and medical supplies to BBH and her satellite health centers, is perhaps the greatest challenge for Central Pharmacy (CP) Banzo. The pharmacy technician in-charge, Mr. Aboki Vincent says drugs can only be transported by motorbike to Mbem, Ndu, Lassin, Ngeptang, Romkong, Bangolan and Sabongari which is very costly and deplorable. He lamented that the high cost of transporting these items further erode the small profit margin for the Centers. Which are now barely struggling to survive.

The pharmacy technician noted that supplies

to the health centers resumed on January 4, 2021 after the end of year stock count in December 2020. He is hopeful that 2021 will be a year of difference with much improvement.

In other news, three pharmacy training programs are going on at the Baptist Training School for Health Personnel, Banzo. The government run pharmacy technician for three years and the pharmacy assistant course for one-year and the internally run pharmacy auxiliary course for six months.

Given the security challenge, Mr. Aboki re-

gretted that his peers and colleagues from other stations are skeptical to come to Banzo and teach in these courses. He said, about six key pharmacy technicians who could assist in the training were transferred to other stations leaving BBH with only three as trainers. He is grateful to two other pharmacy technicians who accepted to come and join them as visiting teachers. They are Ndosak Raphaela from Nkwen Baptist Health Center and Bantar Godlove from Mbingo Baptist Hospital, who was in Banzo at the time of this report teaching the pharmacy auxiliary class.

BBH Staying on Top in Mental Health Care

Never has there been a time when there is a need for mental health services like it is in the era of the Anglophone Crisis, which is having a toll on people's mental health. According to Ntum John, Special Care nurse at the Family Care Centre (FCC) at Banzo Baptist Hospital (BBH) more and more people are now visiting the centre for mental health services.

"What accounts for this large number of mental health needs and cases in the community is owing to substance use and alcoholism," he said. Sensing this need, the FCC has mobilized

community volunteers to identify and refer to the clinic those suffering from mental health issues.

Another Special Care nurse at the FCC, Shey Tafon says through the community volunteers and outreach trips the unit has been able to help many in the community to regain their mental health.

"During our outreach trips, we usually pay particular attention to psycho-education. Through psycho-education we school many

on their health conditions as well as their caregivers on management," he added.

Quizzed on the degree of the mental health crisis in the community due to the Anglophone crisis, Ntum John said it is on a geometric progression. "Look only as of January 2021; we have a patient enrollment of 1400. And this is just a fraction of many who are undiagnosed in the community," he added while perusing the hospital registers.

BBH Palliative Care Program at Brink of Phase-Out

Samtan Mercy, Palliative Care nurse at Bango Baptist Hospital (BBH) says the service is at the brink of collapse due to untold odds brought by restiveness in Bango and Bui Division as a whole. "Home visits to our patients which is an essential component in palliative care has been halted due to the looming insecurity and difficult terrains. I feel sick not being able to touch base with my patients," regretted Mrs. Samtan.

Before the advent of the crisis, visits to patients on palliative care were a routine. Just visiting and spending time with our patients was a great pain reliever besides the pain medication administered, she said.

Palliative care is an all-inclusive service that includes physical, psychosocial, and sometimes spiritual care. Leaving out one component can greatly affect our care, says Kanjo Joan, Coordi-

nator of Palliative Care Services at BBH.

"We have noted that most of our patients who brave it to the hospital for pain medication only come at the end stage of the disease which is quite sad. Though at this stage, we still offer end of care services, we think it is important that there should be an enabling environment for us to begin home visits to our patients," added Mrs. Kanjo.

BBH is the birthplace of palliative care services in Cameroon but the current crisis has greatly limited the facility's potential to reach out to many clients in the community. In 2018, the palliative care unit had 400 patients registered but sadly enough the number dropped to 72 patients in 2020. Mrs. Kanjo lamented that many who are often abandoned to themselves to die in the community.

Despite difficulties, Mrs. Kanjo says they are envisaging to join other outreach teams to the community though it might not be as regular as it was during the heydays of the programme. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), palliative care is a crucial part of integrated, people-centered health services. "Nothing is more people-centered than relieving their suffering, be it physical, psychological, social, or spiritual," emphasizes WHO.

Thus, whether the cause of suffering is cancer or major organ failure, drug-resistant tuberculosis or severe burns, end-stage chronic illness or acute trauma, extreme birth prematurity, or extreme frailty of old age, palliative care may be needed and integrated at all levels of care.

BBH Ear, Nose, Throat Department Striving On

Chin Anesthesia, Clinical Officer at the Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) department of Bango Baptist Hospital (BBH) says she and her team are modeling after the founder of modern nursing to keep rendering care in a crisis-plagued area.

"All that is still keeping us is the 'Nightingale Pledge' we took at the point of entry into the nursing corps, to be at the services of humani-

ty," quips Mrs. Chin.

The department at the time of this report was witnessing an upward trend in patient turnout unlike in the past where turnout was so discouraging, she says. As the patient turnout is more and more encouraging as the days go by, the doctor's support visit to the unit has been revived. After a halt for over four years, Mrs. Chin says the doctor's support visit is a key ac-

tivity in which specialists visit the department to handle major cases.

Reports say, seven cases were scheduled for surgery in the third week of January 2021. "The doctor's support visit is usually a patient puller and we hope as this resumes, we will have many more clients visiting the unit," added Mrs. Chin.

Mpoppi Baptist Hospital Douala

MBHD receives two specialist doctors at start of 2021

According Mr. Kouamo Alain, Assistant Administrator in-charge of Personnel, Dr. Nweta Eugene who specializes in Internal Medicine graduated from the Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS) program in Mbingo Baptist Hospital and resumed duty on January 11, 2021.

The hospital has also received Dr. Nchifor Keafon an Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) surgeon. Dr. Nchifor commenced duty officially on Janu-

ary 4, 2021. Before going for further studies in Mbingo, she had served at Mboppi in 2014 as a General Practitioner and later moved to Mbingo in March 2015. A few months after in October 2015 she left for further studies in Nairobi Kenya where she spent five years studying and today is an ENT/Neck and Head surgeon.

Quizzed on her expectations, Dr. Keafon explained that she encourages clients who have ear, nose and throat complications as well as

neck and head issues to come to the hospital for consultation and treatment.

In the meantime, clients' turnover at the hospital has increased steadily. With the coming of the specialists, client turnover is expected to rise even more in the months ahead as well as the need for more equipment to meet up with customer demands.

MBHD Medical Surgical Department seeing More Patients

Ngong Gloria Mabifavii a State Registered Nurse (SRN) and HOD says MBHD Medical Surgical department has witnessed tremendous increase in patients turn over at the beginning of January 2021. According to her, the steady increase started in December 2020 and today, the hospital department admits an average of 5 clients on daily basis.

The department has 45 staff who attend to clients. She explained that some staff have been assigned to other stations, some gone for further studies while others have been reassigned to other departments to offer supportive services.

These changes, she noted, have made work

load to be more demanding. As a solution, she said the three shift system maintained in the hospital is making work move smoothly. In the meantime, no COVID19 case has been seen, which could be the main reason for increase in patient turn over at the department.

MBHD Nursing Office Reports Increase in Patients' Attendance

The Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS) of MBHD, Mr. Monjuh Anthony has acknowledged an overflow of patients since the start of January 2021. Speaking to CBC Health Services Communication Unit, he said the overflow in the hospital has been noticed at the OPD and full wards with busy nurses.

Meantime, the hospital administration continues to caution staff during morning devotions on the importance of respecting prescribed safety measures against COVID-19. Although no case has been detected in the hospital in recent times, the news of the spread of a new strand of the virus in neighboring Nigeria is a

call for concern since Nigeria is closer to Cameroon. They are high chances of it spreading to the country especially as the wearing of mask, respect of social distancing are not respected in Douala, the SNS warned.

MBHD Pre-Nursery Department Saving Lives

The department attends to an average of 2-3 babies on daily basis. At the time of this report, they were 17 babies in the department with 11 in the incubator. Among these babies were a pair of twins. The department is manned by ten staff who work 24/7

to ensure that premature babies survive. According to Toukem Laurette, SRN and staff of the department, she advises people who experience premature birth to rush the babies to the hospital as soon as possible, keep the babies warm by putting

the baby skin-to skin with the parent and wrapping it close to his/her stomach to maintain body temperature before rushing to the hospital. This is to save the child from cold which most of the times lead to their death before they get to the hospital.

Bonaberi Baptist Health Center Douala (BBHCD)

BBHCD experiencing Patient Upsurge in 2021

Rose Fon Nyimeh, Assistant Administrator of Bonaberi Baptist Health Center (BBHC) says the facility has witnessed a drastic increase in patients' attendance at the start of 2021. She said, the center that used to see an average of 4000 clients per month has since the start of December 2020 seen between 6000-7000 patients.

The challenge for this positive sign, she stated, is the fact that many staff are going for further studies which is somehow creating a deficiency in staff to attend to the increasing number of clients. To cope with this situation, clients are being

scheduled to correspond with the present staff capacity. In other cases, clients are referred to Mboppi Baptist Hospital.

The Assistant Administrator announced the arrival of two doctors and other staff to boost the staff strength. The General practitioners, Dr. Poutougnigni Mfossa Rachel and Dr. Catherine Binye Musi assumed duty on January 7, 2021 and now working 24/7 seeing patients. The duo left school and did practical experience at Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH) for a period of 8 months before being fully employed as doctors to serve at the

Bonaberi Baptist Health Center.

With their presence, client turnover is expected to increase given that most cases that used to be referred will now be attended to at the health center.

Relatedly, two Catering Staff who recently graduated from the CBC Health Services Hotel Management and Catering Services program have been posted and are doing a great job in setting up the catering department of Bonaberi Baptist Health Center.

BBHCD Dental Department

Clients' turnout at the dental department is also witnessing a steady increase. Dental Auxiliary, Bofoa Mirabel says average daily attendance has increased from 12 to 22 since the start of January 2021.

The four staff who man the department wish for additional staff to be able to meet the increasing clients turn out as well as carry out other procedures not currently being handled such as dental dentures amongst others.

The department is well equipped with another new Autoclave and Compressor equipment which are enhancing work. However, there is need for a second dental Chair to reduce the patient waiting time.

BBHCD Physiotherapy Department

Yungong Benard, Advanced PT Assistant says the PT department which started in November 2019 saw more than 2000 clients in 2020. Today, the department sees 150-200 clients in a month. In all cases, new clients are always more than the old ones.

Reports say, the increase is justified by the frequent sensitization at the various OPD outlets by the two staff who man this department. They

refer clients to Mutengene and Mboppi Baptist Hospitals especially orthopedic cases. Meantime, Clubfoot services are now being offered at the health center.

BBHC Nursing Station
According to Delphine Suila Lukong, client turn over at the station is very high. At the level of the OPD, the department sees an average of 148 clients daily with 9 to 10 admitted cases on daily

basis. The 8 staff who manage the department are determined in 2021 to offer their very best in meeting ever increasing client needs.

Quizzed on reasons for such an increase in clients at the health centre, they said good practice, quality care, effective medications, a good environment and accessibility are contributing factors to pulling more clients to the health centre.

Health Services Complex Mutengene

Regional Training Centre for Excellence (RTC) Mutengene

A Biomedical Engineering program is to begin at the Regional Training Centre for Excellence Mutengene. The process of reviewing applications has begun and close to thirty applications have been received.

According to Mr. Nkuoh Godlove Nkwain, Dean of Studies at the Regional Training Centre for Excellence Mutengene, the training is expected to commence at the beginning of this year 2021 with a course on "Strengthening Leadership Governance and Management" in partnership with AMREF Kenya. Plans are on the way to be-

gin Orientation with the first Cohort of trainees.

The school already had the first Module for the Logistics and Supply Chain Management Course. It started in November 2020 to last for 12 months.

Nutrition Improvement Program

The UNICEF funded project that was out to identify and treat malnourishment in children 0-59 days started in August and ended in December 2020. Reports say, the project archived all its objectives by 96.11% of active screening.

dren with severe acute malnutrition was also achieved by 62%.

In addition, the target to train 50 community health workers to do screening and referrals was achieved at 100%. Meanwhile, the target to train 1500 care givers on how to screen for malnourishment using mid upper ARM circumference (MUAC) approach was achieved by 171%. Instead of 1500, they trained 2573 caregivers on the MUAC approach. In addition, some 3433 people were sensitized on infant and young

child feeding practices in emergencies.

In other news, an MoU signed in July 2020 with Bledina (Danone) a food production company in Cameroon to assist the Nutrition Improvement Program (NIP) in accomplishing their goals for the year is well on course. One of the principal goals is to promote effective and exclusive breastfeeding. Bledina is an infant nutrition company dedicated to bringing health through food.

HSC Mutengene Management Takes Stock, Set Goals for 2021

In the year 2020, the HSC Mutengene recorded between 65-70 percent of drug availability. This percentage could have been much improved if the boarders where not closed because of the COVID-19 outbreak, which made it difficult for drugs to be shipped in. according to CP Administration, this situation caused them to rely on local partners who with limited resources could not meet all the demands of the Central Pharmacy (CP).

At the level of regulatory issues, the HSC is in

partnership with the agency that regulates enterprises (Bureau de Mise a niveau des entreprises). Meantime, HSC has laid the ground work for PMEL action plan and implementation in 2021.

As far as production plans are concerned, the HSC CP was able to automate the production of Intravenous Infusion Fluid (IV) and Eye Drug. These two production units completely automatized were on December 29, 2020, validated by the Ministry of Public Health by granting a certificate of Current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP).

The plan for 2021 is to increase production for these two and try to automate two other additional lines at the facility to meet up with large production and quality.

The HSC also intends to extend and plant more palms to boost the raw material needed for chemical production at CP.

CP Production Unit obtains Certificate of Good Manufacturing Practice

Pharmacist in-charge of Production at the CBC Central Pharmacy (CP) announces that the Ministry of Health has recognized that CP can confidently produce ten products within the regulatory framework of pharmaceutical manufacturing.

The ten products have been formerly supplied only within the CBC Health Services facilities.

He reveals that CP's next step is obtain a market authorization which will enable them market out of the system. Pharmacist Munfi says all efforts are geared towards improving access to quality and affordable basic health care needs.

Worthy of note is that the creation of a Quality Control Department was intended to focus on

the in-process quality standards in preparation for mass production. The putting in place of a Quality Control Department relegates the traditional Quality Assurance unit to henceforth focus now on compliance and other issues.

Baptist Hospital Mutengene

BHM Eye Department anticipates an Ophthalmologist

The BHM eye department will soon receive an ophthalmologist at last! The eye doctor has been posted to assume service in March 2021. At the time of this report, she is still undergoing orientation at Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala. According to Tukah Happiness, HOD and Ophthalmic Assistant, the incoming ophthalmologist is also working with Dr. Elvis Kamdem, the

retinal surgeon at Mboppi Baptist Hospital.

Reports say, the coming of an ophthalmologist to BHM is a big relief to the staff and clients needing surgeries who before now were referred to Mboppi. Before now, Dr. Elvis Kamdem has been coming for visits in Mutengene to attend to these clients.

In the meantime, patient turnout is massive at the department. Since January, an average of 40-50 patients are seen daily. In some days over 70 clients are seen. The 15 staff department is expected to attend to more clients in the days ahead with the coming of the surgeon.

BHM Trauma Center to go Operational Soon!

Ntosonyong David, nurse anesthetist says work at the Trauma Centre is getting done hopefully by March 2021. He noted that they will start working there as soon as the finishing works are done on the structure. The much awaited Trauma Centre will take care of trauma patients in the region 24/24.

who will be helpful at the Centre. At the time of this report, four students were undergoing training at the hospital.

The hospital is also setting up an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the Trauma Centre that will take care of critically ill patients. The ICU has received a consignment of six ventilators and vital signs monitors are expected to arrive by January ending.

The Intensive Care Unit and Trauma Centre, it is expected, will make a difference in the South West region. Patients' attendance continue to be on the rise. An average of 36 patients are seen daily for the surgery section of the department and this number is expected to scale up in the days ahead.

In anticipation, an intensive Anesthesia one year training is currently going on with selected staff

BHM Nursing Office

BHM Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS), Mr. Mullam Emmanuel has acknowledged that patients' attendance is increasing steadily at the hospital on a monthly basis. The hospital sees an average of 9000 Out Patients and an average of 500 Inpatients per month.

Quizzed on why the increase, the SNS opined that there is general appreciation of the quality of care that the hospital gives to patients. He said the 421 permanent staff are enthusiastic in doing the work they have been assigned to carry out at the hospital.

He announced that the hospital has also been blessed with an internist who started work on January 4, 2021. According to the SNS, the internist is in charge of clinical work in the hospital and he is always around for clinical supervision.

BHM strategizes to win more PBF Funding

The Hospital Administrator, Mr. Loke Samuel says they have been having series of meetings with staff to see how they can improve on the help they receive from the government funded Performance Based Financing (PBF) initiative.

In order to step up with the quality of services offered and to keep benefiting from this financing, the hospital administrators have organized series of planning meetings with key heads of the hospital, supervisors, HODs, doctors and others to plan. They have resolved to step up with supervision and to ensure that patients are satisfied with services offered. This will intend lead to higher chances of receiving PBF aid, the Administrator remarked.

In summary, the hospital administration together with supervisors of the different departments of the hospital resolved to henceforth operate on intensive, intentional, and consistent supervision to achieve this goal in line with the recommendation of the Director of Health Services' end of year message to the facilities.

According to the Administrator, PBF supported the hospital in 2020 with FCFA 67,091, 660 million aid. Out of this sum, 60 % (FCFA 40,254, 996) was shared amongst staff, while 40% (FCFA 26,836,664) was invested in the hospital.

STAY SAFE



1. Thank God for the smooth leadership transition in the CBC from Rev. Dr. Ncham Godwill to Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne.
2. Pray for the new CBC Executive President as he begins his 4-year mandate. Pray for vision, fortitude and collaboration to the new team.
3. Thank God for the launching of construction works on theatre project for Ndu Baptist Health Center. Pray for the workers to concentrate in order to deliver within record time.
4. Continue to pray about the ongoing armed conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions. Pray that relative peace will return to these two regions sooner than later.
5. Pray for the goals set out by the CBC Health Services in 2021.

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