

May 2021,
Vol. 5 No. 45



THE HEALTH SERVICES CHRONICLE

A Monthly Publication of the CBC Health Services Communication Unit



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STOP PRESS!!

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

BIBLE VERSE

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”. ~ Acts 1:8 (NIV).

Nkwen Baptist Hospital Dedicates Ear, Nose, Throat Theatre



Welcome to Nkwen ENT theatre

Patients in need of surgery for Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) problems can now have it in Nkwen Baptist Hospital (NBH), thanks to an ultramodern ENT theatre, which flung its doors open to the general public on May 22, 2021.

Dr. Bonko Neville Menjo, ENT Surgeon says the theatre has been equipped with the necessary equipment to carry out 90-95 percent of ENT surgeries. "We are beginning surgeries right away. With the equipment we have, I can say this is a functional unit we have here," he asserted.

Leading the dedication of the theatre equipment, Rev. Mbuh Julius, Head Chaplain drew

inspiration from Psalms 103 during which he prayed that God should use the equipment and the staff to reach out with care to many that seek services in the unit. The chaplain also prayed that the new theater should to a larger extent attain the mission of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services.

Rev. Spongnde Richard, Bamenda Field Pastor, on his part, implored God to endow the staff with the knowledge they need to operate the equipment. "For the name [the CBC Health Services] we have made and is to make, it is thanks to people who have dedicated their lives to serve others. For this, we pray that may God, our Father empowers every staff that will work

in this unit," he beseeched.

Dr. Nana Christopher, Chief Medical Officer (CMO), said the acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment for the theatre is in line with the infrastructure NBHC now has. "When patients see ultramodern structures they expect nothing less than standard equipment, that is why we have procured this equipment," he stated.

It should be stated that before the dedication proper, Mr. Mbah John, Nurse Anesthetist and Dr. Bonko Neville Menjo, ENT Surgeon painstakingly presented the new equipment to all at the dedication.

CBCHS, Ministry of Public Health sign MoU to Foster Clubfoot Managements

The over 1000 children born with clubfoot yearly will henceforth benefit from an effective treatment using the ponseti technique. This is the substance of a memorandum of understanding-MoU signed Tuesday, May 25, 2021 between the CBC Health Services and the Ministry of Public Health.

Signing on behalf of the Ministry of Public Health was its boss, Dr. Manouda Malachie and behalf of the CBC Health Services, Prof Tih Pius, Director of CBC Health Services (DHS).

The partnership will improve the access to clubfoot health care services for all children and adults in need, strengthen the technical capacity of clubfoot treatment sites to provide quality services and strengthen training within clubfoot treatment sites.

According to the Minister of Public Health, circular letter No D36-70 of 18 December 2019 on National Directives on the Management of Clubfoot has been sent to all health facility managers, recommending them to systematically screen for this malformation and refer cases to the competent physiotherapy services and centers. More to this, a module to this effect will be introduced in the training program of health personnel.

"Treating this condition will be of great importance to the Cameroonian population in a bid to prevent abnormalities in the society and enable these children to go to school and conveniently carry on with their daily activities," Dr. Manouda Malachie stated during the signing ceremony.

On his part, Prof. Tih Pius emphasized that health

facilities should take responsibilities in identifying children with clubfoot early and make sure that corrections are made to enable these children grow up and be free of disabilities.

The DHS reiterated that the collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health has been excellent over the years. "We've signed quite a number of MoUs with the Ministry of Health and we have worked closely to ensure that the terms of those MoUs are all respected. Thus, the content of this partnership is to enable that the Minister of Health ensures that all public and private health facilities respect the ponseti technique of correcting clubfoot in Cameroon. (The ponseti technique is a manipulative technique that corrects congenital clubfoot without invasive surgery).

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During the ceremony, the Country Director of Christian Blind Mission (CBM), Mr. Fon Julius stressed that CBM will be working in collaboration with the CBC Health Services in the domain of ear and hearing care, eye health in the context of COVID-19 as well as clubfoot and physical rehabilitation in a bid to provide quality and

cost-effective care to everyone.

As of now, over 1400 children have been placed on treatment since 2014 with over 500 completing treatment using the Ponseti technique.

The signing of this MoU will go a long way to

strengthen the collaboration of the Ministry of Public Health with the CBC Health Services in the provision of quality treatment to children born with clubfoot in Cameroon using the Ponseti technique. The four-year partnership project known as the "Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project" is funded by CBM.

CBCHS Communication Unit praised for Hard Work

If the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) has an imposing and sustained image, it is thanks not only to the quality services she provides, but it is also due to the professional management of information by the Communication Unit of the organization. This is done through all the various media of communication: print, audio-visual, public relations, the website and the new (social) media. Almost all the programs and projects of the CBCHS have

Communication Officers who feed the main Communication Unit with activity updates, which are published or broadcasted in the different outlets.

Like the midwife who is hardly recognized during baby shower, the journalists and communicators at the Communication Unit work diligently behind the scenes shaping public opinion to give the CBC Health Services a positive outlook.

An event to present a new platform for easy management of emails as an organization provided the administration the opportunity to congratulate the Communication Unit for innovation and hard work. These, according to the CBCHS Chief of Administration and Finance (CAF), Mr. Warri Denis, have amounted to the results we see in terms of impact and growth.



CBCHS Website Committee brainstorming for improvement

The CAF equally congratulated the Webmaster in his research, which if accepted, will cause the CBCHS to migrate her corporate business email accounts from the regular website www.cbchealthservices.org hosted by 1ONOS to google work space, which is almost free and with multiple advantages.

In his presentation, the Webmaster, Mr. Nyan-gang Godlove explained that the current website remains untouched but there is urgent need to find a way out for more space to host information, especially as the organization is ever expanding. He said the business space of 2GB and

email space of 50GB in the present site hosted by 1ONOS are all saturated causing leaders to delete old information, which could otherwise be archived for future reference, in order to create room for new information.

According to the Webmaster, this challenge caused him to research on a new platform, which he presented to the CBCHS Website Committee on May 4, 2021 at the Director of Health Services' Conference Hall in Bamenda. The new google space platform has unlimited space to host limitless email business accounts with a minimal monthly charge for maintenance. The

new platform also has many other attractive features that can facilitate work within the organization, paramount among which are the zoom meeting and editing features among others.

The Website Committee well appreciated the new platform and validated it for approval by the DHS. The Committee also recommended that the Webmaster does further research into the platform for more details, after which, a meeting of CBCHS IT staff should be convened to get acquainted and serve as trouble shooters when the project goes operational.

CECPES churns out 40 more Social Workers

The Centre for Clinical Pastoral Education and Social Services (CECPES) has graduated forty students to join the social workforce in Cameroon. The purely academic ceremony on May 7, 2021, saw some three graduands reflect on their training.

Bangha Randy, graduate says the "social work training was a great moment of deep reflection and life transformation. The curriculum is

comprehensive in scope, preventive by design and developmental; focusing on contemporary needs of the society." On that note I can confidently say CECPES has given us all we need to function as social workers, he bragged.

Yvette Jimah, on her part, said the training has been an eye-opener. I have been able to identify my weaknesses, which has transformed me to operate as a broken professional, apt to

meet the needs of the vulnerable. "The training equipped me with principles to work on daily inter-alia humanity, neutrality, impartiality and confidentiality," she added.

Speaking to the graduates in a litany of greetings, Kwende Clif, Mezam Divisional Delegate of Social Affairs applauded CECPES and the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services for such training.

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Graduating social workers pose with officials

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“Social work is a noble profession which requires that those who practice it be equipped with technical, moral and spiritual elements to be able to assist individuals, families, and communities in their quest for solutions to various challenges. I am sure you have acquired this because you will need it,” he said.

Calvin Hohn, CBC Director of Co-operating Missions remarked that unlike in the past where there was limited awareness about social work and workers, today, times and societies have changed. “When I see the number of graduates here today it makes me say that there is a need as well as understanding about social work”.

“The needs in our society are more challenging and are greater than ever. Also, awareness to meet those needs has increased. I thank you for taking up the challenge. You have chosen a very difficult profession. Working with broken and

hurting people is very difficult. Therefore I urge you to use the knowledge you have acquired and above all rely on God as you begin meeting the needs of the people,” he advised.

Mr. Warri Denis, Chief of Administration and Finance (CAF) of the CBC Health Services, on his part, saluted Rev. Dr. Ndongndeh Godlove, Director of CECPEP, and faculty for taking out time to transform the students into social work professionals. “Social services are an essential component of the CBC Health Services’ mission of providing compassionate quality care to all. To this effect, the training of social workers is just one the strategies of reaching out with care to people in the communities holistically.” Therefore, be ambassadors of the CBC Health Services and CECPEP as you work, the CAF encouraged.

In response, Kenneth Talikong on behalf of the graduates, reminisced that they came to CECPEP

with different personality disorders but after months of molding they are leaving the place transformed. “We testify that we went through CECPEP and CECPEP has gone through us.” I want to thank the CECPEP faculty for the much they have contributed to our lives, he said.

It is worth mentioning that Rev. Nseh Clearance represented the Executive President of the CBC at the graduation. During his address to the graduates, Rev Nseh entreated them to stay true to the values of the organization. “As you go to serve the community, know that you are coming from a highly spiritual and morally compelling institution. You should not at any moment robe the name of God and the institution in mud. But you provide relevant services to the community for a better tomorrow,” he cautioned.

The current graduation constituted the 8th batch of social workers.

Braving the odds of living with Kidney Failure in Cameroon – The Story of Brenda



Dialysis session requires resilience

“In 2013, I clocked 34, and suddenly, what generally seemed easy or simple for everyone became a tough task for me. My kidneys failed. The doctor explained that I was born with abnormal kidneys and that this contributed significantly to their failure,” Brenda Njiwaji.

I watched my life crumble before me. I was devastated and frightened. In disbelief and utter denial, I vehemently refused to start the only available treatment - dialysis. The effect of this impulsive decision was immediate. I had a blackout and found myself, six days after on a hospital bed. Tears, conveying a myriad of feelings, ran down my cheeks and after replaying everything which happened in the previous

weeks. It dawned on me that my life will never be the same again. I had dreams. I wanted to be a motivational speaker, a reputable journalist, a role model and much more, but all these came tumbling before my very eyes, I couldn’t put the pieces together. I had to choose between adhering to the recommended treatment, or die.

Mundane routines like drinking water or urinating have become a miracle for me. I rely on haemodialysis (a medical procedure in which a machine and a dialyzer, also called an “artificial kidney”, removes excess fluid and waste products from the blood), several days in a week, to remove waste from my body in order for my system to function optimally.

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At the onset, each time I heard the word dialysis, what ran through my ears was: "die" and "cease". As soon as I accepted this inevitable twist in my stars, the issue of how to pay for dialysis and other related treatments arose. Frequent blood transfusions, dialysis sessions at 5.000 XAF (\$9.2) per session, every four days, together with other medicines and expenses, amount to over 150.000 XAF (\$273.1) monthly. I am unable to work as I used to because, I always feel drained from all the medical procedures, and it is a miracle that I have been able to meet up with my bills so far, though not without the constant wonder of where my next bill will come from. I can't thank God enough for the unending support from my well-wishers.

I have tried to adapt to my new routines like drinking very little water, using little salt. I can't satisfy my cravings for the foods or snacks I love to eat. I have to be very picky to stay healthy. I also have to restrict travels. The toughest part of this journey has been to let go of my aspirations and dreams, and the joy of becoming a mother

one day.

The journey in the dialysis room is a separate story. Sometimes, it's either the consumables (materials used for dialysis) aren't available, or there are only a few functional dialysis machines, or both. On several occasions, I have travelled to other regions with Haemodialysis Treatment Centres to continue care but often, these centres are already saturated and cannot accept any more patients. When I'm lucky, I will be given less than the optimal number and duration of dialysis sessions.

Insecurity, and restrictions in movement especially on some days (ghost town days on which everyone is warned to stay indoors) or protracted periods (lockdowns: ghost town lasting several days to weeks) caused by the socio-political crisis plaguing the North West and South West regions making it difficult to access Haemodialysis Centres and as such, sessions are missed.

Sometimes, it is difficult to know when the next session will take place.

One cannot cope on this journey for a long time without a strong support system. I thank God for my family and friends. They were very supportive especially at the initial stage, but over time, things changed. Some gradually felt tired and withdrew rendering life very difficult for me. It's like my incessant need for assistance had worn their patience thin. No matter how I try, I can't do without some form of assistance but God has used lots of people to bless me. He is my strength!

Kidney failure has taught me to be patient, not to take things for granted, to treasure what I have and above all, to depend more on God, and less on man.

Eight years down the road, I am still hanging in there, hoping to write a better story.

Antoine Tells his story with CBCHS NCDs Program



Antoine (extreme right) with NCD Team at Mboppi Baptist Hospital

Hello everyone, my name is Antoine and I am currently enrolled in my last year of studies in Pharmacy in France. I was invited as a missionary by the CBC Health Services for 3 months January to April 2021. I came across the CBC Health Services during my previous work at Novartis in Switzerland.

Learning that the CBC Health Services is well established and an important player in the health-care space in Cameroon, I decided to join the NCD Prevention and Control Program, in order to understand and experience first-hand, how NCDs are treated in Cameroon. Stemming from my background in Pharmacy and my previous experiences, I developed particular interest in diabetes and hypertension because, like other NCDs, they are silent killers. Also, many people are still unaware and a great majority of those who have the conditions do not follow their treatment as prescribed.

In the course of my studies in Pharmacy, I have

seen the national management protocols in France and have come in contact with patients who are treated with them.

During my time in Cameroon, I worked in Yaoundé for 6 weeks, split between Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaounde and Ekoundoum Baptist Health Centre, and for 6 weeks at the Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala, and visited the Bonaberi Baptist Health Centre, in Douala. I also had the chance to work for a few days at the Central Pharmacy in Mutengene and visited the Baptist Hospital Mutengene. I joined the Know Your Numbers and the Diabetes and Hypertension Unit Teams, in activities ranging from screening, diagnosis, lifestyle counselling, to pharmacological treatment and follow-up visits. This brought me face-to-face with the local realities, patients' perceptions, mentalities and practices. Noting the differences and similarities between Cameroon and France, in this regard, was extremely enriching.

Overall, my experience from a medical and a personal point of view was incredible. Discussing about improvements with the medical teams and by putting our knowledge and thoughts together, we came up with great ideas which I hope will be beneficial to the patients. Working in a different health system is an outstanding milestone for me because, I aspire to work with similar health systems, to contribute in improving patients' health.

I would like to thank everyone that I met during my trip in Cameroon, especially Dr. Njume who did an amazing job of arranging everything during my stay. [Dr. Epie Njume is the General Supervisor of CBCHS NCDs program]. I will always remember my time with you!!!

Again, thank you all very much and stay safe!!

Antoine

Highlights on International Nurses Day, Midwives across the Board

Nurses Hailed for their Resilience and Sacrifice during the COVID-19



The immaculate and amicable looking nurses always ready to render hope to ailing people

Nurses at the Nkwen Baptist Hospital on May 12, 2021, joined their counterparts the world over to commemorate International Nurses Day. The event celebrated every May 12 in honour of nurses as essential caretakers for a prosperous society, took place at the premises of the Hospital in the presence of nurses, hospital, and Administrative staff.

In her Clarion call to the nurses whose extraordinary contribution during the COVID-19 pandemic is proof of their dedication and hard work towards nursing, the Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS), Mrs. Chimi Emmerencia used the occasion to laud the work of all those who find themselves in this Nobel Profession, calling for continuous commitment, loving, and compassionate care. She commended the nurses of this facility who, thanks to their selfless service, devotion, and sacrifice to humanity have contributed immensely to the growth of the Hospital and have also contributed to the upholding of the values of the profession. This has come amidst challenges especially that of COVID-19 when they have proven to be like soldiers on a war front and are ready to face all health conditions that people present with. She hailed them for standing strong without giving up.

Drawing from the theme of the year, "Nurses, a Voice to Lead, a vision for future healthcare," the SNS expatiated how the nursing profession has evolved in the era of the novel coronavirus, with nurses contributing to research on how best to handle infected patients. She buttressed that the vision for the future is for the whole world to depend on nurses, whose presence has been made more visible and valuable by the COVID-19 pandemic. To create more impact, nurses on their part were challenged to empower themselves with knowledge through research and work in collaboration with the government to craft policies that will positively affect the nursing profession.

The Director of the CBC Health Services was represented at the ceremony by the Personnel Manager, Mr. Ndosak George. He called on the nurses to continue to emulate the values laid down for the profession and put into practice the lyrics of the Nurses' Anthem. He announced that NBH apart from becoming one of the central Hospitals of the CBC Health Services will also act as a pilot centre in ongoing plans to computerize health-care services within the institution.

It is worth noting that the nursing profession is greatly embraced by the female gender. The same situation upholds at the NBH where more than 90% of the nurses are women. According to the SNS, this goes back to the history of the nursing profession and can also be attributed to the caring nature of women. More men are however encouraged to become part of this life-saving profession.

The event was marked by an award to the Nurse of the Year 2020, Mme Ndum Emerencia Munget who has served the CBC Health Services in this profession for 24 years. She attributes this recognition to God who gives her the strength and the zeal to continue. The certificate came with some financial appreciation from the Director of Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih.

The celebration of International Nurses Day started in 1965 by the International Council of Nurses (ICN). This day is the birth anniversary of the famous Florence Nightingale. She was an English Nurse, Social Reformer, and Statistician. She gained fame during the Crimean war when she served as a manager and trainer of nurses and became the pillar of modern-day nursing.

'Cultivate a Strong Work Ethic,' EBHY Nurses Told

The nursing corps of Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital Yaoundé (EBHY) has been enjoined to develop a strong bond as they serve clients. Mr. Yongwa Zaccs, Administrator made the call on May 12, 2021, as the hospital marked International Nurses Day.

"Remember your training as you work and equally sign up to the Cameroon Nursing Association. When you rub shoulders with other colleagues

you grow better and serve better," he said.

The hallmark of the nurses' day was the showcase of talents by the nurses with sporting activities such as Handball, 100-meter sprints, tug of war, and dance. Worthy of note is that Dr. Bouetou Theresia Tantoh, Chief Medical Officer emerged as the best freestyle dancer in dance sports.

Before the day proper, there was a weeklong sen-

sitization to educate both medics and paramedics on the importance of nurses in primary health care led by Miss Yikwa Grace, Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS).

This year's Nurses Day 2021 was commemorated under the theme, "Nurses, a voice to lead and vision for future health care".

Nurses Hailed for their Resilience and Sacrifice during the COVID-19

Midwives of Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH) have advocated for greater investment in their profession [midwifery]. The call came out loud and strong on May 5 on the occasion of the International Day of Midwives (IDM) 2021.

Lawrencia Yishu, a Midwife says investment in quality midwifery care in MBH and elsewhere in the world will improve sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health in the process.

During the day, midwives at MBH took turns at morning devotions to school MBH staff on the cardinal role [they] midwives play in maternal and neonatal care. Jackson Kangli, him-

self a Midwife, said the presentation aimed at providing an evidenced-based impact of midwives in the facility. Kangli intimated that investing in midwifery could be just as simple as supporting quality education programmes for midwives, defining a regulatory framework of practice, strengthening professional midwifery associations, and expanding lifesaving intervention options.

The IDM was celebrated at a time when there is a global shortage of Midwives. According to the state of the World's Midwifery report for 2021, the shortage of Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Adolescent Health (SRMNAH) workforce stands at a whopping

1.1million. "With the largest shortage being midwives an equivalent of 900,000" the report concludes.

Faced with such, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFA) and the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) say "Investment is urgently needed in education and training; management, regulation, and work environment; leadership and governance, and service delivery." This is the only means through which quality midwifery can thrive across the globe.

The theme of IDM 2021 was "Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives".

BHM misses, postpones Nurses, Midwifery Days Celebration

The International Days for Nurses and Midwives were missed in Baptist Hospital Mutengene and measures taken to catch up with the celebrations. In this light, the Day for Midwives

was carried forward from May 5 and celebrated rather on the World Nurses Day on May 12, 2021. Meanwhile, plans were being made by the time of this report to commemorate the

World Nurses Day on another day to be decided upon by the administration and the nurses.

Mbingo Baptist Hospital

MBH eases Transportation of Patients



MBH procures bus to facilitate the movement of patients

The ordeal most patients went through moving to Mbingo Baptist Hospital (MBH) via public transport is now a thing of the past. This comes on the heels of a bus service now in place. The bus service which went operational in early May 2021 is already transporting patients from Bamenda to MBH daily.

Mr. Nji Richard Nkeh, Senior Administrator of MBH says the bus service is welcome relief to patients. "For the two weeks that the service has been on, patients are very appreciative. They are particularly amazed at the comfort and specialized nature of the service each time they board," he added.

The bus takes off every day at 8:30 am from the

Baptist Centre in Nkwen-Bamenda to MBH with the first available patients [passengers]. After making the trip to and from MBH, the next trip is billed for noon on the same day.

According to Mr. Nji, the service is coming to level the mountain of challenges patients coming out of the region had to go through waiting in car parks to be transported to MBH. Besides, the hikes in fares every other day owing to the current stalemate in the region just further made an already bad situation worse.

Worthy of note is the fact that the bus was procured by the hospital in partnership with Samaritan's Purse. It is capable of transporting 16 patients at a time.

Mbingo Baptist Hospital ENT Services Pick up Steam

Unlike in the recent past when patient turnout to the Ear, Nose, and Throat Unit at Mbingo Baptist Hospital had reached almost zero in the most part of 2020, perhaps due to the ongoing crisis in the region, the situation is witnessing a tailspin, with patients streaming in for ENT care.

"The ENT clinic is busier and busier. Patient turnout is gradually picking up, though not as

it was when the situation was stable," affirms Adel Kumka, ENT Clinical Officer and Hearing Instrument Specialist. "We have once again engaged in our routine of surgeries, hearing screening, and dispensing of hearing aids as well as care for other throat and nose infections," said Adel.

The clinic is equally making plans to begin community outreaches in the days ahead. "We

need to touch base with clients in the community. The prevailing situation has made us abandon them for such a long while. But as things are gradually getting back to normal, we need to get back to them," quipped Adel.

In line with support to other clinics across the health services, the unit has already begun doctors' support visits.

STAY SAFE



CP aims for Marketing Authorization

CBC Central Pharmacy (CP) in Mutengene, SW region is in the process of obtaining government authorization for the marketing of nine of her products produced at the Health Services Complex (HSC). At the time of this report, CP Production Manager, Pharmacist Munfi Francis was rounding up with the documents for submission through the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Commerce and Trade.

CP General Manager, Pharmacist Ngah Edward affirmed that such an authorization will enable CP to produce and sell her products to the general Cameroonian market and beyond. For now, he said, "We are limited to produce only for our hospitals and health centers". Given the vision

and expansion of CP, the GM said, there is need to open up to the wider market, which is in need of our products among which are eye drugs, IV fluid and HESCO Water among others.

In line with the expansion plan, training for production staff is planned for June. A total of 25 students are expected to be part of the one-year training. The GM foresees a boom in the next 6 months when these trainees would already have basic skills to add hands to the production line.

In the meantime, other activities at CP are faring well but for HESCO Water production which has stopped after the compressor failed. Reports say, a new compressor has been ordered to ar-

rive within two weeks from the time of this report.

Quizzed on the CBCHS staff contribution to bail CP to purchase drugs, the GM announced that over 90m fcfa has been raised which has helped to advance our international orders for drugs and medical supplies. At the moment, a container had arrived and was at Douala seaport pending clearance. The GM used this occasion to thank the staff that have contributed. He, however, noted that many others have not responded for reasons best known to them. He revealed that over 300m fcfa would have been raised if all the staff came on board to contribute as indicated in their initial enthusiasm.

WHP Workshop Refreshes Program Staff

A refresher training workshop for 15 clinicians 11 sites of the Women's Health Program (WHP) held in Douala from May 3-7, 2021. Kathleen Nulah, Program Data Manager explained that the training aimed at updating knowledge on cervical and breast cancers.

In this light, the workshop recommended the HPV DNA testing away from the Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) enhanced by digital cervicography (DC). Another area still unexplored is Anoscopy (examination of the anus for any lesion or pathology). According to Kathleen, this lesson prompted a consideration to include

Anoscopy during examination due to rise in anal cancers, some of which are caused by HPV.

Reports say the participants left the training satisfied and enriched to implement the new knowledge gained in their various sites.

CIACP Program Thriving amidst Challenges

The Community Initiative AIDS Care and Prevention (CIACP) program is leaving no stone unturned in breaking the chain of HIV transmission in the community. Despite the socio-political crisis that has slowed down many program activities, CIACP has not relented in her efforts in the SW region and beyond.

served in the newly trained health advisors, Mrs. Ngum thinks that this objective can be met. The trainees took the oath of confidentiality given the delicate nature of the job of dealing with people's HIV status.

The training of 18 new health advisors drawn from the CBC, Government and other health facilities held from April 26-29, 2021. Mrs. Wainfen Winifred, Partner Notification (PN) Supervisor facilitated the training. According to CIACP Program Manager, Mrs. Ngum Loretta-Barbara, the program intends to scale up PN activities to 10 sites in the SWR. For now, only two sites were functioning properly due to the crisis. These include: Baptist Hospital Mutengene and Kumba Baptist Health Center. With the enthusiasm ob-

It should be noted that Partner Notification is an important aspect in the continuum of care as it is a major way of getting new clients into the program besides carrying out mass campaigns. CIACP Program Manager hopes that the 18 new health advisors will boost intake in the facilities. The training also reviewed the index testing forms leading to the contacts.

Meantime, sensitization and screening have continued in schools and other places. This took place recently at the Higher Institute of Management Sciences (HIMS) in Buea and in CKC Tiko

orchestrated by the ex-students of the school. Besides testing for HIV, CIACP now also does testing for malaria, which is a new component geared towards the IDPs who have fled from the warring areas in the SWR to other parts of the country. For this reason, the program carried out sensitization and screening to some 200 IDPs in Dschang and Penka Michel in the West region. At the time of this report, the program was finalizing plans with pastors of Mungo Division to reach out to IDPs in Kompina and during the Bible Conference in Souza, all in the Littoral region.

In perspective, the training for Support Groups will take place in June. This will culminate with the Support Groups Conference, which is an annual event.

Environmental Unit goes Operational at HSC

The Environmental Unit of Health Services Complex (HSC) Mutengene went operational effective January 2021 with Ning Marvel as environmentalist. In a chat with CBC Health Services Communication Unit, he said the Unit has carried out a number of activities with many other plans ahead.

Plan (ESMP), which has been designed into a quarterly activity that is sent to the Divisional Delegate for follow up.

Mr. Ning has met with the Divisional Delegate of Environment for Fako to evaluate the level of implementation of the measures prescribed in the Environmental and Social Management Plan of the Environmental Audit of CBCHS Health Services Complex. The meeting resulted in a standard report of the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management

Another action has been a plan on how to dispose of the waste generated at HSC. A Recycle Company, NAME based in Douala has been contacted to recycle the volumes of plastic bottles deposited in HSC. The Company has submitted an MoU to HSC for study. The Bocom Petroleum Company has also been contacted to recycle the waste oil generated from our machines. According to the environmentalist, this recycle plan is expected to be done regularly. The Companies are required to submit us with documents as proof of recycling

to present to the Divisional Delegate or other officials on inspection.

The Unit is ready to commemorate World Environment Day on June 5, 2021 under the theme, "Ecosystem Restoration". This will be observed in three dimensions: creating awareness on the good relationship between man and nature, sensitization and tree planting in collaboration with the Divisional Delegation of Environment and the Mayor of Tiko Council.

The Environment Unit has two main challenges namely: the need for office space and the incinerator that is malfunctioning and leading to incomplete combustion.

BHM Nursing Office grappling with Challenges

Mr. Mulam Emmanuel, Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS) says the staffing situation of BHM is challenging to adequately handle the patients' load of 9500 per month. Speaking to CBCHS Communication Unit, the SNS revealed that the staffing challenge is acute at the intensive care unit, premature nursery unit, observation ward and in most of the wards. He observed that the ICU and observation units started in 2021 and have become very busy. The SNS, however, commended the nurses for

working hard to fill the gaps.

Other challenges pertain to the fight against COVID-19. The SNS noted that the prevalence rate of COVID infection in BHM is about 4-5 percent which is above the national prevalence rate of 2-3 percent. Last year, no staff was infected but between January and April this year, about 21 staff have been infected. Although the recovery rate is 100 percent, the SNS is worried that some of the staff do not

wear face masks consistently. Commenting on the same, the Hospital Administrator, Mr. Loke Samuel opined that it is most likely that some of the staff pick up the virus from the community and not in the hospital.

Going further, the SNS noted the challenge of inadequate supply of personal protective equipment (PPEs) to staff so that they can effectively implement the barrier measures against COVID-19.

BHM Eye Department gets Resident Ophthalmologist, new HOD

The eye department of Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) now has a resident ophthalmologist. Dr. Kamgno Olive started work at the department on March 1, 2021. Dr. Kamgno studied at the University of Lome, Togo and worked with Alucem Hospital Bonamossadi in Douala before coming to BHM.

Similarly, Mrs. Tukah Happiness is the new head of department. She took over from Mr. Fai Samuel who came to the end of a success-

ful career in December 2020. Quizzed, Mrs. Tukah who is one of the longest serving staff at the department noted increasing patients' attendance following the presence of an ophthalmologist. She noted that before now, the ophthalmologists in Mboppi took turns to come to BHM to do surgeries and attend to difficult cases.

In spite of the enthusiasm about a new ophthalmologist, the HOD lamented that surger-

ies have been halted due to the breakdown of the microscope and the purchase of a new one is being expected. She added that most of the machines are getting too old as they have been in use for more than ten years, thus the need to replace them.

Meantime, there is also an increase in the demand for glasses in line with increase in patients' attendance.

BHM PMTCT Site

Reports say the department is faring well except for the out of stock of the first line drug, TELE. A staff of the department, Beatrice Esong narrated that this had made work difficult for them and the clients. Formerly, drugs were given to clients to last three months but it came down to a month due to rationing. As a result, some patients defaulted because some could

not obtain permission from their job sites regularly to come for frequent refills, and this also multiplied the follow up sessions on the part of the staff.

The coming of a new drug, TLD also faced resistance initially by clients who were already comfortable with TELE. In spite of the resist-

ance, clinicians say TLD is most preferred for several reasons: It is taken in the morning so that its main side effect of causing insomnia should have been dealt with at bed time, the new drug is flexible and can be taken on an empty stomach. The patients are being counseled to see the benefits of TLD over TELE.

BHM Administration

The Trauma Center of BHM is near roof level. The basement is completed but cannot be used until it is roofed because of leakages when it is raining. BHM Administrator, Mr. Loke Samuel Mbome is grateful to the CMO, Dr.

Ndasi Henry for working hard in raising funds for the project. The Administrator noted that the project received 25m fcfa recently from this effort.

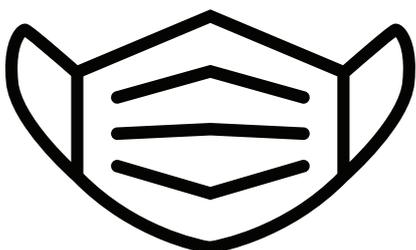
The hospital also commemorated World Infection Prevention Day on May 5, 2021 with focus on hand hygiene.

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Always Have Your Face Mask On

Ngounso Baptist Health Center gets Extended Structure

Ngounso Baptist Health Centre (NBHC) is in the process of achieving one of its major goals, which is the extension of a building project. The chief of center (COC), Mr. Tata Emmanuel Shofola who is working hard towards its realization told our Ngounso based correspondent, Nformi Siduan that the building extension will greatly serve the expansion of services during this challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that the structure will host some of the inpatients thereby creating a chance for social distancing.

Recognized as one of the fastest growing health facilities in the locality and within the CBC Health Services, the COC acknowledged that it was tough carrying out such a project at a time when the CBCHS and other private sectors, which are based mostly in the Anglophone part of Cameroon, are facing a lot of financial problems. Our reporter commends the tireless effort of the Chief of Center to see the project to fruition.

through. Beside the above mentioned problem, the project is also coming to implementation at a time when the world is faced with the COVID 19 pandemic which is the talk of the day. Coming as one of the solutions to the pandemic, the structure will host some of the inpatients thereby creating a chance for social distancing, which is one the Anti COVID 19 measures to be practiced.

Mr. Tata Emmanuel, Ngounso is able to score



Ngounso extension ward

In a chat with Nformi Siduan, the Health Committee Chairman, Mr. Sawah Solomon thanked the CBCHS for the new structure. In his words, "The structure is a booster to my community and beyond, and I believe the health problems of my people will better be handled through the services rendered in the new structure". The

Health Committee Chairman also disclosed that his prayer is that more developments like this should come so that it will foster the transformation of the center to a hospital.

for the special offer. They promised to remain duty conscious as they serve God in the new structure.

Reports say, like the Health Committee Chairman, the staff are also very grateful to the Board

ADVERTORIAL

CBC HEALTH SERVICES AND THE BAPTIST INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES INITIATE REHABILITATION COURSES IN COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION AND PHYSIOTHERAPY

Thanks to support from the Dutch Based Lili-ane Foundation and AFAS Foundation, the CBC Health Services has launched professional train-

ing courses in Physiotherapy offered by the Baptist Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS) at Mbingo and Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) to be

offered at the Baptist Training School for Health Personnel (BTSHP) at Bango Baptist Hospital in the 2021/2022 academic year.

BACKGROUND

The Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Physiotherapy and the certificate course in CBR were informed by a number of factors including:

- No centralized information about the number of Physiotherapists in the country.
- The report of a 2017 feasibility study indicated that only 12 private schools are authorized to enroll an average of 15 Physiotherapy candidates per year each and the output upon graduation falls below standards. The study also noted that

there is a disparity in the number of trained physiotherapists compared to those practicing in hospitals.

- None of the schools train community-based rehabilitation workers.
- The feasibility study also found that most of the existing training programs lack practice opportunities during the training. Hands-on supervised clinical practicums and internships in well-devel-

oped hospitals is necessary in order to graduate competent professionals, but this has not always been the situation with PT training in Cameroon.

The above points motivated the CBC Health Services to apply for a grant to develop Physiotherapy and CBR trainings for a better quality and wider range of rehabilitation services in Cameroon. This is an important step towards achieving international and national rehabilitation goals.

GOAL

The goal of the trainings is the prevention of disabilities as well as the effective rehabilitation and inclusion of persons with disabilities and people at risk of acquiring disabilities.

1. THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE COURSE IN PHYSIOTHERAPY

A. Skills

The trainees will acquire skills that will prepare them to;

- Improve on people's physical activity and their quality of life
- Carry out modern practice that focuses on the patient while also working with their families and other health care professionals to support rehabilitation and wellbeing, while also developing their inter-professional and interpersonal skills

B. The Curriculum

Standards: The curriculum is based on international standards (World Confederation of Physical Therapists) with input from qualified PT curriculum development specialists from several countries plus Cameroonian Physiotherapists, and adapted to the Cameroon context.

Approach: Our approach is holistic with blended learning used to offer opportunity for both interactive digital learning and traditional face-to-face encounter between teachers and students. Classes will be onsite at the Baptist Institute of Health Sciences, Mbingo Baptist Hospital. Hands-on active learning and evidence-based treatment will be emphasized throughout the curriculum.

Special attention is paid to people living with disabilities. Students will also have the experience of field education practicums with the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID).

All courses include both theory and didactic components and practical, hands-on learning. Each of the courses includes 25% - 50% active

learning (hands-on practice, class discussion, case-based learning, etc. Following the educational philosophy of the Baptist Institute, training includes three knowledge aspects: academics, clinical skills, and personal/professional growth. The core values of the CBC Health Services Physiotherapy Departments will be both modeled by faculty and taught to students. The core values are these: Compassion, Excellence, Respect, Holistic Care, Integrity, and Job Satisfaction.

The first year of study is primarily basic biomedical sciences, social sciences, the government-required university courses and introductions to both patient care and physiotherapy. The physiotherapy courses and clinical practicums begin the second year.

Training and Internships:

The Baptist Institute of Health Sciences at the Mbingo Baptist Hospital is in a beautiful rural setting. There is ample space for classrooms, practice rooms, conference rooms and a library. The well-equipped, up to date library includes

medical, social sciences, and physiotherapy and rehabilitation resources in both soft and hard books as well as other didactic materials to facilitate teaching and learning. The internet is accessible throughout the hospital, classrooms and library for student research.

In addition, the Institute is strategically situated on the compound of a large teaching hospital with an active physiotherapy department.

With respect to internship locations, six internship sites have already been approved for students' internships.

The course duration is 4 years.

Quality Assurance:

As quality improvement is the main reason to start professional rehabilitation courses, a quality assurance system has been put in place to ensure that the quality of the training program is maintained and developed.

This system shall cover: teaching and learning, research, internships, student support services, CBR field experience, and governance and administration.

How distinct is our course?

Trainees receive support from a team of national and international professional teaching staff and experienced Physiotherapists.

These professionals expose trainees to high-quality hands-on experience in the CBC Health Services renowned hospitals noted for providing some

of the best Physiotherapy services in the country.

The Faculty

Following international standards, all courses are taught by qualified faculty or adjunct lecturers who hold Master's degrees or higher qualifications. Teaching assistants and laboratory assistants hold Bachelor's degrees or above, and

are always under the supervision of the faculty member or adjunct lecturer. Some courses will be through Zoom or Google Meet and taught by international faculty.

Mbingo Baptist Hospital has a range of specialist medical doctors, and other doctoral-level staff, as it is a referral teaching hospital. These will be available to teach some courses such as pathophysiology.

Entry Qualification

■ A minimum of two GCE A-level papers or its equivalence including biology and one other science subject.

■ O-level pass in English (or for applicants from the French educational system, English pass at the Baccaalaureate level)

- Basic computer skills
- Pass the entrance exam

The course is open to anyone with the above qualifications, both young people out of high school and internal staff of the CBC health services.

Women and people with disabilities are highly encouraged to apply. Partial Scholarships will be provided to some candidates on the basis of competence. Priority will be given to women and men with disabilities.

The application process will be open soon. For more information contact **676 22 12 60** or email: BaptistInstituteofHealth@gmail.com or MbingoTraining@gmail.com.

FIRST EVER FORMAL COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION COURSE IN CAMEROON

The CBC Health Services and a few other organisations have been providing Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) services in Cameroon but there have been gaps in the provision of these services. This is largely due to the fact

that there is no formal CBR Professional Training course in the country.

The CBC Health Services has decided to close the gap in the rehabilitation landscape in Cam-

eroon by starting the first ever Professional Certificate course in Community Based Rehabilitation as informed by the study carried out to thoroughly assess professional rehabilitation education landscape in Cameroon.

Skills

This course will give enable trainees to acquire the knowledge, skill and attitude to be able to identify, assess and meet the rehabilitation and empowerment needs of persons with disabilities in the areas of health, education, livelihood, social and empowerment.

Trainers

The course will be delivered by a wide range of

professionals including Baptist Training School for Health Personnel (BTSHP) tutors and CBR staff as well as carefully selected and trained leaders of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities.

Our trainings are competency-based which exposes trainees to high-quality hands-on experience in our renowned hospitals and community based rehabilitation organizations all over Cameroon.

Internships

The Baptist Training School for Health Personnel Bansa has sufficient space to host this program, both in class rooms, practice rooms and in boarding facilities. In addition, it is strategically situated on the compound of a hospital with access to practice settings and also to co-lecturers and practice supervisors. Students will also go for internships in Community Based Rehabilitation organizations all over Cameroon.

Course Duration: 1 year

Entry Qualification:

• GCE O-level including English or French

The course is open all candidates who have CBR working experience; CBC Health Services EDID Partner Organisations, staff from CBC Health Ser-

• 2 years' experience in the field of disability, rehabilitation or an allied discipline for internal vices EDID Partner Organisations, staff working in the social domain from Ministry of Social Affairs and other government ministries, as well as staff

candidates

• Cameroonians of both sexes, age 18 to 30 years.

from other national and international organisations intervening in the field of disability.

Qualified persons with disabilities are highly encouraged to apply.

Partial Scholarships will be provided to some candidates on the basis of competence. Priority will be given to women and men with disabilities. The application process for the 2021/2022 academic year is open till June 26, 2021, and applicants are encouraged to start sending in their application files comprising the following;

1. Hand written application, addressed to the Principal of Baptist Training School for Health Per-

- sonnel (BTSHP), Bansa, stating candidate's name, address, and contact numbers
2. Current church recommendation, not older than one month
3. Photocopies of birth certificate, national identity card, academic certificates
4. Photocopy of 2019, 2020 church membership card
5. Photocopy of marriage certificate if married
6. Letter of support from the organization (for

internal candidates)

7. Examination fee to be paid on the day of the exam.

The entrance examination will hold in July 2021 on a date still to be announced. For more information contact **677 50 07 37**, email: nkwanjacobgobte@gmail.com Train with us and become a highly sought for rehabilitation professional in and out of Cameroon



1. Thank God for the means of transport procured and put in place to carry patients to and from Mbingo Baptist Hospital, which has brought a lot of relief to these patients.
2. Pray that this bus service will be sustained, respected and preserved by the users.
3. Thank God for the visionary and resilient leaders God has blessed the church with. As they venture into new programs and projects to sustain the church, pray that this is done in all fairness, objectivity and fortitude.
4. Thank God for the doctors, nurses, midwives and support staff who work tirelessly to sustain the CBC Health Services.

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