Camer oon Bapt i st Conv en t ion He alth Serv ices

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STOP PRESS!!
BIBLE VERSE

“No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence.” Psalm 101:7 (NIV).

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The fight against the deadly Coronavirus has taken a new twist in the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) with its leaders moving up to take the jab not only to protect themselves from contamination, but also as motivation to the staff of the entire system to follow in their example.

CBC President, Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne led the team of some CBC Health Services leaders to take the COVID-19 vaccine at the Regional Hospital in Bamenda while the Director of Health Services (DHS), Prof. Tih Pius Muffih led the second team to the International Vaccination Center in Yaounde where they took the vaccine.

The team in Bamenda comprised among others of the CBC Health Services’ Chief of Administration and Finance and the Personnel Manager while the team in Yaounde had in it the Administrators of Etoug-Ebe Baptist Hospital and that of the Mvan Resource Center among others.

Speaking after being vaccinated, Prof. Tih said, “I strongly encourage all my 5000 employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccination offers immunity against COVID-19, severe diseases, hospitalization and death. Controversies do not cancel truth and reality”.

It should be recalled that ever since the American single dose vaccine, Johnson and Johnson arrived the country, many Cameroonians are getting interested to be vaccinated against COVID-19. While a lot more are still dragging their feet given the mutative nature of the virus which cannot be fully contained by the vaccine, experts say, nevertheless, the benefits of Vaccination far outweigh any other considerations, paramount among which is that it reduces the rate of infection!

Leaders of the CBC Health Services converged on Yaounde for a Leadership and Spiritual Retreat from September 10-11, 2021. The two-day retreat, which took place at the CBC Health Services Recourse Centre of Excellence at Mvan, geared towards praying to rekindle their spiritual commitment under the theme, “Renewing our inner strength for daily challenges of service” drawn from 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18 and Isaiah 40: 25-31 respectively.

The time of the retreat was also observed as a mandatory rest and recovery for leaders who ordinarily are very busy in their stations of work. The forum also helped leaders learn how to manage the burnout syndrome, have God renew their strength to be able to function better, and a thanksgiving session to God for putting them where they are to render services to mankind.

The Director of the CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih, while opening the session, encouraged everyone to actively listen to the guest speaker purposefully and be encouraged to continue to do what they do in their services to humanity.
Attending the retreat were leaders from the main facilities in all 9 regions of Cameroon where the CBC Health Services operates including staff of the Director of Health Services’ Central Administration Office, Hospital Administrators, Chief Medical Officers, Chaplains, and some Project staff.

Addressing the leaders, the guest speaker of the retreat, Reverend Njini Edward, Senior Pastor of Nkwen Baptist Church in Bamenda noted that the session rendered an opportunity for leaders to have a close connection with God, relax and evaluate, regain new strength, and be refreshed and revitalized. The retreat, he noted, comes at a time of diverse personal challenges ranging from family challenges, workplace challenges, challenges in church, socio-political crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic among others. The prelate schooled the CBC Health Services leaders on how they can stay safe from the consequences and remain resilient in the face of these challenges. He enjoined them to learn to persevere and adopt more leadership skills that will continue to build the CBC Health Services. The leaders were also challenged to adopt virtues of Wisdom, Perseverance, and Empathy.

Annual retreats for all staff of the CBC Health Services are normal yearly activities at the level of the institutions, but this was the first time for a Leaders Retreat to take place at the level of the CBC Health Services. Attendees attested to the importance of the retreat and how it was beneficial to them at individual and collective levels.

At the end of the session, leaders left with a word from Prof. Tih to continue to encourage all the staff for the great work they are doing. He advised them to keep all the facilities vibrant and render the best services to patients. “Continue to sustain the Mission Statement, the Vision Statement and put all hands on deck for the continuity of all the great services rendered through the CBC Health Services,” Prof Tih treated.

### Stakeholders Advice: Take Individual, Collective Action to fight Non-Communicable Diseases

**From September 6-12, the CBC Health Services** and other Cameroon Civil Society NCD Alliance members joined the rest of the international community to commemorate this year’s edition of the Global Week for Action on NCDs. Activities focused on the theme, “Community Engagement,” emphasizing the power and potential of communities to co-create healthier societies.

Reports say, Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the world’s biggest killer and a global public health challenge. Cardiovascular diseases, cancers, mental health diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, and other NCDs are responsible for over 41 million deaths every year. This burden will increase by 17% in the next decade. In Cameroon, NCDs account for 35% of annual deaths.

The Global Week for Action on NCDs highlighted the need for a whole-of-society approach, moving beyond individual efforts to collective practices. While individuals can screen regularly and adopt lifestyles that reduce their exposures to developing NCDs, they can also form patient advocacy groups to promote their involvement in decision-making. In addition, local communities can institute general sports days, car-free days, and designate days for screening as part of collective efforts.

The CBC Health Services echoed this clarion call in working with persons living with disabilities from the Coordinating Unit for Associations of Persons living with Disabilities for the Northwest region to organize health talks, health walks, and sporting activities at the Baptist Center Nkwen, Bamenda, on September 10, 2021. Radio talk shows, awareness raising on social media, health education in churches, mosques and free screening for diabetes, hypertension, and obesity in health facilities also marked this weeklong event.

“I encourage my fellow persons with disabilities and everyone else to join the action because we are all exposed to NCDs. Disabilities can increase the risk of developing NCDs, and NCDs can lead to disabilities,” Desmond Nji, representing the Persons living with Disabilities for the Northwest region to organize health talks, health walks, and sporting activities at the Baptist Center Nkwen, Bamenda, on September 10, 2021. Radio talk shows, awareness raising on social media, health education in churches, mosques and free screening for diabetes, hypertension, and obesity in health facilities also marked this weeklong event.

“I encourage my fellow persons with disabilities and everyone else to join the action because we are all exposed to NCDs. Disabilities can increase the risk of developing NCDs, and NCDs can lead to disabilities,” Desmond Nji, representing the CUAPD advised.

Other key stakeholders at the event included representatives from the Northwest Regional Delegations of Public Health and Social Affairs. They joined the CBC Health Services and her partners to admonish the general population to initiate individual and collective actions to stamp out NCDs, which are killing more than many other communicable diseases.
A workshop to train stakeholders from the West and Adamawa regions on the integrated approaches to manage disability from neglected clubfoot took place in Bafoussam, Cameroon on September 20, 2021. The high prevalence of clubfoot in these regions, with most of the cases neglected, as a result of no diagnoses, lack of facilities, ineffective treatment, and traditional beliefs influenced the choice of the participants.

Organized by the Clubfoot Care Project under the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD) Program of the CBC Health Services, the one-day event aimed at creating awareness among major stakeholders on the general information about clubfoot, available treatment protocols, and getting their contributions to help mitigate clubfoot in their respective work domains.

Addressing the participants, the Divisional Delegate of Social Affairs for Noun, Mawet Moma Anne Odile, who herself is an exceptional identifier of clubfoot cases, greatly welcomed the training which comes at the right moment to enable more children to receive the care they need. According to her, she takes the engagement to work with her collaborators to ensure that information about clubfoot reaches out to the population who most of the time are ignorant about clubfoot. She noted the high prevalence of clubfoot in the Noun Division, most of which are neglected. The Divisional Delegate revealed that about 20 children and adults are received every 3 months with clubfoot.

#ActOnNCDs actonncds.org
In his presentation, the Coordinator of the Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project, Mr. Tamon James revealed that clubfoot statistics are high both at the national and global levels. He posited that about one thousand children are born with clubfoot in Cameroon every year and an estimated 174,000 cases are born with clubfoot globally each year (GCI, 2017).

In 2019, the Cameroon Government embraced the initiative of clubfoot care for no child with clubfoot to be left behind. Thanks to this recognition of the importance of clubfoot care, the Government is working to make sure that Orthopaedic surgeons and Physiotherapists get trained to use the Ponseti Method to treat clubfoot in the six approved treatment clinics.

Enlightening participants on the new phase of the Clubfoot care project, Mr. Tamon elaborated on its objective which is to improve access to quality clubfoot care for 1600 new cases of clubfoot in 6 regions of Cameroon by 2021 and ensure that treated cases are saved from mobility impairment and regain/enjoy their social inclusion in their respective communities. In all, about 15000 children have had access to treatment since the start of the project, though the situation of clubfoot in the West and Adamawa regions remains alarming. Statistics reveal that there are many cases of neglected clubfoot in these regions where about 60% of children receiving care are neglected clubfoot.

The trained stakeholders who are Traditional Rulers, Presidents of Parent Support Groups, Presidents of Associations of Persons with Disabilities, Field Workers, Pastors, Medical Doctors, etc, all left the training empowered with clubfoot knowledge and pledged their contributions moving forward. Traditional rulers pledged to engage other traditional authorities, Presidents of Associations of Persons with Disabilities pledged to engage other associations, Pastors promised to continue to disseminate information in all church sessions, and Medical doctors pledged to take back the new knowledge and also share with their colleagues. Their passionate collaborative spirit was greatly appreciated by the Program Manager of the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD), Mr. Awa Jacques Chirac who also used the event to thank the stakeholders for the work they have been doing on the field so far to promote the Cameroon Clubfoot Project.

According to the District Medical Officer of Mankwen Dr. Amabo Elvis Ngwa, the workshop has greatly complemented what they learned in school though he has not been able to work on clubfoot cases for years. He attested to have learned about the different forms of treatment for clubfoot and the basic notions on clubfoot, its forms, treatment, and stages. The training, he confirmed, has increased his knowledge about some medical situations of clubfoot and he is now better equipped to sensitize people in his Health District. He promised to designate a Focal Point in Charge of clubfoot cases in the District and work hard in the area of case identification and treatment.

The Head of Maternity Services at the Foumban District Hospital, Dr. Nana Ngueucheu Orlin praised the fruits yielded by their hospital, thanks to the collaboration with the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services in several domains, including clubfoot care and management. This collaboration, he noted, started at a good time when the hospital was in dire need. He appreciated the sensitization strategy of the CBC Health Services which starts from the communities. According to him, this publicizes their work and many cases who visit the facilities are already aware of the medical condition. “The contribution of the CBC Health Services especially in this domain is great”. Another domain, he said, is the domain of HIV and AIDS services offered in the Foumban District Hospital through the HIV Free Project of the CBC Health Services.

This training came after Physiotherapists, Nurses, Midwives, CBR Field workers received the same in clubfoot identification and follow-up for management and treatment. With this coordinated effort, it is expected that no case of clubfoot will be unattended to in the two regions of the West and Adamawa.

Working together to ensure clubfoot services in communities

From pg 4

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Working together to ensure clubfoot services in communities

The Health Services Chronicle
The year 2020 saw the Abakwa Boys Amputee FC emerging as champions of the Maiden Edition of Cameroon Amputee National Football League dubbed, CANAFL 2020. They emerged victorious beating rivals of the South West Region, SWAMP PUTEE AFC 3#1 at the finals that took place at Vi- shi Higher Institute Bonaberi, Douala.

In a discussion with the Coordinator for the Northwest Region Amputee Football team Fon Dieudonne, the victory of National Amputee Football League in Cameroon in August 2021, the provision of mental health and psychosocial support to members of the team, and the provision of start-up capital to some amputees to empower them on livelihood are just a few of the many achievements the team has recorded, with massive support from the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services.

Even though members of the team focus on football, the team Coordinator has a vision for the team to go beyond football. As he looks into the future, the intention is to build a weekly exercise program for persons with disabilities in Bamen- da to curb the prevalence of Non Communicable Diseases amongst them through inclusive sporting activities. They equally has as goal to source for funding from national and international organizations to sustain activities of the group.

With this victory, the team continuously knocks at the doors of the CBC Health Services for support to enable them to prepare ahead of the upcoming tournament in Angola. During the 2021 Chiefs of Center meeting of the CBC Health Services that took place in Yaounde and the Ear and Hearing Care implementation meeting in Bamenda, the CBC Health Services handed over financial support to the team. While handing the support to the team, the Chief of Administration and Finance of the CBC Health Services, Mr. Warri Denis charged them to be committed to achieving their dreams. He called on them to use the team and preach inclusion as they carry out advocacy visits at different levels.

As part of its visibility activities, the team organized a press conference in a hall provided by the CBC Health Services at the Baptist Center Nkwen in Bamenda recently. The objective of the press conference was to present the trophy to the public through the press and to solicit funding from well-wishers. The event was attended among others by the SEEPD Program Manager, Awa Jacques Chirac who commended the team for their brilliant performance. He pledged continues support of the CBC Health Services to the team and revealed that the CBC Health Services is willing to source funding to facilitate the running of their activities.

The SEEPD Program is excited to source funding for the team as this falls in line with the focus of the program to strengthen systems to promote Community Based Inclusive Development. The SEEPD Program acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) in support this action.

The Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services has once again been heralded by the press in Cameroon, for outstanding services to Cameroonians. The recognition this time around particularly singled out its work on promoting and championing actions aimed at creating more inclusive societies for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Handing over the awards, Tamukong Roland An- gong, Chief Executive Officer of World Echoes Media Group said the CBC Health Services is on every front when it comes to providing services for PWDs. “You cannot talk about disability issues [as well as actions promoting the rights of PWDs] without mentioning the CBC Health Services. That is why our press award management committee decided to award the CBC Health Services and its Director, Prof. Tih Pius for services to PWDs.”

According to Mr. Tamukong, the award ceremony targeted PWDs for outstanding performances in their spheres of life in all promoting their plight.

Prof. Tih Pius, while receiving, said the awards are a mark of honour to the CBC Health Services and the service for persons with disabilities in particular. “This recognition is a stimulant to us to do more for PWDs, and I can assure you, we will do more,” he declared.

“Thank you for always educating and sensitizing the public on the plight of PWDs. Dedicating an award ceremony to PWDs is a mark of recognition that they are part and parcel of society. For this I thank you. Keep projecting the need for all to make the lives of PWDs better in our communities,” Prof. Tih admonished.
Creating Inclusive Societies for PWDs: CBC Health Services Commended

Some 27 Screeners of the CBC Health Services drawn from the institution’s facilities in the West, Adamawa, and Northwest Regions of Cameroon have converged in Bafoussam for a two-day Screeners Seminar which runs from August 30-31, 2021.

The two-day program was organized this year in 5 different stations namely: Yaounde, Mutengene, Banso, Bamenda, and Bafoussam. The focus for the 2021 training sessions was on how screeners can approach patients with respiratory problems during this period of COVID-19. This is because the general COVID-19 scare among patients with symptoms that may be caused by other respiratory tract infections sometimes deter them from visiting the hospital, thereby leading to disease progression. The training is also geared towards enlightening screeners on the syndromic approach to the management of sexually transmissible diseases, given that there is a lack of tests that can determine sexually transmitted disease infection.

Additional topics at the training are Burnout and Resilience. This is to enable screeners to identify signs of burnout and be able to build resilience when they are faced with incidences of burnout, especially in the crises era. Screeners are also being drilled on how to interpret some laboratory services started in 2013 intended to update workers, on treatment protocols and other health-related information that can enable them to function optimally.

Screeners at the end of the training will be able to determine possible causes of symptoms presented by all patients. In all, a total of 109 screeners will be trained in the 2021 sessions.

“Promoting and Protecting the Rights of PWDs is protecting ourselves against future harm” – Government Official

A 2-day Child Safeguarding workshop geared towards the building of the capacities of focal persons within Partner Organizations (POs), Stakeholders, and Service Providers of the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development (EDID) Program of the CBC Health Services has taken place in Bafoussam.

The training that ran from September 2-3, 2021, aimed at ensuring the availability of focal persons in these institutions who can intervene or report all forms of child abuse and render needed assistance to the vulnerable groups of children who are abused in any form. Thanks to the implementation of the Disability Inclusive Child Protection Initiative, there is a continuous endeavor to have communities in the West Region of Cameroon free from all forms of violations. Identifying abuse and making informed decisions that will help victims were the expected outcomes of this training.

Opening the training, the West Regional Delegate for Social Affairs, Mr. Njie Fidelis highlighted the importance for all stakeholders to put hands on deck for the respect of children’s rights and the protection and promotion of their rights, as well as understanding child safeguarding and upholding its values.

According to the Delegate, a lot of efforts have been put in place by the Government and other stakeholders to stamp out child abuse, but each reports of abuse and violence against children are still being reported every day. He noted that this situation has been compounded by the influx of children into the Western Region from crisis-stricken regions. The children suffer abuse because they are internally displaced due to the socio-political crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon, and most of them find themselves in abusive homes.

The Regional Delegate observed that taking care of socially vulnerable persons has also been made difficult by the COVID-19 pandemic. He made a clarion call for everyone involved to do all they can to contribute to the enhancement of society in order to leave a legacy of improving the livelihood of the population.

“Protecting children today is protecting ourselves from their waywardness towards us tomorrow”, he cautioned. It is a prime concern for everyone to take action. The times may be hard and the challenges enormous, but “Yet, We Can”, he ascertained.

While representing the Program Manager of the EDID program, the Administrator of Bafoussam Baptist Hospital, Mr. Fambombi Dickson reaffirmed the position of the CBC Health Services in collaborating with the country as they join the international community to meet Standards of Operation within the context of child protection, child abuse, and all aspects within this context. Mr. Fambombi used the occasion to challenge all the stakeholders on board to benefit from the training and continue to stand up for all children whose rights are abused.

The training challenged participants to make an effort in their respective corners and be change-makers in their communities.

Teachers, Pedagogic Inspectors Drilled for Effective Inclusionary Practices

About 60 teachers and some leaders drawn from Lycee Classique and Lycee Bilingue in Bafoussam have undergone a 3-day workshop on Inclusive Education under the theme, “Including all Learners in Teaching and Learning Practices”. The workshop was organized by the Education for All Project of the Empowerment and Disability Inclusive Development Project of the CBC Health Services from September 1-3, 2021.

Opening the workshop, the West Regional Delegate of Secondary Education, Dr. Ngabyna Francois stressed on the importance of educating all children including those with disabilities. He called on all participants to use the information to enlighten all other teachers, parents and all stakeholders in their respective schools and other schools in the West Region of Cameroon on inclusive practices.

The training, which was the last training of personnel in these two pilot institutions for Inclusive Teaching Practices in Bafoussam, focused on Understanding Inclusive Education, Disability Models, International and National Instruments Supporting Inclusive Education, Benefits of Inclusive Education, identifying students with disabilities using the WGSSQs (Short Set of Questions on Disability), Teaching students with Vision, Hearing, Speech, and Orthopedic Impairments, Classroom Implications, How to teach students with Hearing/Speech, Vision and Orthopedic Impairments, and Implications for Teaching and Evaluation. The training also handled the Expanded Curriculum, Braille, Dynamics and Classroom Implications, Sign Language: Dynamics and Classroom Implications, Universal design for Learning (UDL): Key Principles, Lesson Planning and Preparation, The Expanded Core Curriculum: Focus on Orientation and Mobility, Collaboration for Effective Inclusionary Practices: The roles of Teachers and Resource Teachers.
This training, according to the Regional Delegate of Secondary Education, is very timely as it comes on the eve of school resumption. He rejoiced that empowered teachers upon return to school will be well equipped to take care of the educational needs of children with all forms of disabilities. The West Regional boss for Secondary Education further advised the teachers to always ensure that their lessons are tailored to include all learners in their respective institutions. He also harped on the importance for the Government of Cameroon to always reserve opportunities in public entrance examinations for children with disabilities who have braved it through and succeeded in their examinations.

Key facilitators at the workshop were the CBC Health Services Inclusive Education Adviser, Mrs. Fobuzie Bridget, a Resource Centre Trainer at GBHS Kumbo, Mr. Chiambah Daniel, and the Education for all Coordinator Mr. Che Manaseh.

West Regional Delegate of Secondary Education tells teachers to demonstrate exemplary inclusive practices

The beginnings of a surgical clinic have rendered the Surgical Wards of Bafoussam Baptist Health Center (BBHC) extremely busy in the recent weeks. The new surgical clinic, according to the Administrator of the Hospital, Mr. Fabombi Dickson has been realized, thanks to intervention of Dr. Dimla Emmanuel. Reports say, in the first two weeks of August, the clinic was able to evaluate 159 cases and scheduled those for surgeries to run till September 16, 2021.

The Department handles inpatient and outpatient cases, and carries out major and minor surgeries. Recent transfers has upgraded the department with an additional staff, Djudi Therese, a Scrub Nurse. This, according to the Head of the Operation Room who doubles as a Nurse Anesthetist, Wirnsungnin Jeneat, is a booster to the work of the department.

Reports say, the Department has been working with one surgical technician who worked with the assistance of medical doctors. In the past two months, the facility received Dr. Dimla on relief duty to enforce the work and do major surgeries. Upon his departure, the facility has been blessed with Dr. Thierry who has come from Ngounso to take over. The start of surgical clinic days and surgery days has led to improvement in the timely services rendered to patients.

In another development, the facility has acquired a Radiant Warmer which helps in the effective preparation of children born through the Cesarean Section. The Department, which at the moment has two operating tables hopes to have a second theatre and an additional Doctor to facilitate the growing work and also ensure continuous fast service delivery to patients. An additional monitor and operating head lamps have also been acquired. In August, the Hospital operated 78 major cases and 114 minor cases.

Bafoussam Baptist Health Center starts Surgical Clinic

Bafoussam Baptist Health Center has erected a tower to ensure water supply in the facility during this COVID-19 period. The 20 meters tall 4 pillar tower was constructed by the Technical Services Department of the CBC Health Services, thanks to support from CBM.

As fringe benefits from this tower and thanks to the approval of the Director of Health Services, the space between the pillars has been filled to create office and ward spaces. This has rendered space for the Imaging Department (ground floor), the Eye Department (first floor), two Private wards (second floor), Administrator’s Office, Secretariat and a small Conference Room (third floor), 5-bed capacity ward with toilets and shower (fourth floor), and the Water Tank Storage System (sixth floor).

Bafoussam Baptist Health Centre erects a tower to gain more office space

At the time of this report, the facility was working to acquire a water pump capable of pumping water to the height of the water tank. It should be noted that Bafoussam Baptist Health Center has been one of the leading facilities in the West Region of Cameroon in putting all necessary measures to combat COVID-19.
BBHC Clubfoot Clinic continuous to thrive

The Clubfoot Clinic at Bafoussam Baptist Health Center, which started functioning in 2016 has continued to thrive and rendering services to clients in and around Bafoussam. This has been as a result of outreach activities and sensitization that have created awareness in the people to better understand clubfoot and take measures to seek treatment.

In June 2021, an enlarged clubfoot clinic was organized, thanks to a general sensitization in the communities. This witnessed the convergence of more than 20 clubfoot cases. Interestingly, many patients who never visited the facility for treatment visited the facility and received much cherished treatment for their clubfoot. Some lost-to-follow-up cases were also identified and treated, including a 21-year-old boy. Many people in the communities are now motivated to visit the facilities for checkup.

“The Imaging Staff are like Pastors” - Mr. Gamnje

The Imaging Department of Bafoussam Baptist Health Center, hosting the X-Ray and Ultrasound Units as well as Electrocardiography (EKG) presently functions very well, thanks to the work of three permanent staff and two students on orientation.

While the Ultrasound services are ongoing, the X-Ray Unit is soon to start. The Department is currently installing the necessary gadgets for their X-Ray machine in the Unit that was installed in the month of August.

The Imaging Unit has been working greatly to assist the Doctors to make diagnosis available. They are also open for the Physicians to contact them for the explanation of all diagnosis. This good working relationship and collaboration, it is believed, will enable the best treatment outcomes for diagnosed cases. To the Head of Department, Mr. Gamnje Tata Francis, “The Imaging Department Staff are like Pastors who help unbelievers to believe”. They interpret results appropriately for a better understanding of the cases presented to the Doctors and Physicians.

A sum of Eighteen Million (18,000,000) has been awarded to the Bafoussam Baptist Hospital as bonuses for Performance-Based-Financing (PBF). According to the Administrator of the Hospital, Mr. Fabombi Dickson, this money has been set aside to acquire a vehicle. The rest shall be shared to staff as motivation for their hardwork.

The PT Department has also engaged in regular out station visits. They recently visited the West Regional Clubfoot Care Centre for a general meeting with midwives and nurses working in the maternity to talk about clubfoot. It was noted that if identified and effectively referred for treatment at birth, clubfoot is easily treated through the use of the Ponsetti method.

The Department has nursed plans to start a clubfoot clinic at the District Hospital in Fombot to help clients unable to visit the facility because of distance. A similar plan is underway to start a clubfoot clinic in Mbouda District Hospital.

Meanwhile, there has continued to be the intake of new patients in the department making the clinic very busy. This uptake of services by the community has been facilitated by the positive response from the CBCHS Central Administration in Bamenda in terms of staffing and equipment.

The Clubfoot Clinic at Bafoussam Baptist Health Center is proof of the good services they render in this facility. This is one of the fast growing facilities of the CBCHS.

Action on NCDs, Baptist Hospital Mutengene Echoes Calls

Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) is not letting the bar down as fighting against Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) is concerned. Kedze Marceline Nnam, NCD Site Coordinator says the hospital keeps sensitizing the population on the need to adopt a healthy lifestyle which is cardinal in the prevention of the onset of most NCDs.

“Here in the facility, we keep encouraging all clients who seek care to come to the ‘Know Your Numbers’ unit and have their vital numbers taken,” says Kedze Marceline. After values are taken, counseling is done on how to maintain the numbers for those with normal values, while those whose values are abnormal are referred for further care. “Given that outset of most NCDs is painless I encourage all to have their numbers taken,” she advised.

Speaking to CBC Health Services Press at the start of the global week for action on NCDs, Kedze Marceline said the unit will be offering a free blood sugar screening to the public. Through that screening campaign, we solicit the action of all to consolidate the gains made thus far in NCD prevention. The participation of all and sundry is pivotal to bar the way to NCDs, which are today’s silent killers, she voiced.

It is worth noting that the global week for action on NCDs is an annual event observed every September 6-12 ensures that NCD prevention and care gets the desired attention and action everywhere, for everyone. Therefore, the actions the BHM is enterpriseing is a perfect symphony with the objective of the global week on actions against NCDs, which is making sure that people are aware of NCDs and take action.

The NCD Alliance laid emphasis on the power and potential of the communities to co-create health societies.
BHM intensifies Wearing of Masks

Effective September 2021, the use of masks, including other prevention measures against COVID-19 is now a prerequisite to access service units at Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) for clients and staff. At the entrance to the facility, the security agents are not leaving anything to chance in enforcing the measure.

“Wear your mask properly,” the security agent tells a client who just alighted from a bike and was rushing into hospital with a mask below the chin.

Not too long, in the presence of this reporter, the same security agent ‘shows the door’ to another client with a practiced look on his face, as she approached the gate without a mask. With a frown, the lady buys a mask instantly from a shop nearby and is granted access to the hospital.

This daily reality you witness at the entrance to BHM following the recent surge of COVID-19 cases across the globe and a possible arrival of the codenamed delta variant in Cameroon.

Mr. Kuh Ignatius, Head of Department (HOD) for Security says the intensification of the strict respect of prevention measures is to limit the spread of the pandemic at BHM. “We have seen clients and service providers, which is laudable as far as the fight against COVID-19 is a concern.

“We pray with inspiration from Mathew 26: 36-43. In the end, we were challenged to remain in continuous intercession as we serve humanity in the health services in and through BHM,” recounted Chaplain Evert.

The all-night came on the heels of the CBC Health Services’ annual Spiritual Emphasis. Mr. Loke Samuel, BHM Administrator described the Spiritual Emphasis Week as a huge success.” We [staff] were entreated to do all it takes to enter God’s rest,” he remarked in summary.

“Be Diligent, Wrestle against Falling Standards” - BHM Staff Told

Chaplaincy Department, September 2, 2021. The staff of Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) have been prescribed diligence as a requisite to maintaining standards in health care delivery. It will take diligence to fight the so much talked about falling standards in the care you [we] offer to clients daily, said Evert Lum, Chaplain.

The admonishment was made in an all-night prayer session that rallied staff of the hospital to implore God’s protection and guidance as they serve in these times. During the vigil, the staff prayed for a host of things not limited to the COVID-19 and sociopolitical crisis, school resumption, diligence at work, and spiritual consciousness.

According to Chaplain Evert, the all-night was an opportunity for the BHM staff to reawaken their spiritual life. “We prayed with inspiration from Mathew 26: 36-43. In the end, we were challenged to remain in continuous intercession as we serve humanity in the health services in and through BHM,” recounted Chaplain Evert.

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BHM Heads of Department to enhance Performance, Teamwork

BHM Administration, August 16-17, 2021. Heads of Department (HOD) have been schooled on facilitative supervision. This was in a two-day workshop at the facility facilitated by Mr. Fombe Justine, Maternal and Child Health Supervisor. Mr. Fombe told the HODs in attendance that facilitative supervision is an ideal supervision model given that it focuses on meeting the needs of the supervisee to enable them to work and perform optimally.

“When carrying out facilitative supervision you focus on the process and not the individual. Once you focus on the process, you will be able to build on past gains and thereafter set greater goals with the supervisee. This method breeds empathy towards the subordinate and encourages participatory decision-making,” says Mr. Kuh Ignatius, workshop attendee, and HOD for the Security Department.

The workshop equipped the HODs with first-hand skills on effective individual staff performance evaluation. It emerged from the workshop that staff evaluation should be a process that identifies areas of lack and weakness concerning efficiency. With the new skills, HODs at BHM are now expected to establish trust in their supervisees as well as promote teamwork.

HSC Begins Kindergarten for Kids

Health Services Complex Mutengene, September 7, 2021: A kindergarten is now operational at HSC. The school flung its doors open to the young learners at the start of the 2021/2022 academic year. The school with a current enrollment of 15 kids promises to be a welcome relief to parents who work at HSC.

Jam Elgar, parent and promoter of the HSC Kindergarten says, “It was very difficult in the past for [us] me to go drop off the kids in school and come to work on time. But now that there is a school in the same compound where we [I] work, it is quite easy to be at work at the stipulated time.” You need just to bring along the kids and drop them at a go, she said with a toothy smile.

Ngam Esther, parent and chaplain says besides the uniqueness of dropping off kids in school and being at work on time, the security of the young ones should be supported and is the number one motivating factor for parents to choose HSC Kindergarten.

The nursery school has daycare, which will, in turn, serve as an accommodation area for kids once lessons fold up and their parents are yet to check out from work to pick them up.

The coming of the HSC Kindergarten, though still at the nascent stage is already nursing hopes for a full-fledge Primary and why not secondary school at the facility due to the many institutions of higher learnings already hosted there inter-alia the Regional Training Centre for Excellence and the recent Baptist School of Public Health.

Prioritizing Men’s Health: CIACP Charts a Novelty

The Community Initiative AIDS Control and Prevention (CIACP) Programme of the CBC Health Services is making the difference in having more and more men sit under one roof and discuss health concerns affecting them.

The novelty dubbed, “Men’s Clinic” is already gaining ground across the Southwest Region of Cameroon, today counting eight of these clinics.

Lauretta Barbara Kometa, CIACP Coordinator says the initiative was born from a study that showed that many men avoid the (doctor) hospital, and even when they are sick, they willfully resist getting medical help.
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YONEFOH Keeps Behaviour Change Crusade Alight

The Youth Network for Health (YONEFOH) programme is maintaining momentum in its crusade towards empowering adolescents to make informed decisions about their health and sexuality in society.

Kwalar Rene Ali, Supervisor of YONEFOH says the crusade in August 2021 saw the programme train adolescent girls and young women at Health Services Complex Mutengene and to Kumba, Southwest Region to train children workers, youth leaders, and pastors.

One of the core modules of the pieces of training, which is at the heart of YONEFOH's work, was the role of all in the fight against HIV/AIDS, sexual purity, and abuse. Mr. Kwalar says the fight against HIV and sexual abuse especially amongst adolescents is a crusade that has to be a daily walk.

Quizzed on why there is much discrepancy between awareness and practice as concerns sexuality and health amongst youths, which is a core target of YONEFOH, Mr. Kwalar said behavior change from time immemorial has remained a very difficult task to carry out. Yet, we at YONEFOH believe with adequate information, youths will make better choices about their health and sexuality, limiting the far-reaching consequences if they were ignorant.

The recent training has equipped over 100 children workers, young women, adolescent girls, and pastors who will in turn influence behavior change in their respective communities.

Mr. Kwalar rejoiced that over years of the crusade, many youngsters today turned adults are making exploits in different spheres, thanks to lessons they received from YONEFOH in their youthful days. "These are the testimonies that make us not to relent our efforts," he said.

Ndu Field contributes to Ndu Baptist Health Center Theatre

In an unprecedented move, the Exco of Ndu Field of the Cameroon Baptist Convention paid a visit to Ndu Baptist Health Centre on Saturday, September 25, 2021 to contribute their quarter to the efforts of the health center to erect a theater. The team was led by the Ndu Field Pastor, Rev. Koyoh Nformi Lawrence. They were welcomed by the Chief of Centre for Ndu Baptist Health Centre, Mrs. Shey Florence who expressed her gratitude for their coming on behalf of the entire staff.

"We as the Ndu Field Exco have come to support the ongoing theatre project with our own token," Rev. Koyoh disclosed as he introduced the members of his team. The field pastor again commended the dream for such a great project, which he prayed should grow into the Ndu Baptist Hospital in the near future. He said it was a privilege to support the project with an envelope of 1,230,000 FCFA, which he immediately handed to the Chief of Center, Mrs. Shey Florence.

On how the money was raised, the field pastor added that each Christian of the field has surrendered their transport to Kumbo during these difficult times to see that the project is fully realized and functional for the welfare of many in and out of the field. He concluded by thanking the chief of centre and staff for their collective efforts to carry the project to be at this state. It should be noted that Ndu Field is made up of 56 churches and 12 associations.

In response, the Chief of Centre, Mrs. Shey Florence saluted and appreciated the Ndu Field Exco for their coming and support. She promised that the money will be used judiciously towards the finishing of the project.

"Following the study, CIACP being a community-based project where most men affected by several health challenges yet avoiding the doctor or hospital, we decided to come with a platform that could permit them to talk about their health and seek medical care, without being nagged or waiting to come to the hospital at the late stage of the disease as has always been the case, and men's clinic is the needed response," explained Mrs. Kometa.

Through the clinics, men have been sensitized to HIV prevention, STDs (sexually transmitted disease), malaria, and lots of health issues affecting only men like prostate cancer. Mrs. Kometa noted that one of the most resounding successes of the clinics is that men are now in charge and looking after their health willingly.

The Men's clinics are today a force to reckon with given their ability to break through entrenched societal attitudes about masculine behaviors that only dictated men never to show weakness or dependency but rather to always act tough in all circumstances including health.

Thanks to the clinics, men have access to free screening for NCDs, HIV as well as partial payment for a very expensive medical test while CIACP shoulders the rest, says Mrs. Kometa.
1. Continue to pray for the fragile atmosphere reigning in the Northwest and Southwest regions in the past 5 years. Pray God to have mercy and bring peace in the hearts of the warring factions to end the war.

2. Pray for CBC Health Services leadership. Pray that God will help them to be sensitive to the needs of every individual in this organization; give them the ability to balance the financial and human resources available to them, and give them supernatural foresight and discernment concerning personnel matters.

3. Thank God for our workers in the CBCHS and in the various departments (Medical Doctors, Surgeons/Anesthetists, Screeners, Nurses, Secretaries, Drivers, Housekeepers/Yard men, laundry workers, nutrition counselors, Press men, Accountants/Auditors, Finance Clerks, Social workers, guards, Chaplains).

4. Pray for their families that God would protect and guide them.

5. Pray that, God would provide for them.

If you feel motivated to support any of our programmes in Cameroon, please send your tax deductible gift to:

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