Clubfoot Ambassador stays Committed to Course ...pg2

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STOP PRESS!!
Read the HS Chronicle and pass it on to the next person

BIBLE VERSE
“Hear my words, you wise men; listen to me, you men of learning. For the ear tests words as the tongue tests food”... ~Job 34:2-3 (NIV).
Fai Collins Ngoran, Cameroonian international football legend and Clubfoot Ambassador with the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services’ CCCP program to create awareness on this public health condition. Exactly one year of the campaign, Fai Collins was at Mboppi Baptist Hospital and Nylon District Hospital, all in Douala, on July 27, 2023, to witness some of the kids born with twisted legs now able to walk upright. For over two hours, the Clubfoot Ambassador ran around, playing with the children and even played football with them.

Quizzed on his reason of choosing to be Clubfoot Ambassador and not another disease condition, Mr. Fai Collins Ngoran said, he could not become a footballer with a bad leg. The less than 30-year old Indomitable Lions defender has become a household name, commonly referred to as “The Dependable Fai” due to the strength and agility of his legs to stop the onslaught of world class attackers.

As Clubfoot Ambassador, my role is to encourage parents with children born with clubfoot to take them to any of the Treatment Centers around the country. These children can become stars and great footballers like me,” Fai Collins intimated. He paid for treatment to continue on seven children with clubfoot deformity. The clubfoot champion received a standing ovation both in Mboppi and Nylon Hospitals, characterized by cheers of congratulation and scramble for snapshots.

SEEPD Program Manager, Awa Jacques Chirac expressed satisfaction at the fact that the Cameroon Clubfoot Care and Prevention program now has a champion to push forward ‘our’ awareness campaign on clubfoot deformity.

Clubfoot can be treated any of the 19 Treatment Centers located in 6 of the 10 regions of Cameroon namely: Northwest, West, Littoral, Center, Southwest and Adamawa.

The Clubfoot champion expressed gratitude to CBM for supporting the CBC Health Services to meet his aspirations.

The Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC) Health Services’ Deputy Director for Administration and Finance, Mr. Warri Denis has granted an audience to Karlheinz Samenjo, Co-Director for Inclusive Global Health Lab at Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands.

The meeting of the two personalities on July 26, 2023, follows a facility visit in Nkwen Baptist Hospital by Samenjo to identify opportunities to develop interventions that can support healthcare provision to people in low-resource communities. During the tour of the Hospital facilitated by Dr. Bonko Neville, an ENT Specialist, he and Samenjo engaged with Biomedical Engineers and Doctors to discuss medical device gaps and now collaboration with the CBC Health Services will ensure cost-effective, efficient, and lasting solutions.

The Dutch-based Inclusive Global Health Lab designs medical equipment to suit the context of its beneficiaries. Their focus on African countries is with respect to the realities in these countries, which sometimes hamper the effective functioning of medical equipment designed without taking into consideration the specificities of the host countries.

The two parties are looking at a possible collaboration that will also facilitate the training and upgrade of skills “skills transfer” for Biomedical Engineers within the CBC Health Services for the design, production, and eventual effective repairs of biomedical equipment.

According to Samenjo, the initiative is also geared toward a Biomedical University in Cameroon, and he is confident of the capability of CBC Health Services to realize this lofty dream.

The choice of CBC Health Services and the confidence bestowed on it by the Inclusive Global Health Lab has been informed by the services rendered and the rapid growth of the institution in recent years in its provision of healthcare to all.

The visit comes at a time when CBC Health Services is undertaking training of Biomedical Engineers under its Baptist School of Public Health (BSPH) in Mutengene. With the improvement in human resources and the development of skills in Biomedical Engineering design, production, and distribution, all CBC Health Services facilities in Cameroon shall benefit from environmentally adapted equipment. The CBC Health Services may serve as a pilot, but there are plans to eventually scale out this initiative to other sectors of health to benefit the whole country.

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Hope and Healing International Management tackles Project Year

The ball has been set rolling for activities to accelerate in the current Project Year (FY24) for Hope and Healing International funded projects of the Socio Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, SEEPD, program.

SEEPD Program Manager, Awa Jacques Chirac gave the kickoff during an intense work session for management and project officers who met to roll out strategic plans for a successful implementation of project activities throughout the year. The working session held in Douala from July 25-30, 2023.

The SEEPD Program Manager called on participants to surmount the challenges of the last project year in their rigorous planning this year. Development, he said, is not an easy task to achieve. “Let us count it a privilege to be placed in this position to serve humanity. Our motivation is not money but service;” he encouraged.

Mr. Awa told his collaborators that due to the dwindling funding opportunities worldwide, funders tend to look for credible organizations and communities where to put their scarce resources. For this reason, he challenged his team members to work harder in order to continue to merit the confidence of the funders.

The aim of the weeklong meeting was to converge as a team, discuss and establish a common understanding on the project log frames, design the strategic plans and share roles for better achievement and continuous funding.

As the meeting rose, it was clear to the management team and project officers that it cannot be business as usual. Each one is, henceforth, committed to his or her task.

Henceforth, research will be embedded in all the stages of the project management cycle: situation analysis, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Socio Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD) Program. This was disclosed by the SEEPD Program Manager, Awa Jacques Chirac at the start of a 2-day workshop on research methodology that took place recently at the Baptist Center Nkwen Bamenda.

Speaking at the opening of the workshop, the Program Manager explained that after having a closed discussion with the Chair of the Internal Review Board (IRB), Dr. Mboh Khan Eveline, he understood how much the program has lost in the past years as a result of not factoring research in project activities. Mr. Awa expressed that if the program had worked closely with the research department 10 years ago, they could have had a plethora of different studies published in reputable journals. The workshop was thus, part of strategies to catch up with missed opportunities and map a way forward given that research is a fundamental pillar for achieving CBID strategy which is a strategy used by the Program. “It is important for everyone to come on board and be part of the research activity, it should not just be for a few categories of staff but it should be a collective effort,” the manager stated.

SEEPD Program trains Staff on Research Methodology

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The workshop, which was attended by 20 staff of the SEEPD Program was organized by the Comprehensive Program for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Inclusive Access to Basic Services of Health and Education in the Northwest Region of Cameroon.

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Highlighting the objective of the workshop, the lead facilitator, Dr. Mboh Khan Eveline disclosed that the objective of IRB is to promote internally generated research within CBC Health Services. She said many SEEPD Program activities entail getting them translated into research protocol that can be approved by IRB at the end; the results can be disseminated and published in peer review journals. She stated that the workshop was intended to give SEEPD Program staff orientation and capacity on research methodology so that they can research key program activities that are researchable.

Other facilitators included Dr. Nicolas Ekoue a Senior Research Officer and Dr. Ayima Charlotte Research Officer of the CBC Health Services. In different presentations, the three facilitators drilled participants on developing research protocols, research methods, research designs, and data analysis amongst others.

The Program Manager, Awa Jacques Chirac, for his part, schooled participants on Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR). He stated that it is not about getting into the community to find research topics and research subjects; it is about getting the community engaged in the whole research process so that the research is designed and implemented by and for the community. He encouraged staff to use CBPR as an approach to work.

During the workshop, participants were assigned to work on individual research topics using the knowledge acquired from different presentations. The individual assignments were presented in a plenary session during which the facilitators made inputs and encouraged staff to further refine the research topics so that further research can be done on them.

The workshop was organized with support from CBM.

On behalf of the participants, Ndintek Kennedy appreciated the Program Management for organizing such a timely workshop. “We thank the management for organizing the workshop to give us the capacity that we need to support the work of SPD/CBC Health Services so that in 3 to 5 years the outcome of our work will be different from the previous years,” Kennedy noted.

At the end of the workshop, the facilitators appreciated the participants for the research ideas, and for actively participating in the workshop. They encouraged staff to develop more research ideas given that the Program Manager is committed to supporting those research ideas.

The workshop was organized with support from CBM.

CBC Health Services/MOH Train Trainers of Nursing and Midwifery Schools on Clubfoot, Ponseti Method

Ninety-one teachers of nursing and midwifery schools in Cameroon have been trained on clubfoot deformity and its treatment using the Ponseti technique. The 2-day training which constituted two groups took place at the CBC Health Services Resource Centre Mvian, Yaounde from July 3-4, 2023. The workshop was organized by the Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project in collaboration with the Human Resource Department of the Ministry of Public Health (MOH).

Opening the trainings, the Director of Human Resources at MOH challenging participants to accompany government in its strategy to prevent disability resulting from clubfoot.

The Clinical Supervisor of the Cameroon Clubfoot Project, Dr. Ndasi Henry in his welcome speech, disclosed that the Cameroon Clubfoot Care Project started piloting the project in 4 health facilities in 2014 but over the years, the project has been extended to 19 health facilities. He added that one of the goals of the project has been to collaborate with the MOH to strengthen the capacity of health personnel in clubfoot management using the Ponseti method. The workshop was one of the strategies to achieve that goal Dr. Nasi noted. The Clinical Supervisor appreciated MOH for inserting a module on clubfoot in the curriculum for training health personnel and going a step further to organize trainings on clubfoot. He expressed the wish for the Ministry to put in place a guideline on the treatment of Clubfoot in Cameroon like other health issues in the country.

Cont. pg05
Churches and organizations have always sought to educate their youths and the long third-term holidays in Cameroon are an opportunity to bring them together for educational programs. In partnership with the Equality Project of the CBC Health Services, the Redeemed Christian Church of God’s Rehoboth Parish brought together over 40 young girls and boys to educate them on their Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH) and bodies. These adolescents were culled from other Redeemed parishes in Bamenda, Presbyterian Church, and Catholic Church, with consent from their parents.

Held on Saturday July 22, 2023 at the church premises, these children aged 13 – 18 came together for the fifth time after beginning 4 weeks prior to being taught different topics inspired by the book titled, “Understanding Love and Sex”. The aim of the book is to help them understand their sexuality, love, and when to begin discussions on marriage.

“Breaking Barriers in Sexual, Reproductive Health in Adolescents

Juvenile delinquencies are associated with adolescents, who find themselves engaging in activities mostly for fear of being labeled outcasts by their peers. One of the many problems they face has to do with their Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH). Therefore, how to raise wholly confident, responsible and conscious young people with a true and accurate knowledge of their beings, who can make good decisions and take good care of themselves and of one another?

The lead facilitator for the workshop was Dr. Ndasi Henry, the CCCP Clinical Supervisor assisted by Physiotherapists who are Ponseti method specialists from the approved clubfoot treatment centers. They drilled the participants on clubfoot deformity and the Ponseti method, which begins with manipulation, casting, tenotomy, and bracing. They defined clubfoot as a deformity that a child is born with feet or foot twisted inward. Each facilitator underlined the importance of early detection and referral for treatment as a way of preventing disability in the child.

The expectations from the Director of Human Resources at MOH, the Project Coordinator, and the Clinical Supervisor are for the participants to transmit the knowledge acquired to the students so that they will be graduating with knowledge to detect and refer children born with clubfoot for treatment. In an interview with the press, the Director of Human Resource, Mr. Eyenga commend the partnership between the CBC Health Services and the MOH and recognized the CBC Health as the organization that has piloted the Ponseti method of treating clubfoot in Cameroon with support from CBM.

At the end of the workshop, one of the participants, Jumo Olga Ngafeeson, a midwife trainer from a Private Training School for Health Personnel in Bafoussam said she has learned a lot from the workshop and will be able to teach the students a module on clubfoot. “My expectation of the students is that they will be able to detect clubfoot cases in the delivery room, postpartum and neonatal ward and refer for treatment,” Ogla said.

It is hoped that this strategy adopted by the CCCP key partners; the CBC Health Services, the Ministry of Public Health, and CBM the funding partner, to ensure early detection and treatment of clubfoot using the Ponseti method will yield more fruits in the days ahead.

Second Edition of DHS Keep Fit Tournament Kicks-start in Bamenda

The second edition of the Director of Health Services (DHS) Keep Fit Tournament kick-started at the Baptist Centre Nkwen Bamenda on July 1, 2022. The official launching of this second edition, which will run from 2023 into 2024, comes after the successful finals of the maiden edition of the tournament that took place in Bamendzi Stadium in Bafoussam from April 28-29, 2023.

This official launch was characterized by many sporting activities such as aerobic dance, volleyball and basketball in both male and female categories, as well as football. The hotly contested football match between the Veteran Football team and the Women Football Team of the Baptist Centre ended with the men beating the women by two goals to nil.

The DHS Keep Fit Tournament is organized annually in an attempt to create awareness and beat Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) from the lives of the CBC Health Services staff and communities. The first ever Keep Fit Tournament was organized by the Director of Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih as principal sponsor. Other partners such as Union Bank of Cameroon (UBC) and United Bank of Africa (UBA), contributed financially to its success.

Launching the second edition of the tournament in Bamenda, the Deputy Director of Health Services for Administration and Finance (DDAF), Mr. Warri Denis said, the sporting activities will help staff remain healthy and strong even as they fight NCDs in their bodies.

“This year’s tournament has been designed to be inclusive. The Tournament will involve the participation of persons with disabilities in all the seven disciplines in both female and male categories,” the DDAF added.

For his part, Monju Elvis, CBCHS Sports Coordinator urged all CBCHS staff to endeavor to participate in at least one discipline in the tournament. “I encourage every staff to play with the love of one another and the fear of God. In this tournament, every participant is a winner of good health,” Mr. Monju remarked.

The games are played in all CBC Health Services facility sporting complex. The teams play and are selected and categorized into groups building up to the finals.
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pregnancy prevalence has shot up mostly because they child transmissions. In young women living with HIV, the of ages 17 – 24 being recorded that are not mother-to-
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from the decisions they make about their SRH. There are new wave of infections among adolescents which makes one question the decisions they make about their SRH. A lot of children born to positive mothers are current-
ly at the university level or high school, and many are rebellious to adherence. There are new HIV infections of ages 17 – 24 being recorded that are not mother-to-
child transmissions. In young women living with HIV, the pregnancy prevalence has shot up mostly because they lack self-esteem and therefore easily give in to advances. These youths face diverse challenges and these affect their decision making. Some of them are lack of access to accurate and comprehensible information, which is greatly linked to cultural norms and expectations. Par-
teams think it is not appropriate for them to openly know certain topics because of the myth that letting them know indirectly exposes and encourages them to en-
gage in sexual activities.

“On the contrary, this is not the case,” explained Mr. Njodzeven Divine Ngiti, SRH expert with the CBCHS. “Rather, with access to information, it is proven that they delay onset of sexual activities and take good responsible decisions that keep them healthy”. As a barrier likewise, most SRH services offered are not ad-
lescent-friendly. “You won’t expect adolescents to feel comfortable mixing with adults,” he said. In addition, many of the service providers are judgmental and do not have the right mannerism and words to approach the subject with these youths. This is one of the great-
est challenges these adolescents have in accessing SRH services.

There is no way to properly educate adolescents in this domain without involving their parents/caregivers, who have a key role in providing the education. The Equali-
y project seeks to empower parents on when to begin SRH and sex discussions with their children. What should they say, how should it be done and at what age? These are the aspects they handle. It is important to create an enabling environment in homes as this is the best way to pass across information.

The other facilitators included Mme. Awa Fanny, Project Manager for the Equality Project, and Dr. Fozao Mbi Va-
nessa, a medical doctor. Mme. Awa interacted with the adolescents on self-esteem and self-confidence during which they expressed their fears related to social interac-
tions. “If a young person has a wrong impression about themselves or does not value themselves, it will affect their relationships. Society can make them change their identities. Without self-value, they can easily give them-
selves to anyone,” she opined.

Dr. Fozao, on the other hand, was there to make the ad-
olescents know that they are more than a body. To know this, they must first understand their bodies so they were taught about the female and male reproductive organs, and the differences existing between both sexes. She also taught them about the menstrual cycle and men-
statement and menstrual hygiene management.

“The media is a blessing and a curse because these ado-
lescents are very exposed to it, and because they do not know who they are, and have not accepted themselves, they have allowed social media to influence the way they behave and act,” she said. The idea is to imbibe self-
worth. It is expected of them to make healthier choices espe-
cially in the domains of sex, and in case of pregnancy, etc. This all stems from knowing who they are and how to keep their boundaries. At the end of the session, free screening for HIV was carried out. The Equality project is very particular about empowering, expanding, and scaling up SRH services to adolescents. This would not be possible without funding from VfV Healthcare which supports positive actions in the domains of HIV and SRH.

Some Health Facilities mentored on Resilience in Pediatric HIV/AIDS Care

Active participation in Self esteem and confidence activity with Program Manager, Mrs. Awa Fanny

Striving towards ensuring that Cameroon meets up with the 95-95-95 targets set by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Equality Project team effected a 2-week coaching and mentoring visit to its partner facilities. The team had as objectives, to review the project’s imple-
mentation, understand the systems in place for the provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services, review and guide peer supporters on their roles, ensure that the report-
ing tools are in place, and make certain that the service pro-
viders have the right source documents.

The facilities visited comprised Nkwen Baptist Hospital Bamenda, Akum Holy Family Hospital, Santa District Hospi-
tal, Regional Hospital Bamenda, Azire Integrated Health Cen-
ter, St. Mary Soledad Hospital, and Nkwen District Hospital. They are all located in the Northwest Region.

An important aspect of the project is the integration of Sexu-
al and Reproductive Health services for adolescent girls and boys, especially young mothers. Because of the socio-politi-
cal crisis which began in 2016, data has shown an increase in the number of Sexually Transmitted Illnesses (STIs) among young people. Many young ladies living with HIV had shown up with pregnancies and STIs, so it is left to the imag-
ination, what their knowledge of SRH is.

The project is particular about expanding and scaling up HIV and SRH services to these groups of persons. They work very hard to ensure that young people living with HIV attain the Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) state. One of the ways this can be successful is if these adolescents clearly un-
derstand their SRH rights and needs.

The highlight of the meetings was the peer supporters who had not only fully integrated themselves into the facilities but were producing very satisfactory results. Champions, as they are commonly called, have fought and won over stig-
ma and discrimination and are willing to accompany other youths. They have spearheaded the organization of relevant support groups, communicated frequently with caregivers to make sure they are present for appointments, educated their peers on SRH, and carried out home visits to improve access to services for those in need.

“I don’t want any youth to feel left out that is why I take it upon myself to call each one and visit them when they can’t make it to us,” declared one of them.

“We have intensified SRH education in our facility and even plan to extend the training to the antenatal clinic (ANC) and other clinics where parents are mostly gathered. This is so because we have realized that they cannot be left out. SRH education will only succeed if we include them,” voiced Lilian, a service provider.

The mentoring activity that began on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, “was a complete success and we can’t wait to further this partnership with these facilities. We are very grateful that amidst their tedious workload, they have shown their pas-
ion and resilience by improving their services in SRH so that our adolescents and young people, especially those living with HIV, can live healthy lives,” chided Mme Anangkeng Jus-
tine, Assistant Project Coordinator. “We can’t wait to visit the other facilities located in the other divisions like Bui, Boyo, and Ngoketunjia,” she went on.

The mentoring team comprised the Assistant Project Coordi-
nator, the M&E Officer, the Sexual and Reproductive Health Officer, and the Communication Officer.
The supervision began on June 2, 2023 at Sabga Baptist Health Center in the North West Region of Cameroon and rounded up with Baptist Hospital Banyo in the Adamaawa Region of the Country on July 13, 2023. During the visits, the NCD team made a clarion call to all hospital staff to take it as a point of duty to beat NCDs by taking different actions and making timely interventions to prevent the silent killers from destroying the communities.

In all the Facilities, the NCD PCP team from the central administration carried out a couple of activities geared towards improving on the services of the Diabetes and Hypertension (DH) Units, Know Your Numbers (KYN) as well as other services provided in the different facilities.

In each facility, the NCD PCP Manager, Mr. Takwe Boniface gave an overview of definition, major types of NCDs and risk factors (including Tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity, unhealthy diets and air pollution), the epidemiology globally and specifically in Cameroon, why the increase in NCDs despite the known risk factors, screening for gestational diabetes, prevention, innovations and referrals.

Mr. Takwe revealed that according to reports in the first quarter of 2023, a total of 272 people had elevated blood pressures among them 2 pregnant women, 133 people with elevated blood sugars among them 29 pregnant women, meanwhile 827 had elevated circumferences and 686 Body Max Index. In 2017, he went on, NCDs were responsible for about 74% of Global Deaths and by 2030, about 46% of people who die will be as a result of NCDs. According to the NCD expert, the major challenge is the weaknesses in the implantation of critical control measures including prevention, diagnosis and care.

The NCD team also held special sessions with the Doctors, Screeners, Midwives, Prescribers and the NCD Units of the facilities with focused on the reasons for referrals. The sessions laid emphasis on the importance of carrying out the Oral Glucose Tolerance Test in pregnant women to check on gestational diabetes which is risk factor for the mother and child during pregnancy. They were also challenged to put hands on deck to ensure the adequate interventions needed to make the dream of beating NCDs come to fruition in the nearest future. Mr. Takwe reminded the Administrators of the Director of Health Services (DHS) order for all facilities to embrace NCD activities in their own internal activities and do everything to ensure that these services succeed.

During the working sessions with the NCD and Diabetes Units of the hospitals, the team used a monitoring tool to clearly look at the varied areas of their engagements at the hospitals to evaluate their work. The tool also looked into worries and challenges and strategies were put in place to remedy the various situations. Staff of the units were challenged to remain consistent in giving health talks to the inpatients and outpatients of the hospitals as well as carry out outreach on a regular basis for health talks and for out-door screening. They were also called upon to work closely with the hospital by coming up with work plans that will show clearly their action for the month for better preparation and management.

At the Baptist Hospital in Banyo, the team was impressed with the data collection and reporting of the KYN and Diabetes Units of the hospital. At Nkwen Baptist Hospital, the staff remarked that the number of emergencies rushed to the clinic has greatly reduced, thanks to the NCD training carried out in January. The Administrators of Ndu and Banso Baptist Hospitals were impressed and applauded the visiting team for braving the odds to reach both facilities while encouraging them to come again.

At the end of each visit, the NCD team has a working session with the Hospital Administrators during which appraisals were made and appreciation rendered on either side. The exit talks also recognized some of the challenges that included: shortage of staff in some hospitals making it difficult for NCD Staff to fully perform their duties and assigning NCD staff to work night shifts in the wards making it difficult for them to be available during the day amongst others.

The Mayor of Ndu Council, Abdou Kanfon Borno has congratulated the CBC Health Services for doing a great job in the provision of quality health care to the Cameroonian population. He made the commendation at the end of a presentation on June 29, 2023 at the Ndu Council by the NCD Prevention and Control Program Manager, Mr. Takwe Borniface.

In attendance were the Staff of Ndu Council and some Peace Ambassadors of the municipality who were all drilled during the presentation on the modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and ways through which they can prevent the disease from ravaging their municipality.

In his presentation, the NCD Prevention and Control Program Manager made an overview of the program during which he expatiated on the risk factors of NCDs. The manager encouraged the Ndu Council to come up with NCD friendly rules and regulations such as ‘No Smoking’, ‘No Car day’ amongst others as strategies through which they can beat NCDs in the communities.

At the close of the presentation, the Mayor of Ndu Council thanked the NCD team for having a heart for the community and beckoned the staff and peace ambassadors of the community to take the good news far and wide. Mayor Abdou was delighted with the CBC Health Services for doing a great job in providing quality health care to the population. “Congratulations to the CBC Health Services, they are so important in this country and are doing a great job. The services they offer cannot be seen anywhere else because they are purposeful,” Mayor Abdou Kanfon Borno articulated.

The Mayor also noted with satisfaction the relationship that exists between his Council and the CBCHS via an MOU signed with the SEEPD program. He said all buildings at the Council are being made accessible for persons with disabilities and remarked that the Council is ready to work with the CBC Health Service ‘any day any time’.

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In his presentation, the NCD Prevention and Control Program Manager made an overview of the program during which he expatiated on the risk factors of NCDs. The manager encouraged the Ndu Council to come up with NCD friendly rules and regulations such as ‘No Smoking’, ‘No Car day’ amongst others as strategies through which they can beat NCDs in the communities.

At the close of the presentation, the Mayor of Ndu Council thanked the NCD team for having a heart for the community and beckoned the staff and peace ambassadors of the community to take the good news far and wide. Mayor Abdou was delighted with the CBC Health Services for doing a great job in providing quality health care to the population. “Congratulations to the CBC Health Services, they are so important in this country and are doing a great job. The services they offer cannot be seen anywhere else because they are purposeful,” Mayor Abdou Kanfon Borno articulated.

The Mayor also noted with satisfaction the relationship that exists between his Council and the CBCHS via an MOU signed with the SEEPD program. He said all buildings at the Council are being made accessible for persons with disabilities and remarked that the Council is ready to work with the CBC Health Service ‘any day any time’.
BHM Voluntary Blood Donor Association joins Global Community in Commemoration

The Blood Donor Association (BDA) of Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM) joined the global community on June 14, 2023 to celebrate the World Blood Donors Day under the theme, “Give blood, give plasma, share life, share often”. The celebration, which took place in the Hospital chapel had a special focus on the impact of the blood donation in Baptist Hospital Mutengene for the year 2022.

Dr. Fonkou Steve, a transfusion specialist during the presentation, highlighted impactful areas the blood donation from the association has had on the hospital and clients. According to statistics, a total of 257 units of blood was donated by BHM VBDA to help clients from running up and down looking for donors thereby making sure that safe blood was always available. The Association also assisted clients to save money, which they would have used to pay donors, a phenomenon the Association is fighting to stop. For the first time, the hospital was able to transfuse platelets (it takes six pints of whole blood to have one pint of platelets), thanks to the association. Dr. Fonkou Steve encouraged all donors to be evangelists to recruit more donors such that the association can reach their target of 500 donors in the nearest future.

The president of the association, Mr. Fambulu Fabian in his welcome address, appreciated the donors for availings themselves for this noble humanitarian activity of saving lives through regular donation of blood. He encouraged all to be committed in donating respecting their appointments such that the bank will always have blood to save clients in need.

The Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS), Yong Geneview on behalf of the Administrator, added her voice to that of the Association’s President to appreciate the donors describing them as very special group of people.

In the same vein, BHM chief medical officer (CMO), Dr. Ndas Henry expressed gratitude to the donors for their commitment to make sure there is blood for clients in need. The CMO awarded certificates to some donors who have donated for more than six times.

The celebration this year was attended by the Coordinator of the Cameroon Voluntary Blood Donor Organisation (CVBDO) for South West and North West regions, Mr. Ukwanandum Samuel who appreciated BHM VBDA for the work they are doing in the region. He urged them to continue seeking ways to grow the association to save more lives.

BHM remains resilient to fight Sickle Cell Diseases

BBHD on June 19 and 20 joined the globe to commemorate World Sickle Cell Awareness Day. This day is observed every year on June 19 to raise awareness about Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) and its impact on individuals, families and communities worldwide. Sickle cell disease is a genetic blood disorder characterized by abnormal Red Blood Cells (RBCs) that assume a crescent or sickle shape and these irregularly shaped cells can cause blockages in blood vessels, leading to a variety of health complications.

According to records, SCD is a public health concern that affects 5% of the world’s population representing 50 million individuals worldwide. It is common in Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and the Mediterranean. Of this number, 30% of those suffering from SCD die at childhood or prematurely at adulthood. In Cameroon, about 6000 newborns are diagnosed of SCD yearly and about 18-20% Cameroonians live with the disease.

Commemoration in Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala (BBHD) held under this year’s theme, “Building and strengthening Global Sickle Cell Communities, Formalizing Newborn Screening, and Knowing your Sickle Cell Disease Status”. The warning is clear: The cost of inaction now is greater than any action later. The time to beat NCDs is now!
From pg08

On June 19 during Chapel service, a retrospect of the Hospital's efforts in the fight against SCD was highlighted followed by a time of prayer dedicated to those suffering from the disease led by the Administrator Madam Fon Rose.

On June 20, a rich clinical expose' titled, "Sickle Cell Disease diagnosis and principles of management" was delivered to the staff by the Pediatrist, Dr. Djomeule Rolin and Dr. Binye Catherine (General Practitioner).

The presentation that englobed the epidemiology, prevalence, clinical signs and symptoms, tests, and treatment of sickle cell was highly interactive and applauded by all. The medical package was equally followed by a time of prayer dedicated to those suffering from the disease led by the Administrator Madam Fon Rose.

The over eight-month-old new integrated Community Based Health Services (CBCHS) on July 3, 2023 with ambiance as staffs and sport lovers gathered at the SBHC sport ground to give the launching of the Tournament the beauty it deserves.

Our Sabga based correspondent, Tonga Gilbert says the event began with words of welcome from the Chief of Center (COC), Mr. Efouki Godlove who appreciated the presence of everyone and encouraged them to be actively involved in one or two sport disciplines so as to beat NCD which is the aim of this tournament. He further urged the Sabga pool to strive to mark present at the upper rounds of the tournament.

The COC, in a special way, also welcomed the health committee chairman and the quarter head who were present to grace the launching.

Before kick-off of the sport disciplines, there was general sport work-out exercises where everybody participated with focus on beating NCDs followed by a handball match between Sabga and kwighe BHC.

The highly animated match ended in a draw.

Sabga Baptist Health Center 2023 DHS Tournament

The second edition of the DHS Tournament for 2023 kick-started effectively in Sabga Baptist Health Center (SBHC) on July 3, 2023 with ambiance as staffs and sport lovers gathered at the SBHC sport ground to give the launching of the Tournament the beauty it deserves.

Our Sabga based correspondent, Tonga Gilbert says the event began with words of welcome from the Chief of Center (COC), Mr. Efouki Godlove who appreciated the presence of everyone and encouraged them to be actively involved in one or two sport disciplines so as to beat NCD which is the aim of this tournament. He further urged the Sabga pool to strive to mark present at the upper rounds of the tournament. The COC, in a special way, also welcomed the health committee chairman and the quarter head who were present to grace the launching.

Sabga Baptist Health Center (SBHC) commonly referred to as Small London by the community and other visitors has been receiving students from Baptist Training School for Health Personnel (BTSHP) Banso, St. Elizabeth Catholic Hospital Shishong and University of Bamenda (UBA) among others for orientation in the medical field ranging from nursing, medical laboratory and pharmacy.

From January to June 2023, SBHC have received three pharmacy auxiliaries and one pharmacy technician from the BTSHP, five laboratory technicians from Shishong Catholic School of Science Banso, two BNS from UBA. Reports say, at the end of the period, the students all testified of having met their objectives and more. One of the students is quoted as saying, "Sabga is a unique place with unique way of doing things and has got many things to be copied, I wish to be posted here".

Sabga is thus gaining ground as far as orientating students is concerned. The health center is blessed with well trained staff who are also dynamic in many ways giving her an added advantage over her peers. Its fast growth both in infrastructure and number of services offered has attracted admiration from other health institutions.

Early this month of July 2023, SBHC received a total of twelve nurses from BTSHP coming for orientation, ranging from special care nurses, nursing auxiliaries and nursing assistant students. These students will be orientated not less than a month in SBHC with focus on their objectives. According to reports from Tonga Gilbert, the students have engaged themselves in performing nursing care in the wards under the leadership of the HOD, Mme Akwen Mary who is determined to help them achieve their objectives. All this is happening under the supervision of the dynamic chief of center, Mr. Efouki Godlove who has equally been supportive and open to the students making it easier for them to achieve their objectives.

Sabga Baptist Health Center attracting Students on Practical Experience

The over eight-month-old new integrated Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) department in Kouhouat and Baptist Health Center (KBHC) is fully functional and impacting lives in the local communities of Foumban and Bangourain Health District.

According to the pioneer CBR staff, Mr. Chongwain Johnson, CBR fieldwork in the CBCHS can be compared and characterized to Jesus Christ's work to humanity. This is carried out in accordance with the CBCHS mission of helping humankind. CBR, a component of the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SEEPD) program is doing its best to advocate and implement social inclusion for persons with disabilities (PWD) in society.

Our Kouhouat based correspondent, Nfor Gilbert notes that the CBR office in Kouhouat has so far carried out activities related to health education, self-empowerment and social inclusion of persons with disabilities in the locality. The program, he adds, carries out advocacy to the communities for community ownership and participation involving inclusive walkways in social structures, employment, and empowerment of persons with disabilities. They are also helping to introduce sign language as well. In health, they do health promotions, disabilities prevention, care, and support, especially to identify clubfoot and fistula cases. In education, they support PWDs with school needs/materials and advocate for enabling environments.

Regarding self-empowerment, CBR supports PWDs in setting up small businesses or trade. In the social aspect, they ensure that PWDs live inclusively with others with no discrimination or stigmatization in all societal activities such as involvement in decision-making at all levels, marriages, managing structures, etc.

So far, 24 persons have been attended to health-wise, especially those with clubfoot. These 24 families with PWDs were assisted with self-empowerment, and 9 students were helped in the educational aspects within the first eight months of the onset of the CBR activities in Bangourain and Foumban health districts. According to the CBR field worker, there was a criterion of selection for the beneficiaries.
The newly elected Bafoussam Field Pastor of the CBC, Rev. Fongambu Confidence Ziwoh paid a contact visit to Kouhouat Baptist Health Center recently. The field pastor’s visit, as he explained, was to enable him get acquainted with the structures and functioning of CBC institutions in the Bafoussam Field so that he should not be an absentee landlord.

The Field Pastor also sought to know the strengths, weaknesses, and challenges of the institution and its staff. Acknowledging that teamwork makes the dream work, he was determined not to work alone in order to fulfill the global CBC vision. He seeks to work together with all CBC leaders and departments in his area of jurisdiction so as to reduce and minimize errors. The field pastor used the book of Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 to encourage the staff towards teamwork as a tool for successful ministry whether in the health center or in church. The CBC Noun Association Pastor, Rev. Nyah Simon Ful accompanied him to KBHC.

The Field Pastor and his entourage were warmly welcomed to KBHC by the Chief of the Center, Mr. Yongka Wilfred Ki, and the Chaplain, Pastor Gur Ernest Ti. They were led around the premises and in each department, while the field pastor gave words of appreciation and encouragement and then prayed for and with the staff of the department.

In his welcome words to the August guest, CDC said he was delighted, grateful, and privileged to accompany the CBC Executive President’s representative in the Bafoussam Field. Mr. Yongka remarked to the field pastor that the staff are hardworking in a team spirit, and strive to realize the goals of CBCHS under the CBC. He mentioned one of their challenges was not enough network for prompt reporting and communication of important issues. Other challenges like lack of basic needs such as foodstuff, and housing which make life difficult for the staff were equally mentioned.

The Noun Association Pastor, Rev. Nyah Simon, on his part, called on staff to know that the CBC is like a rope made up of three knots together for a common goal, preaching and directing people to Jesus Christ. “This can only be achieved by those who are focused, committed and called out from the masses for the task,” he remarked. The Noun Association Pastor continued that, successfully attaining the goals and objectives will never be without challenges. “It can only be done by a serious team with diverse talents like that of KBHC,” he noted.

The working session was interactive as they prayed for God to restore peace in Cameroon and to heal all who are sick.

Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD) received Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala (BBHD) as they clashed to officially commence the DHS Keep Fit Tournament for the Littoral zone on Saturday July 15, 2023 at the Camtel Stadium Bepanda, Douala V municipality.

The sun was up, the sky bright with the fan clubs emulating rhythms of varied sonorities from vuvuzelas and traditional instruments to welcome the players and administrative dignitaries. As a tradition, the events began with the chanting of the CBCHS mission statement.

Chaplain Toh Samson began with a brief devotional. “Good coordination, obedience, appreciating and valuing the contribution of each team member are necessary for victory to happen,” he said as he challenged the athletes to uphold these principles as he prayed committing all the activities of the day to God.

Mr. Mbeng Frankline (Chief of Center Kouphi) and Mr. Munjo Anthony Vyi (Assistant Administrator of Personnel MBHD) added their voices to Chaplain Samson’s. All spoke one language; winning spirit, fair play, togetherness, and the fight against NCDs: the primary objective.

The matches all began with Football. On the sandy soil of Camtel Stadium was a battle compared to that between David and Goliath. Of course, BBHD had David’s courage to face the giant and mother, MBHD. The players were all ferocious and agile, the win was no way near. The struggle continued until the dangerous minutes of the game when BBHD cracked the MBHD defense to leave the goalkeeper wanting. At the blast of the referee’s whistle, it was Bonaberi - 1 and Mboppi - 0. Bonaberi based reporter, Elvis Nyuyteni boasted, “It’s no longer a statement that BBHD is a baby born with teeth, but equally one with no fear ready to bite whoever provokes her.”

Despite the victory in football, it was a bitter kiss for Bonaberi in the other disciplines. In volleyball, it was completely black for the boys and girls of Bonaberi. The Mboppi boys thrilled over Bonaberi 2 sets to nil. The absence of a female volleyball team for Bonaberi gave Mboppi an absolute win. What seemed like electrons in a titration beaker racing for an endpoint, were the handball games for both categories. The handball games were highly competitive and emotional of which Mboppi ended up winning in both categories; 6:4 for the females and 13:12 in the male category.

The crowd in their beautiful colors made the environment picturesque, electrifying games from the players kept the bonds alive. One unique and imposing item of this year’s tournament is the flags designed by the BBHD fan club which speaks for themselves. The games took place under the auspices of a thick administrative entourage with Bonaberi highly represented.

Closing remarks came from Dr. Kadmend Jacob (CMO MBHD) and Madam Fon Rose Nyimeh (Administrator BBHD). Both officials thanked and encouraged the staff for the massive turnout and fair play.

“I saw involvement and the care for one another as you played. The Littoral zone is a winning team. I don’t know where the energy came from but we have been able to identify great players in the different teams we have; we are all in the house and one family. The feet won and hands won as well,” said Madam Fon Rose to the cheering audience.

The day ended with prayers, photo shoots, and refreshments. BBHD plans to have its name engrafted in history and keep a blueprint in this year’s competition. In the days ahead, Kribi will compete separately with Mboppi and Bonaberi. It’s worth noting that our field reporters Nanyongo Etonge and Ekele Andrew stationed at Mboppi were actively participating in the games.
Embassy of the United States of America

Yaoundé, Cameroon
July 31, 2023

Prof. Pius Muffih Tih
Cameroon Baptist Convention

Dear Prof. Tih:

Once again, I find myself sending you a note of thanks for the wonderful work that the Cameroon Baptist Convention is doing in partnership with the United States and Cameroonian governments to improve the lives and health of the Cameroonian people. It seems that nearly everywhere I go in Cameroon, the CBC is there, often with Prof. Pius Tih as its welcoming face. Thank you for all that everyone at CBC has been doing for so many years.

We look forward to continuing our work with you for a long time to come.

Respectfully,

Christopher J. Lamora
Ambassador
1. Pray really hard for sustainability of Health services and adequate numbers of staff and adequate rest for staff.

2. Give thanks that we live at a time when it is possible to understand the spread of disease, and to intervene to reduce its spread and to reduce suffering and provide effective treatment.

3. Thank God for the successful Extra-Ordinary General Session that held in Bamenda recently. Pray that the decisions of this meeting will lead the Convention into the future rather than bring it backwards.

4. Pray for this period of transition in the CBC with some new leaders coming into office. Pray for their good health, for their families and that they will fit in without much duress.

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

Cameroon Health and Education Fund (CHEF)
PO Box 330
Rapid City, SD 57709

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