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STOP PRESS!!

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



BIBLE VERSE

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you
face trials of many kinds, because you know that
the testing of your faith develops perseverance".
~James 1:2 (NIV).

CIMS graduates Five New Internists to bring the Number 27 so far

The colourful ceremony took place on November 25 2023 at Mbingo Baptist Hospital. The event was the graduation of five internal Medicine physicians after four years of intensive training at the Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS) of the Baptist School of Public Health (BIHS). They included: Dr. Chia Blessing Mom, Dr. Leukeng Tamgoua Paule Larrisa, Dr. Ngoueffo Mbognou Gaelle, Dr. Tintinu Edmond Agongtia and Dr. Ekollo Dibobe Rodrigue Salomon

While congratulating the graduates for reaching this physical mile stone in their medical journey, the Director of the CBC Health Services (DHS), Prof. Tih Pius Muffih charged them to carry forward the values of integrity, professionalism, and patient centred approach demonstrated during training as they em-

bark in this new phase of their careers.

The Director expressed with satisfaction that the administration has witnessed their unwavering commitment, tireless efforts, and the intellectual rigor they have applied to their studies and clinical practice and to him this achievement does not only signify dedication to the field but also marks the beginning of a promising and impactful career for the doctors. Aware that the journey has been one of continuous growth and learning, the DHS said, the system is immensely proud to have played a part in supporting their pursuit of excellence in the field of medicine.

The public health expert reminded the graduates that Internal Medicine and surgery are demanding

responsibilities, noble disciplines in the medical profession and not only do they demonstrate expertise but also empathy, genuine compassion to the well-being of patients. The Director echoed that their successful completion of this specialization is testament of their capabilities and potentials they hold to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those under their care.

It was an avenue for Prof. Tih Pius to also thank the faculty for the devotion they have demonstrated in preparing this men and women to go out as servants to serve the population while noting that the health department is appreciative of the commitment of the Dean and Faculty in preparing them for greater works of life.



Prayer of Dedication By Belo Field Pastor



Newly Graduated CIMS Doctors In Joint Response



Prof. Tih Pius, DHS in Praise to God

Calling on the graduates to remember the mission and vision statement, the DHS said, learning is a life long journey, and he is certain they will continue to embrace new challenges and opportunities with the same enthusiasm and dedication that has brought them to this level. "Never forgot the vision and mission statements but use them as your shield and guide as you navigate through your medical career. We receive you into the CBC Health Services family with open hands, the fields are wide and the harvest is waiting," he remarked.

The CBC Executive President was highly represented during the graduation by the Belo Field Pastor who extended the EP's Salutation to all especially to the graduates for devoting their time and resources to receive such training. Though challenging, he was grateful to God for their perseverance. To the Faculty, the proprietor of all CBC Institutions appreciated the team for doing a great job, noting that they will be rewarded.

Prof. Njamnshi Alfred, Board chair of BIHS while saluting the students, brought greetings from the Dean Emeritus, Prof. Dennis Palmer stating his excitement that the five new CIMS Doctors bring to total 27 graduates of the programme since its inception. The Board chair also brought greetings from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Yaounde 1, an institution affiliated to CIMS and playing a supervisory role. The Dean conveyed congratulations to the graduates, the administrative, teaching and support staff of BIHS for haven spared no effort to ensure the high quality of the training the residents have received in the past four years.

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of the University of Yaounde 1 through Prof. Njamnshi, was also appreciative of the significant efforts put into the PACCS Programme that trains general surgeons not just for Cameroon but for other African Countries. Within the framework of the supervisory role that the university has on all the training programmes, it was an opportunity for the Dean to appreciate BIHS for participating in pedagogic and all other activities organized in Yaounde, expecting that the effort will continue in the future.

Prof. Njamnshi also reverberated the greetings of the Honorary Board Chair of the Institution, His Excellency PM Emeritus and Grand Chancellor of National Orders at the Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon, Philemon Yang who said to the students, "You are participating in what will transform the future, I am proud of what the power of God is doing in Mbingo".

On a personal note, Prof Njamnshi appreciated the Director of the CBC Health Services for sponsoring most of the training activities of the Program without which nothing will be possible. Reliably informed by the Dean that the next set of residents will have some coming as far as Ethiopia, he said, "Those who are coming from Ethiopia might not be for the CBC Health Services but if they are Christians and committed to missions as we sang in the mission statement and if we are able to support them, it is an investment worth getting into because that is kingdom investment". He by that encouraged the Director to sponsor them for the kingdom of God which is the mandate.

Dr. Ellekvist Peter in his Commencement address said his coming to Cameroon has shown him the value of

tenacity. Calling on the graduates to be ambassadors of Mbingo Baptist Hospital, he described them as bright reasons why their efforts are being honoured that day. He also called on them to remember that there is always room for further improvement of skills, therefore attending meetings, conferences and sharing knowledge with other colleagues is the ideal. Caring for patients should be the most important part of their duty having in mind that when they meet a patient, they also meet God. "Do No Harm!" he recapped.

The newly graduating Internists were awarded their Diplomas by the Director of CIMS, Dr. Julie Stone who presented a glimpse of the thesis written by each of the Doctors based on a case report. The soft-spoken Dr. Julie said she is very proud of the five who graduated as she has seen each of them grow, develop and flourish many times during the programme. She noted that it is necessary to bring people to order, to help them see what they are doing well and what they still need to revise but she found that this batch of residents are very amendable to direction, they were all wonderful and is the first batch to each complete a thesis as a requirement for graduation and that will be a requirement going forward.

The CIMS Director added that It was her hope that as the graduates go forward, they will follow the Lord whole heartedly, they will seek his wisdom as they care for many complex and ill patients, patients that do not only have physical needs but also and more importantly spiritual needs so they will use their interactions with the patients to witness about God's love.

In a Charge to the graduates, Dr. Tumi Divine after thanking them for staying on the course, he resonated that access, affordability and quality health care to all in Cameroon is still a dream, but CIMS and PAACS have taken it as a duty to move forward the medical practice in Cameroon.

Looking at the 12th Batch marking 27 of the graduates of the CIMS Programme, Dr. Tume said he sees complete quality health care within the CBC Health Services institutions, thanks to the training of these Doctors. Remarking that they are all full of stories about their journey through the programme, Dr. Tumi asked the graduating residents to spread the news in order to inspire many others. While calling them graduates like no other, he charged them to put their faith in Jesus the great Physician and to

present the small worries in a talk to God.

Responding on behalf of the graduates, the chief resident, Dr. Ekollo Dibobe expressed their profound joy, relief and gratitude to the institution and faculty. Mentioning that the journey was long, filled with many challenges, trials and tribulations but it was also filled with joy and unforgettable pleasant experiences. They were grateful to God Almighty for his faithfulness, guidance, his comfort, his divine wisdom and love that provided them with the necessary tools to overcome the various challenges that came along the way. They appreciated the CBC Health Services in general and Mbingo Baptist Hospital in particular through its administration for housing the BIHS and providing an ideal platform for learning, teaching and growing in the knowledge of the word

of God.

To the Dean of BIHS, Prof. Keith Streadfeild and his devoted team, the graduates were appreciative of their effort in ensuring that the different programs (CIMS, PAACS and the Physiotherapy Programme) gain the respect and recognition they rightly deserve at the national and international levels. Their gratitude also went out to the faculty, both those onsite led by the Director, Dr. Julie Stone as well as the external faculty for teaching them and sharing their experiences with them and for pushing them and challenging them to attain heights they thought were beyond their reach. They were equally grateful to the residents, general practitioners, nurse practitioners as well as support staff, for standing by them in good and bad times.

A New Dawn for Rehabilitation Services in Cameroon

Baptist School of Public Health Celebrates the Graduation of Multiskilled Rehabilitation Technicians and Community-Based Rehabilitation Workers

In a landmark achievement, the Baptist School of Public Health (BSPH) proudly celebrated the graduation of its inaugural cohort of Multiskilled Rehabilitation Technicians (MRTs) and Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) workers, in Palais de Sport Yaounde on November 24, 2023. This momentous occasion, held under the esteemed Minister of Social Affairs' patronage, marked a pivotal step in addressing the shortage of qualified rehabilitation professionals in Cameroon and expanding access to quality rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities.

The colourful graduation is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the graduates and proof of the significant partnership between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the CBC Health Services, with important funding from the Liliane Foundation and AFAS Foundation through the EDID program. This also marks a significant milestone in the school's commitment to empowering individuals to provide quality rehabilitation services to those in need.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), an estimated 15% of the world's population, or one billion people live with disabilities. In Cameroon, statistics indicate that 5.4% of the population, or approximately 1.4 million people live with disabilities. This translates to a significant need for qualified rehabilitation professionals to provide essential services to this underserved population.

Gracing the occasion as the chief guest, the Minister of Social Affairs who commended the BSPH for its commitment in nurturing a cadre of skilled rehabilitation professionals, highlighting the crucial role they play in promoting inclusive and accessible societies. "With the number of persons with disabili-

ties we have in the country and the limited number of centers or institutions skilled enough to cater for their welfare, the graduation of these MRTs and CBR workers is a significant milestone in our efforts to strengthen the rehabilitation workforce and improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. They are filling an important gap. In 2019, Cameroon recorded just 250 physiotherapists which is a very low value compared to the number of persons with disabilities. I advise you to be worthy professionals willing to change the lives of these persons for the better and bring smiles to the faces of families with this target group," the Minister encouraged.

Echoing the Minister's sentiments, the Executive President of the Cameroon Baptist Convention (CBC), Rev. Dr. Nditemeh Charlemagne applauded the graduates for their unwavering commitment to serving others, emphasizing the importance of Godly compassion and empathy in the field of rehabilitation. *"Your work extends beyond technical expertise; it is a calling to make a difference in the lives of others,"* the Executive President declared.

In a heartfelt address, the Director of Health Services praised the graduates for choosing to delve into rehabilitation, emphasizing the importance of delivering quality care to all, especially to persons with disabilities. *"You must shine the light and be a beacon of hope to these persons. This is a higher calling and you have been taught the necessary skills to bring about positive change in Cameroon and the world,"* Prof. Tih Pius stated.

A young university student who went through many perils as a child with a disability was presented to the entire public. She was identified by a CBR worker

when she could not walk, abandoned by her family due to a mobility impairment and with the help of the EDID Program funded by the Liliane Foundation and AFAS Foundation, she can now walk with assistance, is an honor roll student in the university and has won the Miss Easter competition in school. She is proof of the work done by the rehabilitation technicians.

The graduation ceremony is evidence of the unwavering dedication and resilience of the graduates, who have undergone rigorous training in various aspects of rehabilitation, for a wide range of conditions. The MRT program equips graduates with the skills to work in community and primary healthcare settings, providing essential rehabilitation services to children and adults with disabilities. The CBR program emphasizes the importance of community engagement and collaboration, empowering graduates to work alongside community members to identify and refer individuals with disabilities to appropriate services.

The graduation of the first batch of Multiskilled Rehabilitation Technicians (MRTs) and Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) workers is not merely the culmination of a training program; it is the dawn of a new era in the landscape of rehabilitation services in Cameroon. Their expertise and dedication will undoubtedly make a profound impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities, creating a more inclusive and accessible society for all. As these graduates embark on their professional journeys, they carry with them the hopes and aspirations of those they will serve, empowered to transform lives and ignite a beacon of hope for a brighter future.



Award of certificates by H.E. the Minister of Social Affairs



Director of CBCHS, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih welcoming H.E. Mme Pauline Irene Nguene to the graduation ground



Family photo with the Minister of Social Affairs, Mme Pauline Irene Nguene, and her cabinet, CBC leaders and graduates

Director of Health Services visits Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala with Good Tidings

Professor Tih Pius Muffih, Director of Health Services (DHS), on Friday, November 10, 2023 paid an unexpected visit to the staff of Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala (BBHD). The visit was in line with the DHS' promise to visit the facility before the year runs out, reason why the DHS braved the heavy rains and bad weather of that morning in Douala to talk to his fellow staff at BBHD.

In fatherly words, the DHS thanked and encouraged the staff for their hard work and endurance in Douala, which is sustaining crisis plagued facilities like Mbingo and Bango Baptist Hospitals functioning at 30-40%. In this regard, the public health figure reminded the staff that the CBCHS is engaged in a lot of partnerships that have given birth to projects which are greatly sustaining the whole system. He said the projects, which more are still in the pipeline, have

come to stay and will only stay if we all manage them well. *"Pray that through all these partners we are going to do over and above what Cameroonians and others can imagine a church organization can do. We are home and moving forward"*.

In what could be termed as the center gravity of the visit, Professor Tih Pius Muffih admonished the staff to be LEADERS and NOT AUTHORITIES. The Director challenged the staff to shun the spirit of authoritarianism as this more often than not has led to the collapse of many organisations. *"I believe effective and good leadership is very important, when you are a leader you have a team following you and you are going to succeed and if you a leader, lead and stimulate the people you work with to serve. Do not be an authority over them."* Prof. Tih called on all to be leaders to sustain the CBCHS in their leadership.

Coming from the horse's mouth, the Director of CBC Health Services answered to rumour on his retirement come December 2023. *"There is no success without a successor and nothing succeeds more than success. I will be praying with all of you to stand firm to the value we have lived for and to say forward yes! backward no! The CBCHS was NOT my thing, it was our thing and we have to work with it. The opportunity I have from the CBC is that they say I should continue to lead the projects and work with projects for the entire CBC more with the CBC Health Board and of course trying to see other departments to come up. To me, my very first assignment is to MENTOR the person that will take over the services from me"* - words of Prof. Tih Pius Muffih.



Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala

The Director who doubles as an NCDs Champion and sport lover encouraged the staff to take the DHS Keep Fit Tournament seriously. He told BBHD staff that the essence of the Tournament is for keep fit, camaraderie, understanding and social interaction among colleagues. He promised the upcoming finals in Bafoussam 2024 will be more explosive and interesting.

BBHD Administrator, Madam Fon Rose Nyimeh thanked the DHS for the encouragement and package of good news. She reminded Prof. Tih that his visit is coming at a time and month when BBHD just turned five years of existence.

"We want to assure you that as the leadership of this institution you have a wonderful staff here in Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala. We have said it to them severally that we are very proud working with

them. They actually are making things quite easy for us with the quick way they understand and accept situations. Thank you for your leadership, you have imbibed a lot of leadership skills in all your staff and there is no way we can separate from it, it is already in our systems the way you have cultured us. We are glad to be working with you, we are glad for all the good use, we count it a blessing," the Administrator told the Director.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Yemene Zangue Plendou joined his voice to that of the Administrator to welcome the DHS.

Speaking on behalf of the happy staff, one of theirs, Madam Ngum Janet Ndi said, "Your presence here today comes like a booster to us and actually proofing to us that you are a father, we love you. Forge forward and more grease to your elbows. Ahead, ahead we are behind you. We love you so so much, we are

working and not getting tired because of your loving words". Madam Ngum used the opportunity to thank the DHS for BBHD leaders whom she described as umbrellas, mothers, fathers, listeners and pain killers". She invoked words of blessings and protection over the Director. *"God will keep on sustaining you, we are down here as the foundation supporting you,"* the spokeswoman affirmed. The Director thanked the Administration and staff for the encouragement through their mouth piece.

From the sacred solos of songs, the staff chanted SSS #530 (In the hollow of his hands) calling on the good God to enclose Prof. Tih Pius Muffih into his hands. He was equally prayed for by Head Chaplain, Toh Samson before he left BBHD.

From Bonaberi the Director was heading to Bonanjo in Douala to meet with the Minister of Public Health for the implementation of a project in the making.

Unsung Heroes: PATA 2023 Summit Prioritizes Mental Health for Healthcare Frontline Workers

In a continent where the burden of HIV and AIDS remains disproportionately high, the Pediatric Adolescent Treatment Africa (PATA) 2023, Summit held in Africa, in different satellites from November 14 to 16, served as a beacon of hope and a platform for collaboration to address the ongoing challenges faced by frontline healthcare providers.

The Cameroon in-satellite was hosted by the CBC Health Services at her Resource Center in Mvan Yaoundé under the theme, *"The Face of Care: Health Providers and Communities at the Frontline of Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Service Delivery in Africa"*.

This summit gathered healthcare workers, community partners, policymakers, and researchers to share experiences, exchange strategies, and collectively advocate for a more resilient and effective approach to pediatric and adolescent HIV care in Africa.

At the heart of the summit lay the recognition of the crucial role played by frontline healthcare providers in delivering essential services to children and adolescents living with HIV. These dedicated individuals, often working under resource-constrained condi-

tions, are the backbone of the HIV response in Cameroon and Africa. Yet, their unwavering commitment is often overshadowed by the challenges they face, including inadequate training, burnout, and limited access to resources.

"Imagine after a strenuous day and when it is time to go home, a woman comes in late or an adolescent who came straight from school that you must attend to. We also need psychosocial support," purported Buri Chantine, a frontline manager with HIV Free West region Cameroon.



**Participants at
PATA 2023 Summit**

The summit also highlighted the importance of community engagement and collaboration. Recognizing that effective HIV care extends beyond clinical settings, they emphasized the need to empower communities to play an active role in supporting children and adolescents living with HIV. Participants discussed strategies for building stronger partnerships between healthcare providers, community organizations, and peer supporters, ensuring that families and caregivers are equipped with the knowledge

and resources they need to support their loved ones.

Emerging from the PATA2023 Summit is a renewed commitment to strengthening the capacity and resilience of frontline healthcare providers in Africa. By investing in their mental health, providing them with the necessary training and resources, and fostering collaboration between healthcare providers and communities, a more effective and sustainable approach can be created for pediatric and adolescent

HIV care in Africa.

The summit's legacy lies in its ability to empower healthcare providers to become the changemakers they are, ensuring that children and adolescents living with HIV receive the care and support they deserve, and Cameroon can meet up with the UNAIDS 2030 targets.

CECPES graduates 12th Batch of Social Work, 7th Batch of CPE Students

The management of Center of Clinical Pastoral Education and Social Services (CECPES) and Community Counseling Clinic (CCC) has been congratulated variously for their innovation and resilience in training social workers and pastors with clinical skills to meet up with the challenges of the times.

The commendations were made by the dignitaries that addressed the audience on November 18, 2023 at the Baptist Center Conference Hall in Bamenda during the graduation of the

12th batch of social workers and the 7th batch of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) students. The training of the social workers lasted for nine months (February to November) while that of the CPE lasted for three months. The training comprised both theory and practicum in the field.

Presenting the 30 graduating social workers and 4 CPE pastors, Rev. Mbuh Julius, Director of CECPES/CCC said they were well trained to go out and impact society. He disclosed that

this batch of social workers are the first set of students to work on a new report content for project writing which was a blend of research and report writing, geared towards an investigation and intervention approach put in place by the faculty. This new component, according to the Director, led to an increase in the number of faculty members and attracted quality students, one of them being a PhD fellow, Mr. Vuwesi Gabriel who testified that CECPES has redefined his perspective of life.



**EP's representative awarding a
graduand**



**Graduating social workers taking
the oath of confidentiality**



Social work graduands & officials

Rev. Mbuh paid tributes to the Mezam Divisional Delegation of Social Affairs 'which granted us the opportunity to partner with the Ministry of Social Affairs in training our students'. The students carried out practicum in the Divisional Delegation of Social Affairs and her social centers for the first phase (six weeks) and then, the hospitals and other non-governmental organizations for another six weeks.

The representative of Mezam Divisional Delegation of Social Affairs congratulated CECPES on behalf of her Delegate and the Honorable Minister of Social Affairs for resilience in training social workers with required skills that are needed in the current context. The Delegate's

representative assured CECPES of her Ministry's continuous support as need be.

The Deputy Director of Health Services for Administration and Finance (DDAF), Mr. Warri Denis and the Administrative Assistant to the CBC Executive President (EP) took turns to congratulate the students for braving it through the training. The EP's emissary charged the 30 social workers and four pastors not to depend on their certificates from the training but to proof their new skills through the impact they'll make in touching and healing arching lives.

Four students gave reflections how the training at CECPES transformed them. Meanwhile, the

class coordinator, Martial Ekville Eko on behalf of his colleagues, promised to put to practice what they have learned. "We should not forget the oath we took to uphold the principles of social work profession anywhere we find ourselves in helping the vulnerable," the class coordinator admonished.

Relatives, friends, CECPES lectures, CBC Director of Youth and Students Ministry and other leaders from the CBC Health Services Central Administration and Nkwen Baptist Hospital witnessed the colourful ceremony during which the students were clad in the newly acquired graduation robes for CECPES.

Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala recognized for Quality Services

The CBC Health Services through one of its hospitals, Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala has once again received recognition for championing healthcare services in **#Cameroon**. The recognition from Echo Sante took place on November 16, 2023, at Hilton Hotel, Yaounde in an event presided at by the Minister of Health, Dr. Manaouda Malachie.

The Administrator of the Mboppi Baptist Hospital, Mr. Yongwa Zaccs received the award accompanied by leaders of the Hospital. They were happy to hand the award to the Director of CBC Health Services, Prof. Tih Pius Muffhi who once again thanked the Hospital Administrators and staff for working tirelessly to attract such a grand recognition.

The recognition followed a public vote and a technical evaluation which informed the scientific and organizing committees of the hospital's merit of this National Excellence award for the year 2023. The hospital has been praised *"for your [their] leadership in health expressed by your [their] commitment to the quest for excellence and quality of healthcare offered to the population"*.

The Minister of Health used the occasion to acknowledge the work done by stakeholders in the health sector to continue to ensure good health for all Cameroonians. He reassured health leaders present at the event of the Cameroon Government's commitment to ensure good health for all its citizens.



Minister of Health expressing words of thanks to all health collaborators in Cameroon

Life Abundant Primary (LAP) Health Care Counts Gains, Challenges & Way forward

The top management team of the Life Abundant Primary (LAP) program of the CBC Health Services has evaluated the challenges, achievements and hashed new plans for the future. This was during a meeting held at the Baptist Centre Nkwen on November 3, 2023 attended by the management team in the presence of the CBC Health Services Deputy Director for Administration and Finance (DDAF), Mr. Warri Denis, and other Administrators.

In an interview with the Communication Unit, Mr. Njeni George, the LAP Administrator submitted, *"Today we had our LAP management meeting. The intention was to look at the planned activities for 2021 to 2023 and their implementation. We were also looking at LAP in the future, and the activities we intend to accomplish in the years ahead. There is a blueprint we are looking at and trusting God we will meet with the services. We also looked at the challenges we have been facing especially with the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions which affected our activities. We are so much impressed with what has been accomplished so far despite the challenges"*.

The LAP Administrator also explained that in the LAP Strategic Plan, the program is currently covering 5 regions of the country and the new plan involves expanding LAP services to all the regions of the Country especially as the CBC Health Services now offers services in the Northern part of Cameroon.

There are plans of improving on personnel as well as infrastructural development and improvement. *"LAP has been funded mostly by Bread for the World, an International Organisation but we cannot continue to depend only on the organization for funding. So, we are envisioning other areas we can turn to for funds so that our services can expand"* he explained.

The Deputy Director for Administration and Finance (DDAF), Mr. Warri Denis applauded the efforts of

the LAP staff. *"I want to use this opportunity to congratulate the LAP staff for the wonderful work they have been doing serving in the rural communities and meeting the CBC Health Services' mission of providing quality health services to all. Primary Health Services (PHS) remains at the heart of the CBC Health Services. We recognize the efforts they have made in meeting the targets we had set for them and also recognize the challenges they have gone through to be able to provide quality services to the population in the field. The Management of the CBC Health Services wants to assure them of continuous support as they continue to serve the community,"* the DDAF assured.

Primary Health Care is essentially giving health-care to the people in the rural communities. The CBC Health Services - PHC services offer education through sensitization on healthy 'ensure disease prevention. They also assist in the rehabilitation and treatment of cases that have been sent home, offer basic treatment to patients in the communities and refer others to health centers and hospitals for proper treatment.

Primary health care is the foundation to universal health coverage. The WHO's vision of having universal health coverage can only be achieved if those in hard- to-reach communities have access to the essential health services. This is what the CBC Health Services' LAP program has been offering the Cameroonian population with over 54 primary health care centres in five regions of the country.

It is also thanks to the LAP program that the CBC Health Services is able to fulfill her mission of providing quality health care services to all. No doubt, she has been considered the best provider of health services to Cameroonians after the government.

The LAP, therefore, is the fore runner of CBC Health Services in Cameroon. Most of 'our' Integrated Health Centers and hospitals started under the LAP program.



LAP Management Meeting in Session



LAP Management members looking to a brighter future

Religious Leaders sensitized on U=U Concept in HIV Management



Dr. Chiabi Eugene, Senior Technical Advisor, HIVF NW



Workshop participants

The efforts to keep HIV at bay cannot be sustained when the messages around the disease are not understood the same across the board. It is for this reason that the HIV Free Northwest is leaving no stone unturned to share new findings with community stakeholders who can also carry the same messages down to the grassroots. November 17, 2023 was the turn of some 13 Pentecostal pastors and 14 other healthcare workers including doctors.

Opening the one-day workshop at the Conference Hall of Nkwen Baptist Hospital, the representative of NW Governor congratulated the religious leaders for coming on board to join hands in the fight against HIV. He said the workshop was a timely preparation towards this year's World AIDS Day (WAD) that centers on the objective of the current workshop which is Undetectable = Untransmissible (U=U).

The Governor's representative challenged participants to henceforth preach the message of U=U, which means people with undetectable HIV viral load have the freedom to get marry because they have low chances of transmitting the virus. The representative of the State educated the pastors on the legal implications of interfering in the marriage decisions of couples because one of them is HIV positive.

"Marriage counseling should not become an advice. Simply tell the couple the implications of living with

an HIV partner and allow them to make their independent decisions," the state official warned. He used the occasion to advise the Pentecostal pastors to be sure that their churches are duly legalized, because that is the beginning point of verification in case of any eventually.

The representative of the NW Regional Delegate of Public Health, for his part, highlighted the objectives of the workshop which included among others; to harmonize understanding in the management of people living with HIV, establish a platform for collaboration between religious leaders and healthcare workers against HIV and AIDS, and to build the capacity of religious leaders on the basics of HIV diagnosis, treatment and follow up. To corroborate the Governor's representative, Dr. Ambe Leo presented the protocol guiding counseling paramount among which are confidentiality and non-interference in the medical decisions of clients.

The workshop lessons admonished the pastors to counsel and support people living with HIV in their churches to stay on treatment even when they attain the U=U status. The lessons included: Generalities on HIV and AIDS and Benefits of ART with emphasis on U=U by Dr. Franklin, Faith healing and Orthodox medicine by Dr. Chiabi and Addressing stigma in the context of HIV by Dr. Nkome.

MIVA, Liliana Foundation donate Vehicle to Emmanuel Sisterhood to empower Vulnerable Rural Communities



Deputy Director of CBCHS for Administration and Finance, Mr. Warri Denis handing over keys to the Emmanuel Sisters

In a heartwarming act of generosity, MIVA, an international organization dedicated to supporting development projects in developing countries, and the Liliana Foundation, through the EDID Program, have donated a vehicle to the Emmanuel Sisterhood of the Bafut Prowess. The vehicle will be instrumental in enabling the Emmanuel Sisters to reach vulnerable rural persons and provide them with essential services.

The Emmanuel Sisters are a dedicated group of women who have committed their lives to serving the most marginalized communities. They work tirelessly to provide healthcare, education, and other vital services to those in need. With this new vehicle, the Emmanuel Sisters will be able to expand their reach and provide even greater assistance to those they serve, making sure they can reach everyone in need.

"We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of MIVA and the Liliana Foundation," said Sister Shalom of the Emmanuel Sisterhood. *"This vehicle will make a world of difference in our ability to reach those in need and provide them with the essential services they deserve."*

The CBC Health Services Deputy Director of Administration and Finance, Mr. Warri Denis, echoed Sister Shalom's sentiments, commending the Emmanuel Sisters for their dedication in serving others. *"We are proud to see the Emmanuel Sisters receive the support they deserve, to continue in their important work,"* he said. *"This vehicle is a symbol of our joint commitment to helping those in need."*

The EDID Program Manager, Mrs. Agho Glory also expressed her satisfaction with the ongoing work of the Sisters and expressed gratitude to MIVA and the Liliana Foundation for their generous donation. *"This vehicle will be a valuable asset to the Emmanuel Sisters and the communities they serve,"* she said. *"We are grateful for their partnership."* She further reiterated the commitment of the CBC Health Services as a Strategic Partner Organisation to MIVA, to continually support her Partner Organisations in the process of seeking, acquiring, and properly utilizing the resources needed to provide care to the vulnerable populations.

The Emmanuel Sisters, who have faced difficulties in reaching vulnerable children in remote areas, expressed their appreciation to the EDID Program for assisting them in getting the funding, and to the MIVA for considering their request valid enough.

"This vehicle will allow us to reach children in need who have never had access to basic healthcare services," said one of the Emmanuel Sisters. *"We are so grateful for the generosity of MIVA and the Liliana Foundation."*

The donation of the vehicle is a testament to the ongoing commitment of MIVA and the Liliana Foundation to supporting vulnerable communities around the world. With this new vehicle, the Emmanuel Sisters will be able to continue their important work of providing essential services to those in need.

Nkwen Baptist Hospital celebrates the Strength of Premature Infants on World Prematurity Day



Dr. Kan Kate Mafor, pediatrician presenting surviving preterm babies & their happy mothers

Noenatal Intensive Care Unit staff showcase this year's Theme



In honor of World Prematurity Day on November 17, Nkwen Baptist Hospital in Bamenda hosted a heartwarming celebration to recognize the resilience and strength of premature infants and their families. Celebrated under the theme, "Small actions, big impact, immediate skin to skin care for every baby everywhere," staff at the Neonatal intensive care unit of the hospital carried out sensitization talks on radio, at a Doctors seminar and among staff at chapel, all in a bid to raise awareness about the challenges and triumphs of preterm birth.

Mothers and their babies born prematurely were invited to join in the celebration during which Dr. Kan Kate Mafor, Pediatrician at the hospital called on them to do follow up of the babies until they are two years. Dr. Kan emphasized that premature birth, defined as birth before 37 weeks of gestation, affects approximately 15 million babies worldwide each year, with one million tragically succumbing to premature birth-related complications. She noted that the majority of these cases occur in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, with Cameroon and Bamenda not being exempt from this global challenge.

The pediatrician underscored the critical role of the celebration to create awareness because of the impact it causes in increasing under-five mortality since 47% of under-five mortality is due to prematurity. She further elaborated on the potential causes of premature delivery, emphasizing the importance of focused antenatal care. Early and consistent prenatal checkups by trained professionals can help identify and address potential risk factors such as infections, diseases like hypertension and diabetes, under nutrition, and anemia.

Dr. Kan cautioned that managing premature babies is particularly challenging, especially when born before 28 completed weeks of gestation. These infants often face a multitude of complications, including an inability to regulate their body temperature, immature digestive systems hindering feeding, breathing problems, and a host of other health concerns. If left untreated, these complications can lead to fatal outcomes. Even for those

who survive, long-term complications can arise, adding to the burden of disability.

According to Dr. Kan, this year's theme focuses on how little things that do not require financial resources can improve preterm care and this is simply by putting the baby skin to skin with the mother, father or any willing care giver and that has a lot of benefits. Skin-to-skin contact helps regulate the baby's temperature, promotes and enhances breastfeeding, facilitates close monitoring of the baby's condition, reduces maternal anxiety and infection risk, and, most importantly, has been shown to reduce mortality rates by up to 65%.

The babies were presented with gifts. Their stories, according to the mothers, are filled with both heartache and triumph. A mother recounts her emotional experience in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) following her surgery. Upon admission, she found the environment overwhelming and filled with tears, but she credits the NICU staff, particularly Chantal, for providing support and comfort. She expresses deep gratitude for the existence of the NICU facility, acknowledging its critical role in saving lives. She praises the nurses, chaplains, and overall management of the hospital.

As a nurse assistant in the neonatal unit (NICU), Laah Chantal Nayah has witnessed firsthand the intricate world of caring for premature babies. She acknowledges the challenges that come with extended stays in the NICU, both for the clients and the nurses. One of the primary challenges, according to Nayah, is the financial burden on clients associated with prolonged NICU stays. Another challenge lies in managing client expectations. Out of concern for their babies, mothers may attempt to perform tasks that are best left to the trained staff. This can lead to overfeeding or underfeeding, potentially disrupting the baby's delicate nutritional balance.

The climate in Bamenda also poses a unique challenge. Due to the cooler temperatures, premature babies often require longer periods in incubators to maintain their

body temperature, extending their NICU stay. Amidst these challenges, Nayah emphasizes the emotional investment that nurses make in their work. They put themselves in the shoes of the parents, sharing their anxieties and celebrating their baby's progress. When a baby's condition changes, it can be particularly stressful for the nurses, who feel a deep sense of responsibility for their patients' well-being.

Madam Kenchi Hope, a midwife at Nkwen Baptist Hospital, expressed her joy at seeing the healthy and strong premature babies during the celebration. She highlighted the importance of early intervention and Kangaroo care, a method of skin-to-skin contact between mother and baby, in promoting bonding, breastfeeding, preventing infections, and regulating body temperature. She emphasized the cost-effectiveness of Kangaroo care and the benefits of stimulating premature babies to improve their breathing and lung development.

Madam Kenchi urged nurses from other hospitals to recognize their limitations and refer mothers with preterm labor to facilities equipped to handle premature babies. She emphasized the importance of timely referrals, especially while the baby is still in the womb, as transporting a delivered premature baby can be challenging and increase the risk of death.

The senior midwife noted that Nkwen Baptist Hospital has a breast milk bank to provide small feeds for premature babies whose mothers are unable to breastfeed. Additionally, the hospital provides medication for babies with infections to ensure their well-being. The nurses celebrated the progress of the premature babies they had cared for, some of whom weighed as little as 720 grams at birth.

"Every premature birth is a story waiting to be told. A story of resilience, of hope, and of the extraordinary strength of the human spirit. Every premature baby is a fighter, and every day they spend in the NICU is a victory".

Heads of Department schooled on Profile & Resource Collection for Hope and Healing International Portfolio in Cameroon

Over 30 heads of department from some CBC Health Services Hospitals where the Hope and Healing International projects operate have been trained on profile collection for children with disabilities 0-17 years.

The HODs, drawn from the following departments; eye, physiotherapy, Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT), mental health and the OPD were enjoined in a one-day workshop on November 8, 2023 in Bamenda, to work in collaboration with the hospital focal persons for the Hope and Healing International projects to identify and profile as many children suffering from various and specific forms of disability.

In his presentation, Njoka Divine, one of the three In-Country resource gatherers disclosed that the CBC Health Services has as target to profile 2000 children with disabilities

in project year 2023/2024 and submit to Hope and Healing International Canada for resource mobilization. According to Njoka, the Healinghugs and Profile Collection project is undoubtedly the key component of the Hope and Healing International portfolio because the profiles are used to rally funds to treat the children.

His colleague, Wifah Jannivirus schooled the participants through the basics of photography, profile collection procedures and filling of intake and consent form.

Hope and Healing International is an international development organization that partners with local organizations to promote treatment, rehabilitation and social inclusion of persons with disabilities especially children below 18 years.

More than 3000 children with disabilities have been profiled since 2021 and 250 have already received medical care and livelihood support.

The General Objective of the Hope and Healing International project is to raise funds that is used to improve the conditions of Persons with Disabilities in Cameroon. This is achieved by Identifying more children with disabilities across Cameroon (9 out of 10 regions), informing stakeholders on the prevalence of the various disability conditions in the country, giving medical and livelihood support to these children, and establishing a convenient environment where persons with disabilities will be better included in society.

BHM organizes First Ever Nurses Conference in CBC Health Services



BHM nurses pose with CBCHS retirees in attendance (seated in center)

"To go above and beyond the call of duty, the first to work and the last to leave, the heart and soul of caring, who will pass through your life for a minute and impact it for an eternity". That is who a Nurse is.

Over 200 nurses from Baptist Hospital Mutengene (BHM), representatives from all the departments of the hospital, representatives from satellite health centers (Kumba and Idenau Baptist Health Centers), special invitees including CBC Health Services retirees like Pa Gwagsi Stephen, Ma Gwagsi Esther and Ma Bama Monica turned out on October 27, 2023 at BHM auditorium in the Nurses Conference under the theme, "Our Nursing Yesterday, Our Nursing Today, What is the Future?" The conference was sponsored by the Director of Health Services (DHS), Prof. Tih Pius Muftih, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of BHM, Dr. Henry Ndasi and the Administrator of BHM, Mr. Loke Samuel.

Chaplain Ngam Esther, head chaplain of BHM gave an exaltation from "Revelation 2:1-5, titled, "Reflect of the Past today and adjust tomorrow". She said the Conference is dedicated to all the nurses of BHM to reflect about the good qualities nurses of yesterday and what went wrong in the field of nurses today. The chaplain challenged the nurse to rebuke all forms of negativity in the field of nurses and cry on to God for mercy, and then adjust for a better patient care tomorrow.

According to the organizers of this Conference (BHM Nursing Office) led by the Supervisor of Nursing Services (SNS), Mrs. Yong Genevive said, "The purpose of this conference is to create awareness that nursing standards have actually fallen, look at what went wrong that caused the nursing standards to fall and lastly to see how to bridge the gaps in order to have a positive future for nursing and finally to elaborate on the importance of viewing nursing as a profession with a strong business mindset. We decided to organize this nursing conference to bring together every stakeholder on board who has anything to do with nursing; secondly, it is the first of its kind to happen in BHM and I hope that it will spread to the rest of the facilities throughout the CBCHS".

The SNS noted that "Nursing yesterday was characterized by compassion, dedication and tireless efforts to provide quality care to patients. Nurses have been the backbone of health care, delivery comfort and healing in times of great need and

owe gratitude to those who paved the way before us, shaping the profession into what it is today. Nursing is not just a vocation; it is an integral part of health care industry. So, we must embrace the entrepreneurial spirit, seek innovative solutions and desire positive change".

To thrive in this evolving landscape, the SNS said, "We must equip ourselves with knowledge, skills and a commitment to lifelong learning". The speech captured all that was presented under the following topics: Who is a Nurse/ Midwife? Where were we? What went wrong? Nurses we are in business and The way forward.

Facilitators came from Mrs. Ndong Etheldreda, Mr. Nfu Charles, Mr. Edward Chuye and Mr. Ndzi Eric who were members of the organizing committee. The SNS encouraged all the nurses to work together, embracing the past, the presence and fearlessly embracing the future.

Three retirees, Ma Bama Monica, Ma Gwagsi Esther and Pa Gwagsi Stephen shared their experiences/testimonies during their work life in a panel discussion coordinated by Ndong Etheldreda. The testimonies centered on what led them into the nursing profession, how they were able to cope with the meagre salary and still offer quality care to patients not like today where most nurses spend time on social media, being rude to patients, sluggish behavior money minded etc. Nurses were encouraged to work and take their profession as a calling to serve humanity with compassion and care above all with the fear of God.

The program was spiced with special presentations like singing and dancing with all the nurses dressed in their party wears. The conference ended with recommendation from participants as follows. Nursing conference should be organized every year and in all CBC HS institutions. The staff appreciated the sponsors and organizers of the program and promised to be more committed and to improve on quality care to all the patients.

Representing the Administrator and CMO who were unavoidably absent was the Assistant Administrator in charge of Personnel, Mr. Tosam Ephraim. He appreciated the sponsors and organizers of the conference and said the administration looks forward to seeing pronounced improvement in nursing care at BMH.

NCD PCP celebrates 10 Years of KYN with Calls for Greater Action to combat Diabetes

The Know Your Numbers Department of CBC Health Facilities has commemorated 10 years of its existence as they celebrated World Diabetes Day alongside the international community on November 14, 2023. World Diabetes Day is a day set aside for global initiatives, to raise awareness about this chronic health condition that affects millions of people around the world.

In the Director of Health Services' speech to the facilities, he noted that the theme has remained "Access to Diabetes Care," for the past two years running. This year's slogan, "Know your risk, know your response," brings the notion of being aware of one's risk as a guide to prevention or delaying complications to sharp focus. "We must all take responsibility for our lives and that of our loved ones...., I believe this year's slogan is timely, and now, perhaps more than ever, we must make maximum use of the resources the system has made available to us. We must develop and promote a culture of routine screening for NCDs through our KNOW YOUR NUMBERS (KYN) services and encourage everyone around us to do the same," The Director echoed.

As Early Birds, the Nkwen Baptist Hospital exceptionally celebrated on Wednesday, November 8 during which the members of the Diabetes Clinic took part in a walk to affirm their commitment to beat Diabetes no matter the matter.

While welcoming everyone as the mother of the hospital, Mrs. Chimi Emerencia, Supervisor of Nursing Services,

made the patients know that the doors of the hospital are open any day, any time and patients should not wait until clinic day to come to the hospital in case of a challenge. "As a silent killer, diabetes has as number one machine food, seconded by exercises and then the medication. The fact that there is a department alongside specialist to take care mainly for your need is to show how important you are to the hospital," Mrs. Chimi Emerencia remarked.

The SNS went ahead to say a family that has diabetes is a healthy family because gone are those days when people will cook a patient's food separately. In this era, they rather eat from one pot avoiding too much salt, Maggi and oil to stay healthy. Make good use of this clinic, be the ambassador to your family and meeting members, advise them to come know their numbers.

On his part, the hospital administrator, Mr. Kangong Joce made the patients to understand that they are the very reason why the hospital is there and so their importance cannot be over emphasized. According to him, their job satisfaction is to see that the needs of the patients are met every other wise reasons why they are offering all the other services to ensure holistic care. He reiterated that it is the hospital's obligation to serve the patients like a one stop shop, such that when they come to the hospital, they will not be thinking of going to another place for another concern. Determined, Mr. Kangong called on them to adhere to their treatment while appreciating the president and leadership for putting hands

on deck for the good of everyone.

Like the SNS, the Administrator commended the health-care staff for their unwavering commitment to providing quality care to patients with diabetes. They highlighted the significance of early detection and prevention of diabetes, stressing that timely intervention can significantly reduce the risk of complications associated with the disease. They also emphasized the importance of lifestyle modifications, such as a healthy diet and regular exercise, in managing diabetes effectively.

The event was an opportunity for the persons living with Diabetes to appreciate the hospital for what they are doing for them such as care, reduction in cost of medication and test among other things. Ma Awunti Esther, President of the gathering, remarked with great joy that God has made it possible for most of them who were there last year to still be there. She used the avenue to thank the administration for the care and the listening hear they always give them, the lectures, health education and prayers every time as well as the sporting activities they do each time they come for clinic.

The patients also expressed their challenges while hoping that the hospital will reconsider. They had earlier taken part in some games offered by the sports coordinator, Mr. Monju Elvis who encouraged the people living with Diabetes to engage in those activities back at home to live healthier lives.

Testimonies from some Patients

"This group is very very good, it has made me not to be sleeping in the hospital all the time because they have taught me how to eat, how to be doing my exercises, how to do things that are good for me. I just tried to follow up but God has been helping me. Since 1999 when I slept at the hospital and we paid one million and something, I have not slept at the hospital again. We thank God because we are looking fine because we are coming, people who are back at home are not like us. The hospital is taking good care of us especially those who are here with us. Let God bless them and make them never to be sick"

"I just want to appreciate this our doctors here, just the way they greet us when we come in the mornings is healing. The way they talk to us and treat us, we like it. We want to appreciate them, let them continue just like that..."

"I just want to sound a note of appreciation to the personnel of the Baptist Health Services. I am used to the Baptist Health Services since from Big Mbingo for over fifteen years now. I think the Baptist Health Services are setting the pace for all medical services in this North West. If you visit other hospitals then you will know that they are the ones setting the pace. The standard they have set, their professionalism is great. I am used to doctors like Dr. Niaghah, Ma Brown, Dr. George. Please administrator, carry this good news to the big people. More grease to your elbows."



Diabetic clients took active role in celebrations

Newly Elected CBC Director of Youth and Students Department visits BBHD

Pastor Sankum Eric paid his first official Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala (BBHD) after taking office as new CBC Director of Youth and Students Department. The visit was on October 20, 2023 in the afternoon just in time when the staff were in their general staff meeting. The august guest was warmly welcomed by the Administrator, Madam Fon Rose Nyimeh and the Staff.

Speaking to the over 180 staff present, the Director brought calvary greetings and selected words of encouragement that reverberated every heart. Pastor Sankum Eric took the opportunity to unveil the mantra of his mandate of service dubbed ICE meaning:

Innovation, Creativity and Excellence. The CBC Director of Youth and Students Ministry called on BBHD Administration and her collaborators to identify staff who incarnate ICE and send their names to Bamenda for recognition. "While you work hard, let the office in Bamenda speak too," he grinned. This statement connotes to the Director's promise that empowerment of Youths will punctuate his term of office.

In a voice that came with love, empathy and discipline, our Bonaberi based reporter, Elvis Nyuyseni observed that Pastor Sankum Eric laid the assignment of togetherness and teamwork upon his audience. *"Spare one another towards love and good deeds,"* he

admonished.

Reports say the Youth Director was in a tour of some CBC institutions. He had visited Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala before coming to BBHD, and from there he was heading to other facilities.

It should be noted that Pastor Sankum Eric was elected during the last Youth Council and endorsed during the June 9, 2023 General Council meeting in Bamenda. Prior to his ascension, he was a pastor in the Bonaberi Association in Douala Field.

Parents of Children treated of Musculoskeletal Deformities encouraged to ensure their Safety



Parents of CDW expressing gratitude to the Hope and Healing International for assistance



West Regional Delegate of Social Affairs, Njei Fidelis encouraging a CWD to go to school



West Regional Delegate of Social Affairs (center) commune with CWDs

Parents of children who are currently being treated of musculoskeletal deformities have been told that the primary responsibility of their children's protection and welfare lies on them. The CBC Health Services Hope and Healing International Projects Child Safeguarding Officer, Mrs. Boyo Maureen was speaking on November 9, 2023 during a training with the parents and their children at the Baptist Hospital in Bafoussam.

The training was attended by the parents of 15 children who are currently being treated of musculoskeletal deformities from Bafoussam, Mbouda, and Foubot in the West Region. The training was organised within the context of the Integrated Approach to Managing Disability from Musculoskeletal Deformities in children.

The objective of the training was to provide psychosocial support to the parents as they journey with their children through the treatment process, which takes lots of sacrifices. The training was also aimed at encouraging parents to advocate for the rights of their children and be intentional in the protection of their children from any form of abuse both at facility and community levels.

During the training, the Safeguarding Officer said the training was very important as children with disabilities are doubly vulnerable and susceptible to abuse than their peers without disabilities. She told the parents that they are obliged to respect the treatment protocols of their children to ensure best treatment outcomes. The Safeguarding Officer explained the different forms of abuse to the parents including physical, sexual, psycho social, emotional abuse and neglect. She called on them to cherish their children, guard against abusing them, respect their rights and protect them from all types of harm by others and ensure their safety at all times.

The take home message, Mrs. Boyo told the parents is that they should double their efforts to protect these children because they are more vulnerable than their

peers without impairments. The parents for their part, expressed their joy seeing their children's deformities being corrected. They lavished praises on the CBC Health Services and the Hope Healing International Canada for their children's transformation, saying it has raised their hopes concerning the future of their children and is taking away the stigma they faced in the communities.

The parents were also schooled on record keeping to prepare and support them carry out vocational skills in future.

The training ended with the donation of didactic materials including bags, exercise books, pens, pencils and rulers by the Integrated Approach Project in collaboration with the Regional Delegation of Social Affairs. While handing over the materials to the children, the West Regional Delegate of Social Affairs, Njei Fidelis Ewumbue encouraged parents to consider their children with impairments as sealed treasures which they will unwrap and discover through education and empowerment. He told them that as an albino, he is a person with disability, but his parents never relented to educate him, reason why he is today a Regional Delegate by merit and a role model to others.

The Training was followed by a working session with treatment staff of musculoskeletal deformities, Social and Community Based Rehabilitation staff who had earlier been trained to provide psychosocial support to parents of children with disabilities on site. The aim of the session was to follow up and provide them hands on support to accomplish the training goals and support caregivers or parents whose children have successfully undergone surgical interventions.

The working session in Bafoussam was preceded by one that took place for same cadre of staff in Ngounso Baptist Health Center the day before.

Members of Gideon International visit BBHD

In their greetings, they brought to the staff; the history of Gideon International and its objectives, how the Bible came into circulation, the importance of the Bible and the significance of its different colors, among others.

The rich religious visit saw the sharing of White Gideon Bibles to all staff including patients. According to reports, the Bibles were placed at every bed side for patients and care givers to nourish themselves with the Word.

BBHD Administration, staff and more especially the Chaplaincy thanked the team for their gesture and visit.

BBHD elects New Staff Representatives

Over a period of one week from October 26 November 1, 2023, Bonaberi Baptist Hospital Douala (BBHD) was temporally transformed into a political arena. During this time, BBHD staff embarked on the nomination and election of some of her staff to serve as new staff representatives.

According to reports, after the nomination on October 26, the candidates were confirmed by examination of their files by the administration after which the electoral committee declared campaigns opened. Out of the 20 staff nominated (12 in College One and 8 in College Two), each College was split into two equal groups (making a total of 4 groups) constituting the potential contestants for the campaign. Of the four groups, the successful group from each College shall constitute the staff representatives.

Every morning at Chapel after devotions, all the two groups of each College had 3 minutes each to expose their potentials before the entire staff through campaigns. Our reporter noted that intellectual and explosive campaigns were marked by effervescence,

electrocution, elation, ebullition and excitement.

"In BBHD, we all saw politicians in white, motivational speakers, and influencers who in different ways convinced their fellow colleagues to vote for them. Campaign flyers with captivating captions punctuated the event," Elvis Nyuyseni remarked. The Campaign took place from October 27- 31, 2023.

Finally, the votes were cast on November 1, 2023, with a percentage vote of 69.1% for College One and 67.9% for College Two. The elections took place under the control of the electoral committee for BBHD while the counting of the votes was done in the watchful eyes of staff, and the representative from the Littoral Regional Delegation for Labour and Social Security. The successful candidates were then presented to the staff who acclaimed them with applause.

The Administrator, Madam Fon Rose Nyimeh welcomed the new elected staff representatives with hand-shakes. "We say congratulations to the Staff Representatives elected and we all look forward to

a better Bonaberi Baptist Hospital in all dimensions such that we emerge together, a very unique staff body... resilient and performant, making BBHD the place to be," Administrator recounted. She thanked the staff for voting the staff reps with commitment and effectiveness.

According to the representative from the Regional Delegation, the newly elected will undergo a training to be equipped on their additional function as staff representatives prior to their official installation come December 1, 2023. Their mandate of office will run from 2024-2025.

It is worth noting that this was the second set of staff representatives for BBHD after her creation on November 5, 2018. The pioneers who will handing over soon, were elected and took office on December 1, 2021.

Kouhouat Baptist Health Center observes International Days on Health Conditions

commemorating activities marking International Days to create awareness on diverse health conditions. According to our Kouhouat based reporter, Nfor Gilbert Nfor, the health center observed three of such International Days in the month of October.

The World Mental Health day took place on October 10 under the theme, "Mental Health is a Universal Human Right" during which the focal point for KBHC, Mrs. Ngek Grace Kelang called on the audience to seek medical care for their mental health and to care for those already living with it.

Then came October 12 for the World Sight Day under the theme, "Love your eyes at Work". The health eye nurse, Mrs. Nyingchia Judith said, the eyes are lamp to the body needing care and love. She prescribed for eye glasses to be used to protect our eyes in all walks of life we engage in; farming, office, garage, welding, hospital etc.

The Infection Prevention week ran from October 16-22, 2023 instead from October 9-15 as originally planned. The Infection Prevention nurse, Mrs. Chia Jeroline reminded the staff that frequent washing of

hands save lives and safeguard our resources. Hand washing, according to her, reduces infection and contamination that lead to expenses in the hospital.

In other news, the staff of KBHC embarked on the planting trees round the health center to demarcate the land and to serve as shade against strong winds against the buildings. According to reports, the trees are a donation from the Chongwain Green Nursery in Kouhouat.

MBHD Now has Paediatric and Urology Surgeons



First surgery done by the Urologist surgeon at MBHD

The long-awaited dream of the Administration on Mboppi Baptist Hospital Douala (MBHD) has come to reality with the arrival of these specialists. Both specialists were welcomed by the Administration during morning devotions by the Administrator Mr. Yongwa Zacks called on the entire staff to help them achieve their goals as they start with work. The head chaplain, Mbebnong Emmanuel committed them in prayers as they began the work God has called them to do.

Dr. Yecke Macky Frank-Eric, the paediatric surgeon began consultations and surgery some months back and has already done close to 20 surgeries on neonates and children at the time of this report. Meanwhile, Dr. Noubissi Simo Hermann, the urology surgeon equally began work some weeks back with OPD consultations and surgeries. Reports say, he

had his first surgery on August 13, 2023, a case of pyeloplasty on a 12 years old female that came with Ureteropelvic Junction obstruction. During the welcome, the head of the theatre equally called on the team to assist them carry on with the work.

Dr. Amos Pchana, the head of surgery in MBHD said the presence of these specialists will greatly reduce the work load and also increase quality care to our clients. Both specialists expressed the opinion in a chat with our Mboppi based correspondent. They highlighted the need for better equipment to ease their tasks. The two specialists tasked the Nursing Office and the Administration to tackle this problem for the betterment of our clients as they are ready to put in their best with the availability of equipment.

BBH releases Refined Brand of Nurses for Services



Newly trained special care nurses

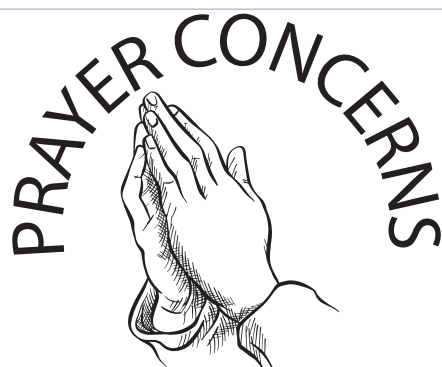
The journey began that began on March 20, 2023 at Bansa Baptist Hospital (BBH) Kumbo Bui division with 41 Special Care Nurses and 30 Senior Nursing Auxiliaries who had succeeded in a competition entrance examination; written at various centers within the CBCHS came to a close on September 20, 2023. The 71 students of both courses braved the odds and turbulent times of Kumbo to score 100% pass in both courses, thanks to the dynamic administration of BBH, the wonderful coordinators (Pa Fombe Justin, Ma Ndzenny Margaret and Ma Mercy Anghieghaa), not leaving out the expertise of the college of facilitators who guided them throughout the 6 months training.

Our reporter in BBH, Tata Emile Ndzi says, the hard work, competence and success of these 71 nurses were closed up at the BBH chapel on September 20, 2023 with songs, dances, speeches as well as appreciation to all stakeholders for the excellent job done that has scaled up these apt men and

women to another rung of their career ladders. All the speakers at the event expressed gratitude to God for seeing them through the training in such a difficult environment.

The spokesperson for the 71, Mr. Mbororo Eric on behalf of the classes, pledged to make the Difference as they enter the field of practice hence. The Administrator of Special Duties at the Director of Health Services' Office in Bansa, Mr. Shey Shuye Joseph, the BBH administration and facilitators, on their part, said all has been given to them and what's awaited are the fruits of their studies to be seen practically.

The summary message was that *"To whom much is given, more is expected"*. According to reports, fellowship, snapshots and chatting ended the day with great and bright smiles on the faces of everyone.



1. Thank God for taking us as individuals and as an organization gradually to the end of 2023.
2. Thank God for the achievements that CBCHS registered in 2023 through the realization of set goals and objectives.
3. Thank God for blessing the CBCHS with cream of leaders who incarnate the vision and mission of the organization led by its emblematic Director, Prof. Tih Pius Muffih.
4. Pray really hard for sustainability of Health services and adequate numbers of staff and adequate rest for staff.
5. 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.

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