

2019 DECEMBER UPDATES FROM MINISTRY OF MERCY, NIGERIA Inc.

Warm greetings to you from all of us at Ministry of Mercy, Nigeria Inc. Welcome to the last edition of our 2019 updates – December. We believe that you had a great Christmas celebration. The birth of the savior remains a glorious reminder of God's redemption plan for us. We cannot thank Him enough. All the three arms of our mission (MoM Medical Center, MoM Orphanages and MoM Christian Academy) are doing well by the grace and mercies of God. God bless you as you read through this edition.

MoM MEDICAL CENTER



As always, the month's update on our mission hospital is presented along the paths of the three main domains of the hospital's activities – General healthcare, Charity and the Gospel. We have the following few selected stories and relevant statistics:

GENERAL HEALTH CARE:

1. **Our Chaplain Experiences Some Improvement in His Health.** Last month, we reported that one



of our chaplains at Ministry of Mercy, Mr. Peter Igba has been ill and has been on hospital admission with us at MoM Medical Center. He was brought to us wheelchair-bound, unable to help himself due to progressive paralysis of all four limbs and difficulty in swallowing. However, later into the month of December we began to notice some improvement in the paralysis after a neurologist reviewed him, gave a provisional diagnosis and adjusted his medication. He is now able to manage to walk by himself with the aid of a walking-stick. This improvement might be the effect of his treatment with a drug in the category of steroids. He cannot continue to be on them though (because of side effects of prolonged use). We are not sure what will happen when the drug is eventually withdrawn after a few weeks. He still finds it very difficult in raising himself from a lying position to

sit, as well as raising himself from a sitting position to stand. But he is able to sit when helped to sit, and able to stand and walk when helped to stand. We are dealing with a case of proximal muscle myopathy. Further investigations have been ordered. Another review by the neurologist is expected soon when all the investigation results are ready. We pray for divine guidance for the medical team as they work hard to dig out the definitive diagnosis and the best care. Where there is a medical impossibility, may there be God's miraculous touch.

2. **Cardiac Insufficiency and A History of Tuberculosis.** Victoria is a 19-year old girl who has been previously treated for pulmonary tuberculosis. She has been a beneficiary of charity from Ministry of Mercy for some years now, but came in contact with Mission's medical center about 2 years ago for other health problems. Recently she developed difficulty with breathing and cough especially when lying on her back at night. It got so severe that she sits throughout the night. She sleeps in sitting position. Examination revealed narrow pulse pressure, raised



jugular venous pressure, very wet lungs (crepitations) and all four heart sounds were heard. Chest x-ray however shows a non-enlarged heart. The lung fields on both sides revealed opacities. One of our doctors is so sure that Victoria has a recurrence of tuberculosis. Another feels that her pericardium has been affected by TB and preventing proper relaxation of her heart for proper blood filling. It is normal to express various views this way, but further investigation results are being expected to streamline the views of the medical team. Initial steps have been taken to stabilize her while being nursed away in an isolation ward. Beyond the medical technicalities here, we pray that divine guide will lead us out of the woods and

bring lasting relief and victory for Victoria.

3. **Severe Anemia in 7 Months Pregnancy.** A 30-year-old Fulani woman, about 7 months into her



pregnancy came to MoMMC with complains of dizziness and generalized severe body weakness. Tests indicated that she had very low blood level requiring a lot of blood transfusion. 3 pints were prescribed and transfused but was soon discovered to be inadequate. She needed more, and had to receive more. She had had similar problems in the past – 2 previous pregnancies with blood transfusions. What could be responsible for this blood sucking condition? There are a number of possible causes we are considering. Investigations are ongoing. The good thing is that

her fetus is still alive. We hope to get to the bottom of this and save both mother and baby. May God make this happen.

4. **MoM Medical Center Extension, Otutulu.** The harmattan season usually has few people on hospital beds in most health institutions. Most cases come as outpatients with upper respiratory tract infections. A few times, the virus leads to infection of the intestinal tract, and produces diarrhea and vomiting which can be occasionally severe enough to warrant admission. The following are some of the activities at our Otutulu health outpost for the month.

- a. **Mercy Aaron** one of our orphans at Otutulu location was admitted for diarrhea and vomiting from acute gastroenteritis, receiving intravenous fluids and other drugs. She is improving.



- b. **Caroline Abuh** came in with a right hand abscess which was incised and drained, and also covered with antibiotics.



There were a few other cases of diarrhea and upper respiratory tract infection.

General Healthcare Statistics

General

General out-patient department	
New	52
Follow up	111
total	163
Ward admissions	29
Surgical procedures	03
Total no. who received drugs	250
Total number of laboratory tests done	343
Number of transfusions	07

Preventive Medicine:

Immunizations (within the hospital)	
Number of children immunized	43
Number of doses received	127
Number of women immunized (tetanus toxoid)	17
Number of doses	17
Contraception.	
Women received contraceptives	3

CHARITY:

A lot of free medical services were given to several patients, some of whom could not have been able to afford it on their own. Eight women had normal child deliveries. All of them had their babies without surgery. All mothers and babies did very well. Two of the stories are narrated below.

1. A 33-year-old business woman in her second pregnancy, and a registered client of our antenatal clinic was delivered of a live baby girl on 26th December 2019. She came in labor at



4:15am and gave birth at 6:06am same day. Birth weight = 3.1kg. Nil undue bleeding, nil blood transfusion

2. A 29-year-old petty trader in her first pregnancy, and a registered client of our antenatal clinic



was delivered of a live baby girl on the 24th of December 2019. She was admitted in labor at 5:35am and gave birth at 8:58am (less than 3 and half hours later). This duration is not typical of labor in a first time pregnancy. Our women really had it better with deliveries this month. She was delivered of a live baby girl weighing 2.5kg. Mother and baby are fine.

Statistics on Charity

Antenatal care statistics		
Week	New patients	Patients on follow-up
Week 1	08	19
Week 2	08	14
Week 3	06	14
Week 4	02	01
Week 5	03	03
Total	27	52
Grand Total		79
Other Free Consultation (Children below 1 year, orphans, pregnant women and indigents)		53
Number Of Deliveries		
C-Sections		00
Normal Deliveries		08
Total Births		08
Number Who Received Drugs For Free (Children below 1 year, orphans, pregnant women and indigents)		137
Number Who Had Laboratory Tests For Free		64
Number Of Free Surgical Procedures		01

THE GOSPEL:

1. **Youngman Surrenders His Life to Christ.** One evening just before the end of 2019, a young man



named Godwin came into MoM Medical Center with worrisome health complains. His symptoms pointed to one of two major possible diagnoses: one is a serious surgical emergency, while the other is less serious and not an emergency. Medical people call these differential diagnoses. The kind of treatment and urgency of the approach for this patient would be determined by what the true diagnosis turned out to be. The only way to decide this is a thorough medical evaluation. Without delay, he went through evaluation and, thankfully it turned out not to be the “bad” one. We were greatly relieved by this mild outcome. He was commenced on the appropriate treatment. Before his discharge, the gospel of salvation was presented to him. He was asked if he had ever received Christ as his Lord and savior. Without any hesitation, he said NO. He gave a brief story of his past life outside Christ, and indicated interest to hand his life to the Lord, and to start a new life. He was guided with the aid of relevant scriptures to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We pray for a deeper knowledge of the Lord.

2. **MoMMC Muslim Convert Reunites with Family After 1 Year.** It can be recalled that on January



5th 2019, brother Sani Alhassan, a patient with extensive right foot injuries and multiple phalangeal fractures from an auto accident was rushed into MoM Medical Center for care. He went through a series of surgeries and came out successful. He came into our care as a Muslim but gave his life to Christ after an effortless presentation of the gospel to him. Ministry of Mercy took over the cost of his medical and surgical treatment. Following his discharge after few months on admission in the hospital ward, our mission took over his upkeep and accommodated him because he lost his source of livelihood (his vehicle) in the accident that led to

his health condition. One year down the line he has remained steadfast following the lord. He has no relatives in Kogi State where he lives. The leadership of our mission advised him to visit his relatives in his state of origin (Taraba State) about 8 states away. He has traveled home. We hope to see him again. His entire family are Muslims, living in Northern Nigeria. They are not



yet aware of his new faith. Northern Nigeria is known for Christian persecution. Pray for wisdom for him as he relates with his family. We have been in touch with him since he traveled home. Everything seems fine. We pray that God will bring him back to us safely.

The gospel continues to be preached to many souls in different forms: one-on-one and in groups during our morning devotional sessions in the hospital. Your prayers continue to be needful. ***Ephesians 6:18-19.***

May we continue to be fruitful in every aspect as a Christian medical center by the grace and mercy of God.

Blessings,

Dr. Friday Odiba

On behalf of the MD,

MoM Medical Center Team

MoM ORPHANAGES.

The two locations of MoM orphanage – Otutulu village and Lokoja – keep receiving and caring for more orphans and vulnerable individuals.

MoM Orphanage Receives a New Arrival. Kingsley Adagu Hosea was born on 7th December 2019. His mother died soon after birth as a result of complications of cesarean section carried out somewhere. He is the Afo tribe and Christian. Planned duration of care in the orphanage in the orphanage is 2 years. We pray for divine comfort of the family for the loss of this baby's mother. We also pray that Kingsley's stay in the orphanage will be blessed.



MoM Orphanage Otutulu Reunites Nine Orphans with their families (eight grown-ups and a 2-year-old). Eight young children who were brought into the orphanage as babies about 18 years ago are ready



to rejoin their families of birth, no longer as babies but as young men and women. These are: Akoji Ahmodu, David Nuhu, Joseph Haruna, Manasseh Moses, Ojochide Adem, Ojone Umoru, Elizabeth Abuh and Ugbede Joseph. Gift Shigaba is a 2-year-old girl among them. She joined her family this month.

Handing over ceremonies like this can be quite emotional and come with mixed feelings. Parting with a 2-year-old who has been with you all her life can be quite emotional. But to part with 18-year-olds who spent their entire growing up years with you is more touching. The attachment is

very strong. But we must let them go as a matter of necessity. The parting is only physical and ceremonial but we are not separable in our affection for one another.

During the handing over ceremony, words of advice were spoken to them. Gifts of Bibles and other Christian literature were given to them. Prayers of blessing and commendation into the hands of God were offered. Thereafter, necessary documents were signed by their families and each one of them departed with their families of birth. Preserve them O God as they go on with the life ahead of them! May they always follow You.

MoM Orphanage Lokoja Hands Girl Back to The Government. In November 2019, a 12-year-old was brought to MoM orphanage Lokoja by The Kogi State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development was safe keeping because of accusations that she was suffering from sexual molestation and abuse from her guardian. She was meant to be at the orphanage till investigations were completed. This has been done. On December 14, 2019, she was handed back to the Ministry of Women Affairs

and Social Development (MWASD) which has reunited her with her mother and siblings.



Christmas celebration at MoM Orphanage Lokoja. The orphanage was well lit with decoration and celebration as the children and other residents celebrated the birth of the savior. The children received visitors after visitors during this season. The Christmas “whether” here will not fade away in a hurry.



MoM FARMS.

Processing and Storage of Harvested Farm Products. Harvest is done. Next phase after harvest is the processing and storage. Our harvested beans has been dried and the shells removed. Several bags of



bean grains now stored for consumption. A major source of protein for our orphans.



Cassava Processing Ongoing. Cassava is a staple food in our part of the world. It's a major source of carbohydrates for the Otutulu community. These energy rich tubers are peeled, transported, ground and cooked as meals.



MoM Poultry.



MoM Fish Pond



MoM Piggery.



Physical nourishment is necessary for our orphans. The ground is producing much of this nutrition through MoM farms. Spiritual nourishment is necessary as well, may they have more of this as the Lord Himself groom them.

Sincerely yours,

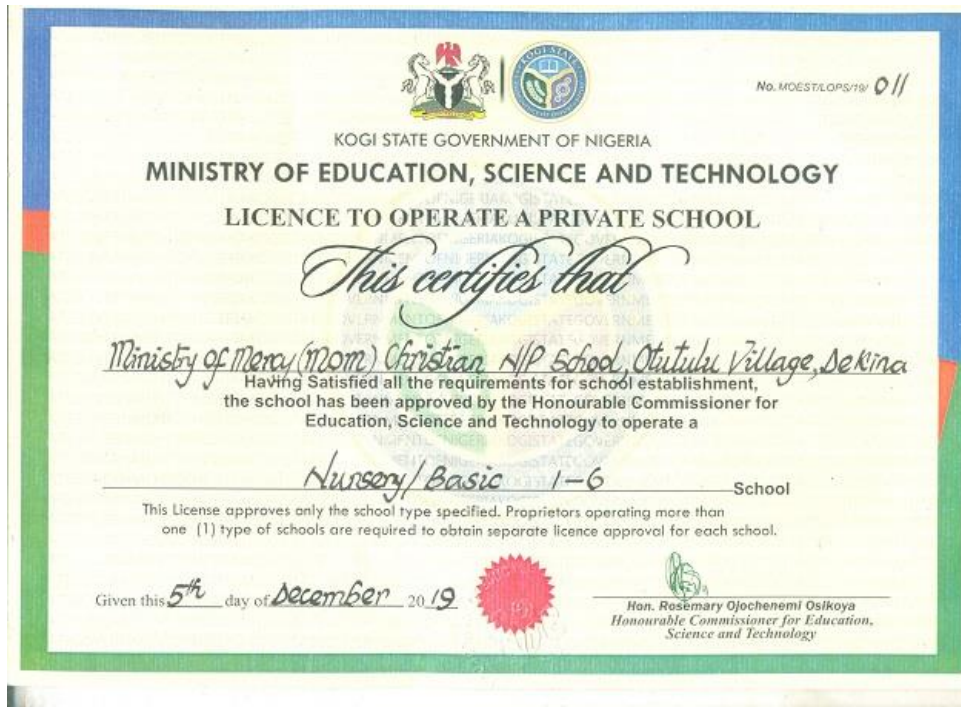
Monday Alidu.

MoM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

MoM schools proceed on holidays after the exams. The busy school premises suddenly go quiet once again as if to get some rest before these active kids return for another academic term.



Mom Christian Academy Scales Through Government Assessment. It can be recalled that in November 2019, a team of education supervisors from the Ministry of Education came to



inspect and assess MoM Christian Academy. The outcome of this assessment has been released. We are pleased to announce that all the four arms of MoM Christian Academy – the nursery, primary, junior secondary and senior secondary schools scaled through the assessment. Certificates have been issued to back this outcome.



Secondary School End of Term Photo.



Some Academic and Non-Academic Staff of MoM Christian Academy



Thank God for His grace upon our schools. May we keep moving from grace to grace.

Warm regards,

Sabo Yunusa

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Give thanks to God for every healing, every salvation and every act of love in Ministry of Mercy.
2. Pray for all the orphans that were handed over back to their families of birth. Beyond handing them to their families, we hand them over to God Himself, who by His providence brought these orphans our way several years ago. The mercies that kept them alive without their mothers will keep following them for the rest of their lives in Jesus name.
3. Pray for Kingsley, the new orphan taken into the orphanage. God who began the good work in him will be faithful to complete it.
4. Pray for our Chaplain Igba Peter. Thank God for the improvement seen. May God's miraculous touch perfect his healing
5. Pray for the spread of the gospel Jesus Christ among our patients at the MoM Medical Center. As people come for medical care, may God encounter them for good. May the spiritual help they need always be found in the Mission in Jesus name.
6. Please pray for brother Sani Alhassan, the Muslim convert who traveled to see his family, for wisdom to relate with his people safely. His people are asking him to get married. This is quite sensitive for a new convert in the midst of unbelievers. Please mention his name before the Lord in prayers. May all his steps be ordered by the Lord.
7. Pray for more hands to join the work in the Ministry of Mercy as the work continues to enlarge and prosper.

Thank you for your invaluable continuous partnership in prayers, thanksgiving and giving.

With Much Love from the MoM Team!

www.ministryofmercy.org

Ministry of Mercy..., *Love finds a way. 1 Cor. 13:7*

DONATIONS

You are welcome to help more of these kind of people get help however you can: you can help a pregnant woman access a doctor for antenatal consultation and care, or help her give birth in expert medical hands, or help a sick child see a doctor, or any of these under listed services, for free or at an affordable subsidy through your donations as God will enable you. All donations are welcome.

Maternal Care	Full Cost Waiver in Naira	Full Cost Waiver in USD Current exchange rate averages 362 naira per dollar, but may increase or decrease at any time.
Cesarean section	150,000 naira	\$416.00
Normal delivery	22,000 naira	\$61.00
Antenatal consultation	300 naira per visit	\$0.85
Routine antenatal drugs/medicines	Average 4,000 naira per pregnancy	Average \$11.00
Other Medical Services	Total in 2018: 2,300 naira	Average \$6.35
Pediatrics care - Kids below 1 year and all Orphans	Full Cost Waiver in Naira	Full Cost Waiver in USD
Clinic consultation	300 naira per visit	\$0.85
Ward Review	200 naira per review, average 2-7 reviews per hospital stay	\$0.55 per review
Lab tests	Average of 1500 naira per test, average 3-5 tests per patient	\$4.20
Drugs/medicines	600-5,000 naira per course	\$1.70-\$14.00
Other Medical Services	Total in 2018: 2,300 naira per patient	Average \$6.35
Clinic consultation	150 naira per visit	\$0.40
Ward review	100 naira per review, average 2-7 reviews per hospital stay	\$0.30

Lab tests	Average 750 naira per test, average 3-5 tests per patient	\$2.10
Drugs/medicines	1,500-2,500 naira per course	\$4.14-\$6.91
Other Medical Services	Total in 2018 150 naira	\$0.41
Widows and indigent patients	Cost Reduced According to the Patients' Needs	“Sliding Scale”
All Medical Services	Total in 2018 > 93,760 naira	>\$259.00