

# 2019 AUGUST UPDATES FROM MINISTRY OF MERCY, NIGERIA Inc.

Greetings to you from Ministry of Mercy, Nigeria Inc. Welcome to the August edition of our updates. We believe you are doing fine physically and spiritually. God is at work in all the arms of our mission (MoM Medical Center, MoM Orphanages and MoM Christian Academy). The month of August testifies to this. We hope that as you read through, you will join us in prayer and praise unto the Lord.

## MoM MEDICAL CENTER

---



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

## *GENERAL HEALTHCARE:*

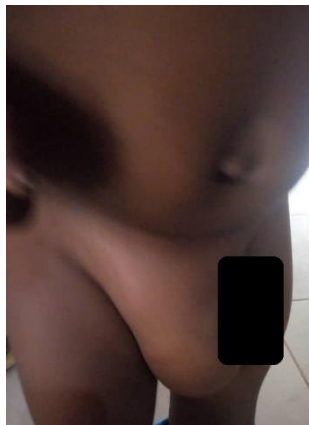
### **1. Woman Undergoes Myomectomy for Chronic Pain and Infertility.**



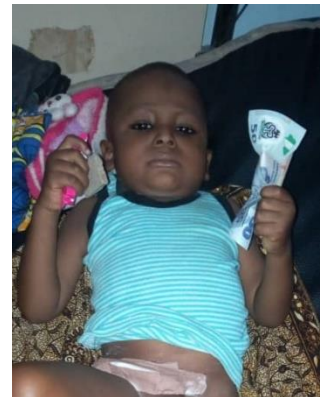
Severe abdominal pains and inability to conceive have been a problem for this young woman for quite some time. She came to MoM Medical Center seeking solution. Further investigation by ultrasound scan revealed fibroids in the uterus, and were found to be undergoing degeneration which was most likely responsible for her pain and discharge. Myomectomy (fibroid removal surgery) was carried out successfully for her. One large fibroid and 2 fibroid seedlings were extracted, followed by some blood transfusion. Blood transfusion after fibroid surgeries is

not uncommon because this procedure is commonly associated with much bleeding. It is hoped that God has answered her prayers through this procedure.

### **2. Appendectomy and Herniotomy in a Single Surgery:**



3-year-old boy was brought to MoM Medical Center by a worried mother with a very swollen right groin. Physical examination confirmed that he had a right sided inguinoscrotal hernia. However, what was not known at the beginning of his medical evaluation was that the hernia was containing so much of the intestines as far as the cecum where the appendix



is attached. This was only discovered during the surgical procedure. Both hernia repair and appendectomy were carried out in the same surgery. Surgery was successfully carried out by the hospital's lead surgeon, Dr. Omale and the team. Patient recuperated well in the ward until he was discharged. Mother is happy, patient is free! This is the second of this type of surgery in MoM Medical Center. Thank God for successes.

3. **Chronic Abdominal Pain, Still Undiagnosed.** Stephina is one of our orphanage children, a



seven-year-old girl who has been troubled by recurrent severe abdominal pains for quite some time. During episodes, her normal life is completely disrupted and school is put on hold. Various treatments have been given without success. After several days on admission in MoM Medical Center, she was recommended for referral to the country's national hospital by our pediatrician. She has spent several days at the national hospital, undergone various investigations, including barium meal. A definitive diagnosis is yet to be pinned down. Please she needs your earnest prayers. Stephina needs to be free again. We hope to have a better story about her in our September update.

4. **Breast cancer continues to shrink with chemotherapy.** It can be recalled from our July report that a woman with cancer of the breast has been in our care at MoM Medical Center. As at last month she was being worked up for cancer chemotherapy. She has now had few courses of chemotherapy with dramatic shrinkage of the tumor and the associated ulcer. She has a few more courses to go before surgery.



5. **Surgical dilatation of Imperforate vagina in a girl 1 year and 10 months old.** This condition results from developmental defects before birth. Surgical correction is often the means of correction for this.

On the whole (for general healthcare), we had **344** clinic visits, **38** ward admissions, **97** people received immunization, **14** surgical procedures, **15** child deliveries, drugs dispensed to **337** patients, **467** laboratory tests done, **3** blood transfusions amongst others.

### *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. Free cesarean sections were a prominent among these. Few of these services are narrated below:

1. **Cesarean Section for Pre-Eclampsia and Non-Progressing Labor:** A 23-year-old primigravida



(first time pregnancy) who was registered with our antenatal clinic was found to be with twin gestation. Everything went well until she was discovered to have pre-eclampsia (pregnancy induced hypertension with abnormal protein loss through the kidneys). One common problem with pre-eclampsia is the need for



preterm delivery of babies if onset of pre-eclampsia is too early.

Luckily her pregnancy was already over 37 weeks, a good gestational age at which delivery of her babies would be fine. Good control measures were put in place to control her blood pressure and to prevent full blown eclampsia. she fell into labor spontaneously, and would have given birth on her own had she not encountered poor progress of labor. A combination of pre-eclampsia, poor progress of labor and twin gestation is a recipe for an emergency cesarean section. That was exactly what happened – twin girls were extracted from her in theater soon

after. Interestingly, the second was found to be breech in presentation and oblique in orientation! Thank God for the decision to carry out a C-section because a breech, oblique second twin is a potential trouble for non-surgical deliveries. The first twin was cephalic (came forth with the head). Birth weights for twin-1 and twin-2 were 2.9kg and 2.4kg respectively. Mother and her babies fared well post-operatively and were discharged after a few days.

2. **Free Cesarean Section for an Unregistered Patient.** A 20-year-old woman in her first pregnancy, who was not registered for antenatal care was brought to MoM Medical Center in labor. she had been in labor since 3 days earlier but was being managed outside the hospital, but soon realized the futility of that option. Their decision to come to MoM Medical Center was a life-saver for her baby. Her unborn baby was already in distress (as was discovered later during the C-section). An emergency C-section was carried out for her. She now has live baby boy. Birth weight: 3kg. Baby's response was initially poor due to his distress, but picked up very well few minutes later. Mother and baby did fine after surgery and were discharged a few days later.



It is very likely that, the fact that child birth services are free in MoM Medical Center was a motivation for their decision to take her to the hospital. Who knows, this could have ended as a case of maternal mortality or fetal death or even both if they had remained at home longer. Thank God for a place like MoM Medical Center!

3. **Free Cesarean Sections for Obstructed Labor.** A 28-year-old woman, unregistered for antenatal



care had obstructed labor due to her short stature. Short stature is usually associated with narrow pelvis, and would make passage of the baby extremely difficult or impossible. She was delivered of a live baby boy weighing 3.7kg. Generally speaking, a baby that weighs above 3.5kg is considered a large baby, even for



women with normal pelvis size pelvis. This implies that 3.7kg baby size for a short stature

woman is like a “camel passing through the eye of a needle”. Surgery is mandatory. Her surgery was successful. Thank God for His mercies.

4. **Free Cesarean Section for Antepartum Hemorrhage.** A 38-year-old woman in her 3<sup>rd</sup> pregnancy came bleeding from the birth canal prior to labor. Bleeding before labor is always not welcome because it usually points to something sinister. In most cases, if pregnancy is at a viable gestational age, a C-section is the way out. That was what was done for her, with a bilateral tubal ligation for permanent contraception. She was delivered of a live baby girl weighing 3.5kg. Thank God for his goodness.

On the whole (for charity): **15** women had free child birth 4 of these were cesarean sections, **109** free consultations (for children below 1 year, orphans, indigent patients and pregnant women), **11** free surgical procedures, free drugs dispensed to **233** people (pregnant women, children below 1 year and orphans), **78** free lab investigations (for orphans, children below 1 year and indigent patients).

### ***THE GOSPEL:***

1. **Reformed Belief About the Way of Salvation.** A woman (let’s call her Amina) brought her sick 3-



year-old son to MoM Medical Center for a surgery. Surgery was successful. And while her son was healing in the hospital ward, the Gospel of Jesus Christ was prayerfully presented to her. She was found to belong to a non-Christian religion that believes that salvation was only gotten purely through good works. But after a period of fruitful conversation with her, she categorically confessed to a change of her belief saying “now I know that salvation is not by what works a man does but by faith!”

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

God bless you!

Reported by Dr. Odiba Friday,

For the Medical Director

## MoM ORPHANAGES



MoM orphanages continue to house hundreds of orphans, providing all kinds of care for them through various care givers. As a result, more babies keep coming in. The personnel are stretched but God's grace continues to be sufficient. The following short stories are notable from August.

1. **MoM orphanage in Otutulu Receives new arrival.** Ojodomo (as named by Ministry of Mercy)



was an abandoned child who was found by a good Samaritan around Kogi state university, Anyigba, and taken to the police station in Anyigba.



Thereafter, the police contacted Ministry of Mercy and handed him over for further care.

He has been found to have physical disabilities – inability to use both hands and legs, and inability to sit without support at an estimated age of 2 years. He also has seizures. These constellation of symptoms points to possible brain injury at birth, birth asphyxia or kernicterus. It is very likely that he was abandoned because of these multiple disabilities. MoM orphanage has to tackle all these problems now. Abandoned children have a lot of things unknown about them – name, tribe, religion or exact age. Ojodomo has found a new home. We believe that God has plans for him just like any other child. We pray for God's grace to care for him.

2. **Cook at MoM Orphanage Resigns for Further Education.** Inikpi Ameh, joined MoM orphanage



as a cook in May 2019. She had only high school level of education when she came. She had to resign her appointment in August to proceed for higher level of education. MoM family wishes her well. We pray she soars by the grace of God. May she remain in the will of God as she goes out there in Jesus name.



3. **MoM Driver Resigns:** One of our drivers in the ministry, Mr. Achenyo Adegahi joined MoM



family in May 2019. He has also had to resign his appointment. Ministry of Mercy had a good time working with him. We wish him well and pray that God will continue to bless and guide him in his future endeavors.

4. **Serious Farm Work On-going at MoM.** A major source of food for the large population of residents at MoM orphanages is farming. Farming here is done on a large scale by laborers hired by the ministry to work on our farms. Now is the season for beans planting (and other crops), and MoM is going all out to take advantage of the season. Our farm is so large, such that it has already gulped as much as five bags of beans in planting alone! You can imagine how large the harvest from this massive planting will be. But, great as the harvest may turn out to be, it's interesting to know that there'll still be a need to purchase extra beans for the homes before the next farming cycle, because the large population of the home requires much more than this harvest. However, through the years God has been a faithful provider. He alone be praised!



We thank God for His presence in the homes. We pray for more and more of Him.

Sincerely yours,

*Monday Alidu.*

# MoM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

---



The MoM Christian academy continues to provide good education for the MoM children at both elementary (primary) and high (secondary) school levels. It currently has 205 pupils in the nursery/primary (elementary) school (115 boys, 90 girls). The secondary (high) school has 126 students (60 girls, 66 boys).

The MoM schools have been on holidays throughout the month of August, and for resumption on September 2, 2019 when this quiet premises comes alive again with happy kids. We will be happy to bring you exciting updates for September soon as they resume. They will be

commencing new classes when they return. This will be a lot of work for the administrators, teachers and pupils/students. Please pray for renewed strength and wisdom.

Warm regards,

*Becky Affah*

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. Give thanks to God the great Provider, Healer and Keeper. We have seen His hand greatly in every aspect of Ministry of Mercy.
2. Pray for more hands to join the enormous work at MoM. The work is on the increase but the laborers are still few. Some of them are even having to leave us for various reasons as seen in the report above. Pray for good replacement, and more.
3. Pray for the little girl Stephina, that God will totally heal her, and bring her pain to a final end.
4. Pray for our proprietor, our daddy Daniel Edeh's health. He still needs the perfecting touch of the heavenly healer.
5. Pray for the spread of the gospel Jesus Christ among our patients at the MoM Medical Center, many of whom come to us for the quality of care, as well as the charity available to them. Pray that as the practical love of Christ is demonstrated to them, salvation will follow too.

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

**With Much Love from the Mom Team!**

[www.ministryofmercy.org](http://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.*

<b>Maternal Care</b>	<b>Full Cost Waiver in Naira</b>	<b>Full Cost Waiver in USD</b> 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
<b>Pediatrics care - Kids below 1 year and all Orphans</b>	<b>Full Cost Waiver in Naira</b>	<b>Full Cost Waiver in USD</b>
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
<b>Other Medical Services</b>	Total in 2018: 2,300 naira per patient	Average \$6.35

<b>Kids aged 1 – 5 years</b>	<b>Half Cost Waiver in Naira. The parents pay the other half.</b>	<b>Half Cost Waiver in USD</b>
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
<b>Other Medical Services</b>	Total in 2018 150 naira	\$0.41
<b>Widows and indigent patients</b>	<b>Cost Reduced According to the Patients' Needs</b>	<b>“Sliding Scale”</b>
All Medical Services	Total in 2018 > 93,760 naira	>\$259.00