

2019 NOVEMBER UPDATES FROM MINISTRY OF MERCY, NIGERIA Inc.

Warm greetings to you from all of us at Ministry of Mercy, Nigeria Inc. Welcome to the November edition of our updates. We believe you are enjoying the peace of the Lord, especially being reminded of God's great love by the sound of Christmas bells all around us this season. God continues to be faithful all the time. All the three arms of our mission (MoM Medical Center, MoM Orphanages and MoM Christian Academy) are witnesses of His faithfulness and love. Our update for the month reflects much of these. God bless you as you read through.

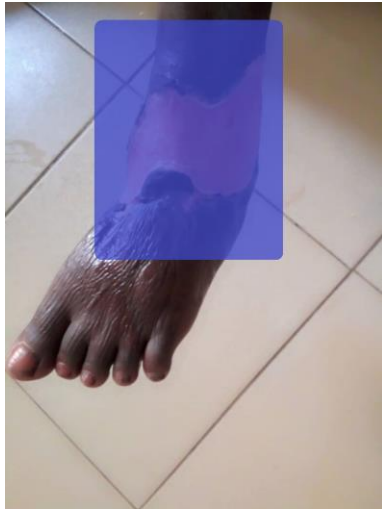
MoM MEDICAL CENTER



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. Longstanding Leg Ulcer Finally Gets Healed After a Successful Skin Graft Surgery.



A 50-year-old woman who came to MoM Medical Centre for the first time about 2 years ago, had presented with a “stubborn” non-healing ulcer, which was said to have spontaneously developed on her left foot. After much evaluation when she first came, skin grafting was offered her. But she turned down this option and decided to leave the hospital against medical advice. She returned few weeks ago in the same condition (probably after trying other options to no avail). She was re-admitted, and regular wound dressing brought the wound back to a clean state, fit for skin grafting. This time, she accepted the grafting option. Grafting was carried out for her.

The first few days following skin graft surgeries are usually filled with uncertain expectations; grafts can either turn out successful (“taken”) or failed (“rejected”). An easy grafting procedure does not necessarily turn out to be successful. Thank God for this patient: our waiting period ended in joy of success. Another patient with similar condition, whose chronic leg ulcer was also skin grafted by the same plastic surgeon about the same period was not so fortunate. His graft was rejected by the recipient site. He feels depressed. Please pray for divine comfort and healing for him.



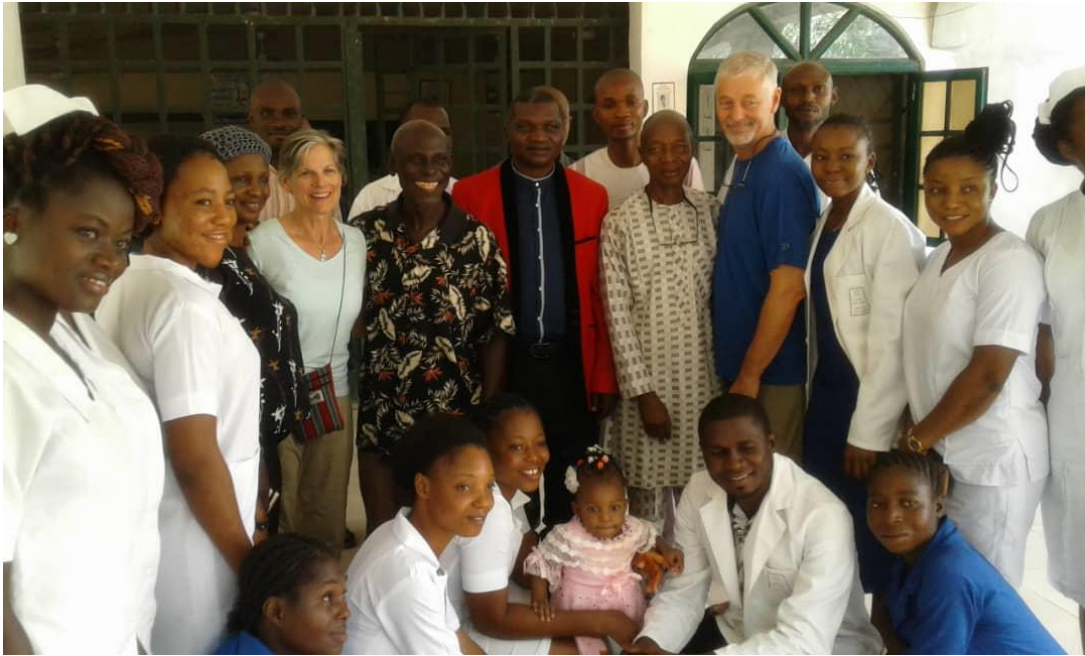
2. Progressive Paralysis Handicaps Our Chaplain.

This is a great concern to us at MoM because this is not just any patient, but one of our chaplains at Ministry of Mercy. (All patients are important to us, but Mr. Peter is our team member.) He started seeing the MoM medical team since 2 years ago on account of gradual weakness of various muscle groups. In the process of his care, he has had to visit other hospitals. But this has been to no avail. Right now, he is totally unable to carry out his duties and confined to a wheel chair. Frantic efforts are being made with further investigations to find the cause and solution to this crippling condition. We are yet



to reach a conclusion. He is currently on admission at MoM Medical Center. He attends our daily morning devotion in the hospital, but this time, not to preach the Word as before. Please let's lift him up in prayers relentlessly until God releases him from the grip of this disease. seeing him on the hospital bed often raises questions in our hearts to God. But we are comforted by the knowledge that God continues to be in control of all things. He is able to do all things, and has the best interest of His children at heart.

3. **MoM Medical Center Receives Visitors and Friends from Equip international.** Mr. George Foose is the president of Equip International – an international mission organization with headquarters in the United States, and field locations and missionaries in various countries of



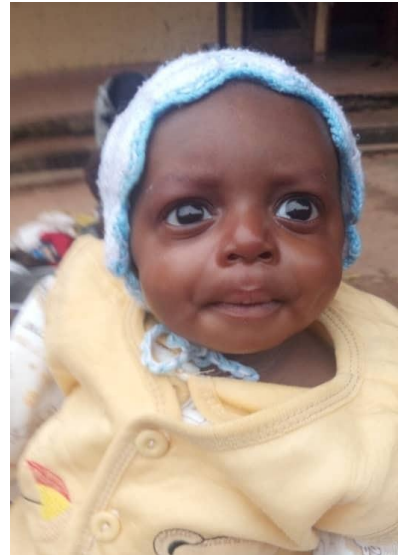
the world. Ministry of Mercy had the privilege of receiving Mr. Foose and his dear wife, Lisa on November 20th. They spent close to a week with us before leaving. During their stay, they



visited our hospital and were fascinated with what God has done there. The couple are exciting to be with, and we had a great time with them. They also presented our medical center with a certificate from the Equip International Appropriate Technology Institute. It reads, **“We proudly recognize the ministries of health care, charity and presenting the gospel to the people of Lokoja”**. This Perfectly captures the three major aspects of our services at MoM Medical Center. We have proudly displayed this on the hospital wall. We love Equip International. We are happy to be associated. We are grateful for their support over the years. We will be happy to see them again!

4. **MoM Medical Center extension, Otutulu.** As introduced last month, MoM Medical Center has a clinic outlet, manned by a community health extension worker, Mr. Sabo Yunusa. The following are some of its activities for the month.

- a. **Godsown Ugbejo**, one of our orphans brought in the orphanage in October broke down with severe diarrhea, vomiting and malnutrition. His treatment began at the clinic outlet in Otutulu but needed to be referred to Lokoja for a more advanced care. Thankfully, he has recovered, and returned to Otutulu on 27th November.



- b. **Agwuye Benjamin**, an 8-month old orphan developed malaria and a severe chest infection with associated difficulty in breathing. Anti-malarials and antibiotics have helped to stabilize him.



- c. Several other children and orphans like **Ojonile** and **Ojonimi Timothy** received care at this outlet in November.
- d. **Stephina Alilu**, our girl with severe recurrent abdominal pains has remained hale and hearty. There were initial uncertainties as to whether she will still have a recurrence. But we have gone through a few pain-free months now. From all indications, she will remain so.



- e. **Widespread Immunization Program** on-going, specifically for females of 15 to 49 years of age, to prevent maternal and neonatal tetanus. MoM community is taking part through collaboration between the local government primary health care center and MoM clinic outlet at Otutulu.



Statistics

General Statistics

General out-patient department	
a. Old patients	83
b. New patients	89
Total	172
Ward admissions	49
Surgical procedures	12
Total no. who received drugs	194
Total number of laboratory tests done	511
Number of transfusions	02

Preventive Medicine.

Immunizations (within the hospital)	
Number of children immunized	62
Number of doses received	172
Number of women immunized	16
Number of doses	16
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:

1. **Free Cesarean Section for Obstructed Labor:** A 20-year old woman came to us in labor. She had



a conspicuous problem of short stature, which is a high risk feature for obstructed labor because short stature is commonly associated with narrow pelvis in many women. Clinical pelvimetry (an assessment of the pelvic size by obstetric personnel) prior to delivery is one way of knowing whether or not the space is wide enough for the baby to “pass”. But as gynecologists would often say, “trial of labor is the best pelvimetry”. So we tried labor but discovered it was not going to work. Her baby was beginning to show signs of distress. The fetal deterioration was so unexpectedly drastic that we had to immediately move her into the operating theater, and within minutes the baby was out – alive and well! A baby boy weighing just 2.9kg. Mother and baby are fine.

2. **Free Cesarean Section on Account of 2 Previous Uterine Surgical Scars:** She is a 34-year old



woman who came in her third pregnancy. She began her antenatal care with MoM Medical Center at 28 weeks’ gestation. She had had 2 previous child deliveries through caesarean sections. This next delivery would definitely be through the same method (for safety reasons). Therefore, we didn’t need to wait for labor. Once the fetus was mature, a C-section was scheduled and carried out for her. She now has a 2.9kg baby boy. Mother and baby are fine.

3. **Abandoned 2-Year-Old Boy Finds Help and New Home in MoM.** Jephthah, as he is now called, was abandoned by his people most likely on account of his severe disability. His age is



approximately 2 years. He was found and brought to MoM Orphanage, and subsequently ended up in MoM Medical Center because of his poor health. He has marked spastic paralysis of both legs with severe spasticity and contractures. He is bedridden and always in spasm except during sleep. Because of his constant lying position, he had developed infected pressure ulcers on both prominences on the back of his head, requiring a lot of nursing care. His constant body spasms significantly increased his daily calorie needs. As a result, he had malnutrition too. He needs to feed almost constantly when awake. Here in MoM Medical Center, he is now receiving a lot of care. His care is multidisciplinary, led by our seasoned pediatrician and our medical director. We are hopeful that Jephthah will find a much better life in MoM. Medically speaking, he will remain handicapped for life. He needs a miracle. Please pray for him.

Statistics on Charity

Antenatal care statistics		
Week	New patients	Patients on follow-up
Week 1	0	1
Week 2	4	20
Week 3	5	12
Week 4	4	31
Week 5	8	19
Total	21	83
Grand Total		104
Other Free Consultation (Children below 1 year, orphans, pregnant women and indigents)		69
Number Of Deliveries		
C-Sections		03
Normal Deliveries		09
Total Births		12
Number Who Received Drugs For Free (Children below 1 year, orphans, pregnant women and indigents)		111
Number Who Had Laboratory Tests For Free		122
Number Of Free Surgical Procedures		07

THE GOSPEL:

1. **Muslim Teenager Receives Christ in the Hospital.** Jane (not her real name) is a 15-year-old girl in her second year in high school. She “accidentally” got pregnant and decided to terminate it. This procedure was attempted in the wrong place and by the wrong person, and consequently went the wrong way. She lost so much blood and got severe infection. As at the time of her arrival at the hospital, her packed cell volume was only 19% (the normal level should be about 40 – 45%). It was clearly an emergency, and had to be tackled as one. She had to be transfused with a couple of pints of blood, and also aggressively treated for the infection. During the course of her stay, the gospel of salvation was presented to her. She readily accepted in the presence of her mother who had been with her in the hospital. We are glad that, instead of losing her life to **bleeding**, she gained ETERNAL LIFE from the Savior that had already **bled** for her sake 2000 years ago!



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. ***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.

Six New Arrivals in MoM Orphanage Lokoja.

- **12-Year Old Molested Girl Finds Help at MoM Lokoja.**

On November 1, the kogi State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD) brought a 12-year old girl who was said to be a victim of sexual molestation in the hands of a family friend with whom she lived. She is to remain in the safety of MoM pending completion of investigations and resolution of the case.



- **Abandoned crippled child Finds New Home in MoM.** Jephthah's story has already been narrated above in the "General Health Care" section. He is still in the hospital awaiting full recovery from his scalp ulcer before returning to the orphanage home. Caring for him has been quite challenging for his care giver because of his severe disability. Please pray for grace and strength for the care givers.



- **Under-aged Mother and Baby Find Refuge in MoM Lokoja.** On 14th November, a charity



organization known as Ladi Foundation brought this teenage, single mother and her seven-month old baby to MoM Orphanage Lokoja on account of social problems. They both arrived the orphanage with health problems ranging from malaria to typhoid fever and malnutrition. They had to be immediately taken to MoM Medical Center for healthcare

before returning to the orphanage home.

- **Newborn, Orphan Finds Home at MoM Lokoja.** Unlike many other orphans whose mothers died



from carelessness of home delivery, baby Mariam's mother died in the state's highest health institution immediately after giving birth to her. We do not have details of the exact cause of her death. Mariam will be with us at MoM Orphanage in Lokoja for the next 2 years before reuniting her with her family.

- **Mom Provides Support for a Non-Resident Orphan.** Part of Ministry of Mercy's services in



saving the lives of babies who lost their right to their mothers' breast milk due to maternal mortality. We also provide artificial baby feeds to some families who are willing to raise their own orphans within their home but are unable to afford these feeds. One of such orphans is Baby Aminat Ademu. She lost her mother at the age of just three weeks, due to complications of cesarean section. Her grandmother who has now become her primary caregiver brought her to MoM for assistance. MoM provided her with some tons of CIF/baby foods, and also taught her helpful maintenance practices. The family is very grateful.

Two new arrivals at MoM Orphanage, Otutulu.

- **Lisa Grace Wodi** was born on 17th November, and brought to MoM the next day. She hails from Akakana village in Bassa local government area of Kogi State. Her mother was said to have died from "weakness and inability to coordinate her body" after delivery. There is no expert report on her death, but she may have died from anemia, pre-eclampsia, infection, amniotic fluid embolism. These are common causes of maternal mortality in our environment.



- **Ojonile Ameh** was brought to the orphanage on 29th November. She was born at the Federal Medical Center 6 days earlier but lost her mother the following day. Exact cause of death was not well known to the family. The baby hails from Igalamela-Odolu local government area of Kogi State.



MoM Otutulu Also Received Our Equip International Guests Right in The Village. Despite the terrible condition of our roads, they traveled all the way from Lokoja to see the orphans and staff. We had a great time with them at Otutulu. They spent a few days with us before their final departure. The pleasant memories created cannot be forgotten. We will miss them.





MoM Farms Enter Harvest Season. The rain is over; the harvest is here. It is time for bean harvest on our farm at MoM farms, Otutulu. We planted a lot of beans during the last planting season few months ago. This was expected to produced bountiful harvest. But things did not go exactly the way we desired. There was too much rain, and this hampered the yield this year. There was some harvest though, and we thank God for that. Processing will now commence to make it ready for consumption. Bean pudding (moi moi), bean cake (akara), bean soup and boiled beans are high protein meals good for our orphans.



We may have had enough laborers to match our beans harvest. But this has not been the case with the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ all over the world today. Let's always remember what

the Master of the true harvest said: "Do not ye say, that there are yet four months and the harvest comes? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and behold the fields, for they are already white to harvest" (John 4.35). "And he said to them, the harvest indeed is great, but the workmen few; supplicate therefore the Lord of the harvest that he may send out workmen into his harvest" (Luke 10.2). May we be available in the Lord's harvest field always (Amen).

Sincerely yours,

Monday Alidu.

MoM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

MoM Christian Academy continues to blossom through the academic term. Becky Attah who usually provides reports on MoM Christian Academy has gone for National Youth service year outside Kogi State. Mr. Sabo Yunusa will be providing these reports while she is away.

A few notable events took place at the academy this season:

1. **Students and Pupils Write First Term Examinations.** As the first term of the 2019/2020 academic session draws to a close, students and pupils of the MoM Christian academy

commence examinations. This will be followed by the holidays next month.



2. **Mom Christian Academy Receives a Team of Supervisors:** As part of quality control, the Kogi State Ministry of Education Lokoja sends teams of supervisors to schools within its jurisdiction. MoM Christian Academy received one of such teams on the 23rd of November 2019. They had a



successful exercise.

We are hopeful that the academy will keep meeting up with good standards.

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. No one can be healed or saved except by Him. It is all because of His grace and mercies.
2. Pray for the new orphans that were received into the orphanage for the month of November, that God will grant all that is required to successfully raise them. Also ask God to comfort all the families who lost the mothers of these orphans.
3. Pray for Chaplain Igba Peter. Let God reach out with His miraculous healing touch.
4. Pray for the spread of the gospel Jesus Christ among our patients at the MoM Medical Center. A lot of non-Christians come to this hospital. May the Lord reveal Himself to them unto salvation in Jesus name.
5. 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.
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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