

2019 OCTOBER UPDATES FROM MINISTRY OF MERCY, NIGERIA Inc.

Greetings to you from everyone at Ministry of Mercy, Nigeria Inc. We hope that all is well with you. God is an ever present help in times of need. May you always find His help that is ever present around you. Welcome to the October edition of our updates from all the three arms of our mission (MoM Medical Center, MoM Orphanages and MoM Christian Academy). Please pray and praise with us 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 HEALTHCARE.

1. **Three children from MoM orphanage Otutulu undergo surgeries at MoMMC:** below are their respective stories:

- **Appendectomy:** an eighteen-year-old male from MoM orphanage (Otutulu location) diagnosed of acute appendicitis had a successful removal on the 9th of October. He has since been discharged following a smooth recovery.



- **Appendectomy:** an 18-year-old female from MoM orphanage (Otutulu location) was also diagnosed of acute appendicitis. She had a successful removal same day of October. She too has since been discharged following a smooth recovery.



- **Hernia repair:** A 14-year-old from MoM orphanage (Otutulu location) diagnosed of an inguinal hernia had a successful surgical repair on the 9th of October. He has since been discharged following good recovery.



It is not uncommon for surgeries like these to have post-operative complications, but we are grateful to God for making them all free of complications.

2. **Right Femoral Hernia Repair:** An elderly woman had repair of a right sided femoral hernia. femoral hernias are less common than inguinal hernias. This is about our 3rd case in MoM Medical Center, as against the several inguinal hernia repairs we have had since inception nearly three years ago. They are found in more women than men, unlike inguinal hernias. Both occur as a result of weakness in the lower abdominal wall with resultant protrusion of internal content through the weakness/defect. Surgery was successful. Patient has since been discharged



3. **Hernia and Hydrocele Repair.** 2-year-old boy was brought to us with congenital groin and scrotal swelling. He needed surgical correction to remove the increased risk of scrotal trauma



created by the continued presence of the hydrocele, as well as other potential complications. He had a successful procedure – two surgeries in one (herniotomy and marsupialization of hydrocele of the cord).

4. **Introducing MoM Clinic outlet in Otutulu.** MoM has a clinic outlet in our orphanage home in Otutulu. This is the first point of call for healthcare needs that arise in the orphanage home in this location. Referrals to higher centers might be necessary in a few cases. Two of such stories are narrated below:

- a. Confidence is a 10-day-old baby girl who was born prematurely at 7 months, with very low birth weight (of 1.2kg) was brought to MoM orphanage home in Otutulu on 15 October 2019, by her grandmother because this baby was said to have suddenly stopped breastfeeding. She was surviving on just water for 5 days. For a start, she was taken to the clinic in the orphanage where the health staff took immediate measures by commencing her on feeding through a nasogastric (feeding) tube, before possibly transferring her to the medical staff at MoM Medical Center, Lokoja. Her weight has increased to 1.7kg.



- a. Ochohepo is one of our orphans in Otutulu. He was brought in few months earlier following mother's death. He came down with severe gastro-enteritis with a lot of vomiting and diarrhea, and resultant dehydration. Aggressive rehydration and antibiotics are bringing him back to health.



In October, about seven epileptics came to this outlet for medication. This is follow-up to a previous free epilepsy treatment program in the neighboring communities.

On the whole (for general healthcare), we had **421** clinic visits, **57** ward admissions, **97** people received immunization, **19** surgical procedures, **22** child deliveries, drugs dispensed to **275** patients, **587** laboratory tests done, **05** woman received contraception, **13** blood transfusions amongst others in Lokoja.

CHARITY:

A lot of free medical services were provided 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. **Family from Another State Travel to MoMMC for Free C-section.** A 36-year-old mother of five



(including a set of twins) was found to be pregnant with another set of twins. She was also found to have gone past full pregnancy term. She resides in Benue state, one of the states bordering Kogi state where MoM Medical Center is located. She needed an elective (non-emergency) cesarean section but had

challenges affording one. Her family heard of MoM Medical Center and decided to bring her all the way to us. She went through a successful C-section to have her lovely set of twin boys weighing 2kg and 2.5kg respectively. Recovery was great. They have since been discharged and have traveled back to their state.



2. **Free C-section for Major Placenta Previa.** A 22-year-old mother of two underwent an emergency cesarean section on the 11th of October at MoM Medical Center on account of a major placenta Previa and bleeding from the birth canal. Placenta Previa is an abnormal obstetric condition in which the placenta covers (partially or fully) the door way to the womb (the cervix), obstructing the free passage of the baby during birth. There is an associated risk of bleeding before or during labor. This usually leads to fetal death. The mother can also be at risk. There is only one rational way to deal with this: cesarean section. Surgery was successful but rough because there was a lot of bleeding. she received a total of 4 units of blood (two during the surgery, and two after the surgery). She was delivered of a live baby girl weighing 2.6kg. mother and baby are fine. They have since been discharged home.

3. **Free C-section for Fetal macrosomia.** A 25-year-old in her first pregnancy came in labor at 40 weeks 3 days' gestation. She was one of registered antenatal women at MoM Medical Center. Antenatal assessment suggested a big baby, and also revealed maternal hepatitis C. Her labor faced poor progress most likely because of the fetal size. To make matters worse, her baby was breech and had ruptured her membranes for too long. To prevent arrest of labor, fetal distress, bacterial infection and increased risk of transmission of hepatitis C to her baby, an emergency cesarean section was carried out. She was delivered of a live baby boy weighing 3.6kg. Mother and baby are fine.

4. **Retained Placenta and Cervical Laceration.** On 29th October, a 33-year-old medical laboratory technician and mother of two, with her third pregnancy came to MoM Medical Center in labor at 39 weeks' gestation. She was one of our registered antenatal women. She had a uterine scar from a previous cesarean section. She came with a 3-day history of irregular uterine contractions. Clinical examination showed a fully dilated cervix with bulging fetal membranes. Right away, the membranes were artificially ruptured and fetal delivery conducted. Everything went like a smooth ride up till this point when the "wheels" came off: the placenta could not be delivered by the usual gentle traction on the umbilical cord (with a few other maneuvers). We were facing a



retained placenta situation. The placenta must have been abnormally attached to the uterus through the previous C-section uterine scar. A retained placenta can be really dangerous to a woman because there is a high risk of uncontrolled bleeding from the uterus. In such a case, manual removal (inserting a whole hand into the uterus to detach the placenta) would be the next line of action, failure of which will require moving the patient into the operating theatre for surgical removal. Fortunately, manually removal worked! But this was not the end of our problem. She was found to have a tear of the cervix (cervical laceration). The cervix can really bleed when torn like this because of its very rich arterial blood supply. Repair can be

challenging because blood obscures the field. But somehow some temporary repair saved the day. Few days later a final repair was done in the theatre under spinal.

This is so much to go through for having a baby. God bless all mothers on earth! All her pains have been forgotten because she now happily holds her 3.4kg live baby boy – an invaluable prize. Praise God.

We had one more free C-section on account of large fetal weight and a previous uterine C-section uterine scar. Mother and baby are fine.

On the whole (for charity), **22** women had free child birth **4** of whom were cesarean sections, **141** free consultations (for children below 1 year, orphans, indigent patients and pregnant women), **12** free surgical procedures, free drugs dispensed to **123** people (pregnant women, children below 1 year and orphans), **103** free lab investigations (for orphans, children below 1 year and indigent patients).

THE GOSPEL:

- 1. Woman Receives Christ While on Hospital Visit!** A middle-aged woman, came to MoM Medical Center for care. Following investigations, she was diagnosed with malaria. For comprehensive care, she was offered hospital admission but she preferred to go home. The gospel of salvation was successfully delivered to her. She accepted the Lord! The little time she spent with us was really worthwhile because she went home with something more than just medicines. May she receive full restoration physically and spiritually.



2. **Patient Acknowledges Christ Few Hours Before Passing Away!** Another female patient with an unclear surgical condition was admitted in our medical center. Despite all efforts, she only continued to deteriorate, and rapidly so. The imminent unpleasant event was getting clearer and approaching fast. While medical efforts continued in earnest, the spiritually prudent thing to do was to present the gospel to her. Very fortunately she acknowledged the Lord, and few hours later she slept in the Lord. Medicine could not save her, but eternal death could not have her.

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.

New Arrival in MoM Orphanage Home.

1. Godsown Monday Ugbedeajo, a baby boy was born on Monday, 7th October, 2019. He was brought in to MoM orphanage Otutulu on 11th October 2019 as a motherless baby. Mother was said to have died during cesarean section. (did not wake up from anesthesia)



Handing Over of Orphans Back to Their Families. In the month of October, 2 sets of twins were reunited with their respective families.

1. Husseini and Husseina (male and female) were brought to MoM orphanage Otutulu in October 2017 as new born babies. Two years later they are lively toddlers ready to be handed over to their biological families.



2. Eba and Husseina Abdulkadir are a two 2-year old set of lovely twin girls. There were brought into MoM orphanage Otutulu in October 2017 as orphans. They were handed over to their family on 26th October 2019.



Please pray for this new arrival that God Himself will be his keeper as he lives with us. And for those returning back to their families, that the face of the Lord will continue to shine upon them for the rest of their lives.

Our Security Dog/Friend at the Orphanage Passes Away:

"Buster", as he was fondly called, was a conspicuous member of the MoM orphanage community in Lokoja. He was a fierce looking bulldog that kept "enemies" away, but at the same time, a great friend to our children and caregivers in the orphanage. Like a professional, he knew when he was needed at the security posts, and as a friend, he knew when he was wanted for play among the children. He would pass for both a good pet and a great guard. This is exactly why the orphanage will greatly miss him. He passed away few weeks few ago. We believe he died from the bite of a venomous (hematotoxic) snake during one of his walks into the bush. He was found bleeding uncontrollably till his death. Veterinary services were utilized but could not save him.



Though Buster is gone, we are consoled that God is a greater security and a better friend to our orphans.

Sincerely yours,

Monday Alidu.

MoM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Academic Activities On Full Gear as Term Reaches Mid-Term.

Students On Assembly Ground.



Our Zealous and Enthusiastic School Football Teams



Conference Style Nursery Class



Thank God for His grace in raising these kids every day.

Regards,

Becky Attah

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Give thanks to God for every healing, every salvation and every act of love in ministry of Mercy. It is all because of His grace and mercies.
2. Thank God for the converts in the month of October. No one can come to the Christ except the one that the Father draws.
3. Thank God for Stephina's health. You may recall that we requested for prayers for her last month for her abdominal condition. She still had recurrence of pains after surgery but following commencement of additional drugs she has greatly improved. She has been pain free for weeks now. We pray never to have a recurrence any more.
4. Pray for the new orphan that was received into the orphanage for the month of October, 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.
5. 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.
6. Pray for all the orphans and staff of Ministry of Mercy to dwell in the presence of God and enjoy more of His blessings.
7. Pray for more divine supplies for the entire organization.
8. 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
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

