

# MARCH 2020 REPORT

Greetings once again.

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. Below are a few of our stories for the month.

## 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 from this arm.

## GENERAL HEALTH CARE:

1. **MoM Medical center takes steps to prevent corona virus (covid19) spread.** Following the news that Nigeria had reported her first case of covid19 infection in Lagos, and with more cases



beginning to spring up in pockets around the country, MoM Medical Center had to adjust appropriately. Right now, visits to patients in the wards have been significantly restricted. Also, provision for proper handwashing has been made at the entrance of the hospital to prevent contamination from outside. The hospital also sent a team to the orphanage at Otutulu for reinforcement for their health team. Thankfully we have not recorded a single case of the infection. We pray that it will remain this way while the rest of the world experiences total recovery. Our hearts go out to every part of the world receiving painful bites of this pandemic. May the mercies of the Lord prevail at this

point.

2. **Multiple Injuries from A Road Traffic Accident.** On March 16, 2020, a 55-year-old man was admitted into one of the wards of our medical center. He was a passenger in a vehicle traveling



to Abuja. He sustained multiple injuries in at least 10 areas on his body. He is lucky to be alive because the injuries involved his skull and a resultant loss of consciousness. He was promptly taken to another hospital where he was resuscitated before eventual referral to MoM Medical Center. As at the time of his arrival at our center he had memory loss and an infected injury of his right knee. Septic joints are to be taken quite seriously to avoid its dreaded complications. He is out of the acute condition, and recuperating well. We pray for successful treatment.

3. **Teenage Epileptic Relapses Due to Medication Default.** On March 25, a 15-year-old boy was admitted into our hospital on account of epilepsy. He was brought into the hospital very weak – that kind of weakness which usually follows a convulsive episode. He had just had one, and



had to be brought to the hospital. He is a known epileptic who had attained good remission from seizures with the aid of his anti-epileptic medication over the years. But seeing that he was no longer experiencing convulsions he stopped. This act is commonly seen among such patients on chronic medication because they don't see reasons to continue taking drugs when there seems to be no problem it's solving. They tend to forget that it's the same drug that keeps them from the symptoms. There's a common saying in medicine that "you can't make an asymptomatic patient feel better". Since they don't have

symptoms, they don't see any benefit of continuing treatment. Such problem could have been prevented with good pre-medication education and counselling. Not always though. Our patient is better now, and has been discharged.

4. **Lipoma Excision.** A lipoma is an abnormal localized aggregation of fatty tissue underneath the



skin. It appears as a lump which is seen as disfiguring by many people depending on the size and location. Even very small ones will be found disfiguring if located on obvious body parts such as the face, and will be requested to be removed (especially by ladies). Hidden ones are usually left alone unless they are unacceptably large. One of our patients, Mr. John, had one removed from his back on march 6. It's a day surgery (requires no hospital admission), and needing only local anesthesia (the patient didn't have to be put

to sleep during the procedure). He is now back in shape.

5. **MoM Medical Center Extension, Otutulu.** The following are some of the activities at our Otutulu health outpost for the month.

**MoM Otutulu Receives Health Team from MoM Medical Center Lokoja.** On March 29, the MoM health center at Otutulu received reinforcement from Lokoja (the state capital) to help out with general medical care for the numerous children and staff, as well as, to help with education of the community on covid19 prevention measures.



The clinic outlet continues to run its usual services to orphans and staff in the orphanage.

## General Healthcare Statistics

### General

General out-patient department	139
Ward admissions	40
Surgical procedures	15
Total no. who received drugs	272
Total number of laboratory tests done	420
Number of transfusions	06

### Preventive Medicine:

<b>Immunizations (within the hospital)</b>	
Number of children immunized	54
Number of doses received	145
Number of women immunized (tetanus toxoid)	09
Number of doses	09
<b>Contraception.</b>	
Women received contraceptives	12

### CHARITY:

A lot of free medical services were offered to several patients, some of whom could not have been able to afford it on their own. Most of these are maternal and child health cases. As many as 23 women had child deliveries free of charge within the month, about a third of these were



free cesarean sections. This is in addition to several children including orphans who also had medical and surgical services free of charge. Few of these stories are summarized below.

a. **Seven Cesarean Sections.**

- **Pre-Eclampsia and An Emergency Cesarean Section.** A 26-year-old in her second



pregnancy came into our labor ward with a very high blood pressure (230/150mmHg). She was one of our registered antenatal clinic patients who had a much better blood pressure level during her antenatal days. While in labor pharmacological measures to control this blood pressure failed to produce reasonable results. Continuing on this line of action would not only put the woman at risk of developing seizures, she risked losing her baby too. So, the medical team made an emergency U-turn from conservative management to a surgical one. She went

through a C-section successfully and came out with a 3kg baby boy. Mother and baby are fine.

- **Antepartum Hemorrhage, Fetal Distress and A Third Cesarean Section.** One of our registered antenatal patients, a 32-year-old woman was admitted into our prenatal ward on March 29 ahead of an elective C-section, scheduled for March 31. The doctors did not want her to fall into labor because she had 2 previous cesarean uterine scars. However, one of the nights before the scheduled day of surgery, while on admission she began to bleed severely from the birth canal. All of a sudden, the calm hospital atmosphere transformed into a rush mode all in an effort to get this woman into the operating room and get the baby out before it was too late. But unfortunately, the bleeding was a mile ahead of the medical team: only the woman

could ultimately be saved. The baby was brought out severely distressed, surviving for only about 12 hours before giving up. It was a painful event for our center. We pray divine comfort for this patient and her family.

- **Cesarean Section Due to Prolonged Labor.** A 32-year-old woman in her third



pregnancy came to us in labor. This pregnancy was 40 weeks old and labor was getting too prolonged. She had had a previous C-section in her first pregnancy, followed by a miscarriage. This third pregnancy was at risk with a prolonged labor. She had to go through a second C-section to have her 3.9kg baby girl. Mother and baby are fine.

- **C-section After 5 Previous Intrauterine Deaths.** A 27-year-old, who came to our antenatal clinic for the first time quite late in her seventh pregnancy. She had been pregnant 6 previous times but all that produced only one living child (a boy delivered by c-section). The other 5 pregnancies yielded 4 dead fetuses at full pregnancy term and one miscarriage at 3 months gestation. So, it made sense when the medical team presented her with the option of a C-section since this fetus was still alive. This news, however, was received with an emotional breakdown. But with the





psychological support of the nurse on duty she found the courage to go ahead. To the glory of God, surgery was successful – a live, very active baby girl weighing 3.2kg was extracted. The couple found themselves is great joy again. Her husband was heard singing songs to glorify God for over an hour. Is it not worth it? Definitely worth it! It is our joy and desire to see people return home with joy from MoM Medical Center. Praise God!

- **Three Other C-Sections Took Place for the Following Reasons.**

- a. **Abruptio placentae.** detachment of the placenta from the uterine wall during pregnancy.
- b. **Obstructed Labor.** Inability to give birth due to inadequate pelvic space for fetal exit either due to an abnormally large fetal size or an abnormally narrow pelvis.
- c. **Bad Obstetric History.** 2 previous deliveries, all dead.

- b. **Sixteen Non-Surgical Births.** 16 normal deliveries took place in March 2020. Only two of these stories are narrated below:



**a. Eclamptic Fits in A 22-Year-Old.** On March 20, this lady (not registered with any



antenatal clinic) was rushed into MoM Medical Center unconscious and convulsing. On a quick assessment, all vital signs were abnormal – a very high blood pressure (180/130mmHg); a high heart rate of 110 beats/minute; a high respiratory rate of 50 breaths/minute and a high temperature of 39 degrees Celsius. The seizures were a result of an uncontrolled hypertension in pregnancy while the high temperature could have been generated from prolonged vigorous muscle activity (seizures) or an infection. She probably would not have reached this stage of the complication had she partaken in an antenatal

program. Immediate resuscitative measures were instituted to control the seizures as well as the blood pressure, with some success. Several hours later, she regained some level of consciousness and went into labor as well. With some assistance, she was delivered of a premature 1.7kg baby girl, but unfortunately, lifeless. This is her third child birth. The two previous children are also dead. This is a grievous situation for her. She is fully conscious now but only to face her grief. We feel her grief with her. We hope she will heal physically and emotionally soon. God is the comforter.

b. **Uneventful Smooth Childbirth.** This can also be referred to as “Hebrew women



childbirth”. Most deliveries in MoM Medical Center fall into this category. Mrs. Gloria will represent this group of women in this month’s report. She is one of our registered antenatal women who fell into labor at full pregnancy term. This is her second pregnancy. Following the onset of labor pains, she came in to our labor ward by 6 am on March 27. By 8:05 am she was through! Just 2 hours despite a large fetal weight of 3.9kg. Mother and baby did fine and have been since discharged.

## Statistics on Charity

Antenatal care statistics		
Week	New patients	Patients on follow-up
Week 1	25	11
Week 2	23	05
Week 3	13	04
Week 4	17	04
Total	78	29
Grand Total Number of Visits		107
Other Free Consultation (Children below 1 year, orphans, pregnant women and indigents)		21
Number of Deliveries		
C-Sections		07
Normal Deliveries		16

Total Births	23
Number Who Received Drugs for Free (Children below 1 year, orphans, pregnant women and indigents)	189
Number Who Had Laboratory Tests for Free	69
Total Number of Free Surgical Procedures	10

## THE GOSPEL:

We have the following stories of salvation for the month of March.

- a. **A Journey from African Traditional Religion through Islam to Christianity.** Mr. Idris Aguma, one of patients whose story is narrated in the general health care section above came into our care with multiple body injuries from a road traffic accident (details above). After stabilizing him, the gospel of salvation was presented to him. As at the time of his arrival at MoM Medical Center, he was a Muslim. Further inquiry revealed that he was originally a pagan but later became a Muslim. He later got married and converted his wife to Islam. He now has grown up children. Two of his sons later found the Lord Jesus and are now pastors. These sons of his have been persuading him to accept Jesus to no avail. Could this be a case of “a prophet is not honored in his own town?” Probably true because the same gospel was presented to him in MoM Medical Center and was finally accepted. His journey in search for a savior right from his days in African traditional religion to Islam has finally come to an end on a hospital bed. God indeed knows how to turn situations around for good. He can use anything, even a hospital bed. This must have been a product of the prayers of his children over the years. Thank God for making Mr. Idris whole.

- b. **Teenager surrenders his life to the Lord.** His story is that of the epileptic told in the general health care section above. After getting him out of his acute condition, the gospel of salvation was present to him. He welcomed it and handed his life over to the Lord right there in the hospital. We pray that the Lord who granted him spiritual healing will also heal his body of epilepsy in Jesus name.

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 Medical Director,**

**MoM Medical Center**



**Dr. W. A. S. Omale, MD**

**Consultant Ophthalmologist and**

**Medical Director, MoM Medical Center**

## MoM ORPHANAGES.

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**1. Quarantine Instituted Against Covid19.** Quarantine facilities have been created in both



locations of our orphanages in Lokoja and Otutulu. It would be a serious mistake to allow even a single case of covid19 gain entrance into our well populated orphanages. The damage would definitely be colossal. God forbid! With these quarantine facilities, any member of our orphanages returning home from journeys are isolated for 2 weeks while being observed by our health staff for suspicious symptoms. When found to be free of symptoms, they are reunited with the orphanage family.

**2. MoM proprietor still held up in the US.** Recall that Uncle Daniel Edeh and his wife traveled to the US since February. They need to return back to Nigeria but the current covid19 crisis and the resultant travel ban has kept them in the US. But thankfully, with effective communication, their absence from home has not affected the work in the orphanage. Everything still runs fine (apart from the schools which have been closed down in line with the government directive to control the spread of covid19).



### 3. Mom Proprietors Meet Mom Orphans Adopted to The US After Many Years.

- Gideon Aguilera and Stephen Abebefe were children adopted from MoM orphanage Otutulu well over a decade ago. The Edehs were thrilled to see them again when boys (now men) came to visit them at San Antonio.



- Lydia Vonderhaar was adopted from MoM orphanage Otutulu at the age of three. She has grown into a big girl (now thirteen). Mr. and Mrs. Edeh are glad to see her again.





#### 4. Mom Orphanage Keeps Receiving and Caring for More Orphans and Vulnerable People.

##### MoM Orphanage Lokoja Receives New Arrival

- **Mohammed Abdulsamad.** He is a motherless baby born on March 8, 2020, and brought to



MoM orphanage Lokoja the next day following the death of his mother. She died due to excessive bleeding during his birth. The delivery took place outside a hospital set-up. It was said to have been supervised by the watchman in charge of an Islamic prayer house somewhere in Lokoja. This orphan will be in MoM orphanage for the next two years before being reunited with his family again.

##### Three Children Reunited with Their Families of Birth.

- **Zemehien Hope John.** she was brought to MoM orphanage Lokoja 2 years ago following the death of her mother. She is due to be reunited with her family of birth according to



duration agreement documented during her admission into the orphanage in March 2018.

- **Esther Olubojo James** was born on April 4, 2018. She was brought to MoM orphanage Lokoja the next day following the death of her mother. It's two years now and based on the agreement during her admission into the orphanage, she was reunited with her family of birth on March 27, 2020.



- **Omojo Crystal Bala** was born on March 21, 2018. She is a native of Abejukolo in Omala local government of Kogi state. Her mother died soon after her birth and she was brought for foster care in MoM orphanage Otutulu. It is 2 years now. Having completed her planned duration of stay at the orphanage she was handed over to her father and family. Necessary documents were signed and she was prayed for before final departure.





- **Water Works at MoM Orphanage Otutulu.** In February 2020, drilling of boreholes commenced in the Otutulu orphanage. Two water boreholes were dug.



The first one was quite successful, yielding much water continuously for 8 hours (this is the litmus test of a successful drilling). With some more plumbing work and electrical wiring it will be ready for use. The second borehole drilling, however, appears to be unsuccessful. It yielded water for just 24 minutes and stopped. Apparently, the depth drilled is not up to the approved 170m surveyed depth.

## MoM FARMS.

1. **Crashing Price of Cashew Nuts.** In the past, cashew nuts sold at very good prices such that proceeds from its harvest yielded enough fund to constitute a significant portion of our income.





From the sales, staff salaries of up to 2 months could be paid. But this year has a downward turn. This is because:

- Produce is not as much as the past years.
- The market prices have drastically dropped (by about 60 -70%) this year. That is a lot!

Cost of living has ironically increased tremendously.

2. **Reduced Poultry Productivity.** Proceeds from sales of these eggs have been of great help to our finances. But recently, the layers in our poultry have begun to show a sharp decline in egg production. Not long ago we had a bountiful output from these layers. But now things are very different. We are not sure what the problem could be. Could there be an unnoticed compromise in the quality of the feeds we buy for them? We have not figured this out with certainty. To complicate things, the eggs are not selling as before.

All these have become a concern to us. Please be praying for us. May the Divine Provider provide for these orphans. May he stir up willing vessels and helpers.

Sincerely yours,

*Monday Alidu.*

# MoM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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1. **School Handwashing Program.** In the wake of covid19 pandemic's entrance into Nigeria, prior



to the school shutdown directive, MoM Christian Academy started a systematized hand washing practice program to prevent the spread of infections. However, for now schools have been asked to shut down. But having been established, this practice is expected to continue by the time schools reopen.



2. **MoM Christian Academy Has been closed down for now.** In compliance with government effort to control the covid19 pandemic, all academic activities have ceased for now, although the school principal, Mr. Peter Ahmodu comes to carry out some administrative work.



School premises is now empty of children.



Mr. Peter Ahmodu, school principal.

We are hopeful that things will normalize soon.

Sincerely yours,

*Sabo Yunusa*

## ***PRAYER REQUESTS***

1. Let's thank God that we still have a lifeline called prayer in pandemic-struck times like this, to present our worries, our fears, our pains, our pressures, even our griefs and our requests before God Almighty. Thank Him for hope of answered prayers always available at His throne every time we show up there in prayer.
2. Thank God for every covid19 survivor since the onset of its spread. Thank God for countries which are beginning to experience a flattening of their infection rates. These include Spain and Italy. France was among these but just developed an upward surge.
3. Thank God for regions of the world where the incidence of the infection is very low. It clearly doesn't depend on the technological or medical advancements of these regions. If it did, a country like ours (Nigeria) would have become a ghost country with bodies littered everywhere. We are profoundly grateful to Him.
4. Now, let's earnestly present before God with effectual fervent prayers countries still in the heat of this covid19 pandemic like the United States of America, especially in the State of New York and other states. A country like the UK have their leader already infected (Boris Johnson, the UK PM is currently in the ICU, receiving oxygen). In James 5:16 -18, the Bible says **"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous one avails much. Elijah was a man of like passion as we are. And he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for the time of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth caused its fruit to sprout."** Let's pray that this plague to be stayed all over the world. God has the power to say through us (His Elijahs): **"...Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further; And here shall thy proud waves be stayed..."** (Job 38:11). We shall do this against a backdrop of confessing our world's faults in the presence of the Lord (James 5:16).
5. Please pray for supply of all the spiritual resources (which include faith, hope, fearlessness, courage) God's children in crisis area. Pray for physical resources too.

6. Pray for country leaders to be able to keep a clear head as they take crucial decisions against this virus for their countries this season.
7. Give thanks to God for every healing, every salvation and every act of love in Ministry of Mercy.
8. Pray for all the children 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 children our way. Also, pray for new intakes into the orphanage. May the Lord equip us enough such that the lives of these orphans would be more meaningful than it could have ever been outside the orphanage.
9. Pray for every new convert that received the Lord at MoM Medical Center in the month of March. May they be fruits that will remain in the Lord. Remember previous converts too. May they continue to abide in the Lord
10. Pray for further spread of the gospel Jesus Christ among our patients at the MoM Medical Center. May we be effective hands of the Lord.
11. Pray for more hands to join the work in the Ministry of Mercy as the work continues to enlarge and prosper.
12. Please pray for divine provision for Ministry of Mercy in the face of dwindling resources: that God will open raise helpers and empower partners.

*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)

**STAY SAFE!**

**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
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