

## **NEWSLETTER FROM THE TETTEY'S IN REPUBLIC OF BENIN – WEST AFRICA**



It's amazing how fast time has flown. With it came many changes within the church's (EPMB) and the hospital's (PBS) management. Excitingly, we were in the 'thick' of the events that unfolded as we 'weathered' the ups and downs of the change process. We pray these changes will make these institutions more efficient.

Our family has also seen some changes as well. We have recently started a new academic year for the girls after having a very busy summer break. Unfortunately their school - which they have been attending since we moved to Benin in 2014 - had not lived up to our expectations and we decided to make alternative arrangements. Please help us pray for God's guidance as we 'open' ourselves to His creativity - to 'think outside the box'.

### **WCR Africa's first ever Mission Partner Retreat**

Our summer travels took us as far flung as East Africa – Uganda - for the WCR Africa first ever Mission Partner Retreat. This was a beautiful, refreshing time spent with our fellow Mission Partners who serve in Africa. We thank Dr Olubunmi for organising this retreat. It was timely as the many changes and developments within EPMB, PBS and with our daughters' school left us very discouraged. We were appropriately reminded that, like Elijah in 1 Kings 19, although we may feel alone, we are not!!! There are many of us who walk a similar road with God and have a similar heart for God's vineyard. God knows us all! He is with us and will Provide for us all!!! We should not be discouraged but instead find our strength in this knowledge.



Praying for the Uganda Bishop and his team



Joanna & Janelle at Sunday School

## **Polyclinic Bon Samaritain**

The decision to change the director at PBS has created a sort of ‘respected terror’ (finally!!) in the employees of PBS. It is hoped the positive changes will be rapid and effective.

The new director had commissioned the ‘skates’ be put on the construction of the administrative block as the offices were urgently needed. In late July 2018, this building was completed. The new administrative block was commissioned on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 at a colourful ceremony attended by some of our church partners who were attending the ‘Round table Conference of Partners’ organised by the church.



We are very excited since this new ‘Bloc Administratif’ has created some extra space for the medical services. Currently, the management of PBS is in the process of re-organising the space to achieve the most effective and efficient services.

## **EPMB Partners Round Table Conference**

To celebrate and assess the progress made by EPMB one year following the reconciliation of the two factions of the church, a ‘Round Table Conference’ was



Cross section of partners at the inauguration of the Administration block ceremony



organised to update EPMB's partners on efforts being made to bolster the newly found unity within the church.

Partners from Great Britain, France, Switzerland, Togo, Kenya, Cameroon and Benin attended the four-day partnership meeting. In all a total 12 representatives from 7 partner organisations were in attendance.

### **EPMB's REPAG Programme (Supported by Sunfieds Methodist ChurchSE3. UK)**

In early June the community health programme (REPAG) was offered to student Pastors. A simple clinic and health talk was done on '**COMMENT MAINTENIR UNE ALIMENTATION ET UN STYLE DE VIE SAINS**' (How to maintain a healthy diet and life style). It is hoped, as this programme slowly rolls out to the wider congregation, the ability to make healthier lifestyle decisions will follow.



**Student Pastors at the REPAG programme**

In late June, the REPAG programme was offered to the women of the congregation of our local church – Temple Galilee PK6 – where simple blood pressure, height and weight checks was administered. This was well received. As with the pattern of the clinics, many women were unaware of their health status. Our next step is to have a presentation with a short discussion on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. We were blessed to have the help of our own 'church brother' Professor Fayomi (in white shirt).



**Blood pressure checks for the women of Temple Galilee PK6**

The next program is scheduled to be delivered to the children in the Sunday School of our local church in November. We are very excited as it will be the first time REPAG will be serving the children. The suggested theme will be again on 'Maintaining a Healthy lifestyle' with emphasis on hand washing and dental care.

Also in November, REPAG will have its 6<sup>th</sup> session for the Pastors. The numbers of Pastors have been steadily growing as we are preparing for 190 participants.

*Our prayer points are for:*

- *The many changes of the church and hospital to result in a more efficient and Christian way of sharing and living the Gospel of Jesus*
- *The resistance to these changes to become lessened and be transformed into a spirit of cooperation of all the parties involved – thus allowing the Light of Christ to shine through the Church and all its associated organisations*
- *A healthy spirit, body and mind for our whole family*
- *An appropriate school to be found for the girls for the next academic year 2018/2019*
- *Adequate preparation for our daughters to re-enter the system of school and general life of the UK when it is time to return.*

*Our Praise points:*

- *Ongoing good health and living experience in Benin and West Africa in general*
- *Ongoing good health for all our relatives and friends*
- *Travelling mercies so far in our daily movements*
- *Good support from our supervisor at WCO Methodist Church UK*
- *Ongoing revelation of God's Grace and Mercy - ever since we have been on the Mission field. Our testimonies are many!!!!*

