

Newsletter

Praise & Thanksgiving Points

Family Praise:



The Tettey family in Benin – Joanna, Janelle, Joelle and Michael

For another completed year in Benin, for continuing good health, for challenging but manageable work and the steady progression of the children's education.

Church Praise:

We praise and thank God for the reconciliation process currently in progress to reunite the two factions. The ease in which the process was facilitated was aided by the desire and willingness of all the key players to make it happen.

For the church and hospital working together on the Congregation health promotion programme (REPAG).

Dear Friends,

It is our hope and prayer that you all had a blessed and wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations with friends and family.

As we enter 2017 it is appropriate to remember how far the Lord has brought us in our work with the Methodist Church of Benin, the Church's Polyclinique du Bon Samaritain (PBS) hospital and generally our life in Benin.

Bilingual Partnership Hope

The year started with a visit to Ghana by a team from the Eglise Protestant Methodiste du Benin (EPMB) to foster relationship between Methodist Church Ghana (MCG) and the church in Benin (EPMB). MCG paid a reciprocal visit in March and subsequently a memorandum of understanding has now been developed awaiting adoption by the two churches. The major objective of the co-operation would be the exchange of ministers with an aim to establish bilingual (Anglo-Franco) congregations in both countries. Please pray for the success of the programme.



The heads of the two churches exchanges gifts Bishop Titus K. Awotwe Pratt (l)

and Bishop Dr Nicodeme Alagbada (r) together with Dr Olunbunmi from

World Church Office (UK)

The Polyclinique du Bon Samaritain (PBS)

Our work at the hospital - though progressing – did not develop as considerably as we had hoped due to several unforeseen challenges we faced. We are still grateful to God for his guidance, protection and intervention in several issues and we ***'shall yet praise the Lord' (Hab. 3:17 & 18)***. We continue to pray, plan, hope and work to meet the goal of improving the standard of care expected from a Christian hospital. We look forward to some big changes in early in 2017 which hopefully will help us to meet our goals.

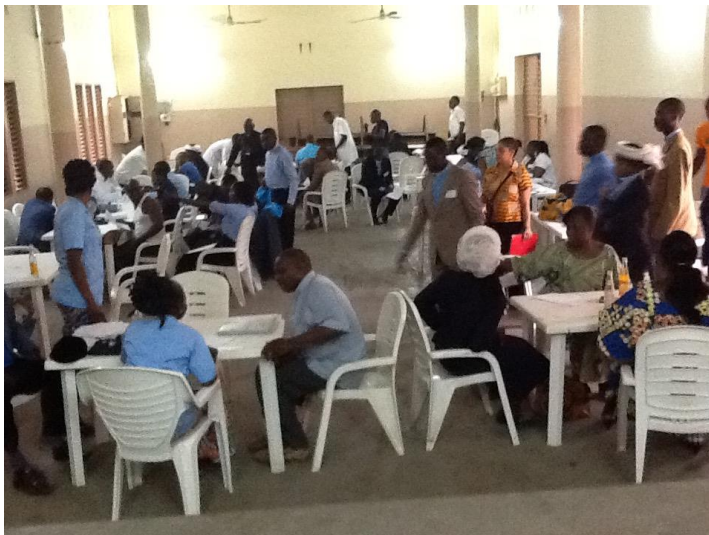
Health Promotion Programme - REPAG

The church has launched a health promotion programme with the aim of increasing knowledge and improving the health and lifestyle of the pastors, members of the congregation and their families. The programme facilitates presentations and discussions on specific topics – Hypertension and Diabetes - with clinical sessions assessing height/ weight/BMI and abdominal girth measurements, in addition to blood pressure and blood glucose tests. With every session, the health personnel are prepared to give health advice and make referrals to the hospital, as necessary.



The programme has been well received as many have discovered their health status and have been encouraged to make a habit of having regular health checks to support and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The plan for 2017 is to have at least a REPAG clinical session at every large group gathering and to encourage the pastors, members of the congregation and their families to have regular blood pressure, height /weight/BMI and when possible blood glucose checks.

I will take the opportunity to thank the members of Sunfield's Methodist Church, Blackheath South East London, for their generous contribution which will help to buy equipment for the clinics and to facilitate the administrative costs of this ever growing and highly demanded programme.



EPMB's Reconciliation

(How good and pleasant it is when God's people live in unity! - Ps. 133 vs 1)

The church in Benin has been divided for the past fifteen years. However, 2016 saw the newly elected President of the country initiating the reconciliation process which was embraced by both factions

and has resulted in considerable positive reconciliation efforts. There is a sense of forgiveness and acceptance among the members of the congregation towards the unification of the church and a hope that a blessing of unity would be the ability to pool resources to better serve the congregants. A general synod is scheduled for June-July 2017 where the two factions will elect the leadership of the united church – Praise God!

Moving Forward with Christ:

As we start another year, we pray in anticipation of God's leading and guidance in all aspects of our lives in our ministries. It is our desire to continue our ministry in Benin for a little longer but all is in God's hand – a safe place for it to be.

Prayer Points:

For the Family

- Continuing good health
 - Continue steady academic and social progress for the children
 - General safety on the roads
- A sense of peace, wisdom, and patience as we open ourselves to the leading and directing of
- God

For the Church

- The reconciliation process will be smooth, yielding spiritual fruits
- The partnership with Methodist Church Ghana will be completed quickly and will have a progressive effect on EPMB
- The health promotion programme will be developed at a manageable pace with highly motivated staff

For the Hospital

- That the long-awaited changes will be effective in improving the standard of care
- The Spirit of God will be felt in and around the hospital by all who work and visit there.
- God will give us wisdom and patience as we seek to work with and for the people