



AUGUST 2024

SAYING 'GOODBYE'

Prayer

- For the newly installed program director of CIMS, Dr. David Sunday, who assumed the directorship in July.
- For the two assistant directors – Drs. Norah Ndi and Gerard Tchinda – very talented and capable physicians.
- For the staff of both Mbingo and Bango Baptist Hospitals – who continue to persevere under very difficult circumstances.

Praises

- For the opportunity to travel to Bango Baptist Hospital in July for work and a final “send-off.”
- For the growth of the CIMS Alumni Association – the members of which have expressed a commitment to scholarship during a recent alumni meeting.

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1 (DARBY)



The new CIMS director, Dr. David Sunday (right) – alongside Assistant Directors Dr. Norah Ndi and Dr. Gerard Tchinda.

The last two months have been bittersweet – with many goodbyes and words of affection. Having worked in Cameroon for some 32 years, the time for departure seemed appropriate. On July 1, a very capable physician in the person of Dr. David Sunday stepped into the role of program director of the Christian Internal Medicine Specialization (CIMS) – our Internal Medicine residency. He is aided by two very capable assistant directors in the persons of Dr. Norah Ndi and Dr. Gerard Tchinda – pictured at left.

Following the turnover, I worked with the residency in Mbingo for the first week of July – after which it was a joy to return to Bango once again. The work in Bango Baptist Hospital preceded a scheduled “send-off.” In asking BBH to host this occasion, my principal aim was to use the event to commemorate the courage of the BBH staff – who continue to serve in the face of considerable adversity. It was mentioned to my Bango family during the send-off that, with my first 26 years in Cameroon having been spent in ‘Nso’ land, they were the only ones who could legitimately host such an occasion. (The prefix “Ba” means “people of,” with “Nso” designating the tribal area.) As explained to those gathered, when rounding on Mbingo patients, one would occasionally ask where I was from. The reply routinely offered – that I was from “Nso” – would invariably be met with laughter.



Former BBH administrator, Mrs. Rose Ndzenyiu, addresses the assembly.



Presentation of a purse by Mr. Shey Spellian – to accompany the African dress and hat.

It was equally a pleasure to be able to work with our house officers (or GP's) in BBH. We have a group of doctors there who are very keen to learn. In line with that, I prepared talks for each morning we were together. In addition to didactic sessions, the chaplains (who usually lead the weekly Bible study) asked me to do so. That was the greatest privilege of all as I chose to focus the group's

Julie Stone

STONEOFSTUMBLING@YAHOO.COM | NABONMISSION.ORG/MISSIONARIES/JULIE-STONE

attention on the prophecy given by the angel Gabriel to Daniel in chapter 9 of that book. In light of recent events in Israel, I believe this portion of Scripture has great relevance for today's world.



Group photo with some of the BBH staff – taken in front of the Out-Patient Department.

The CIMS residents hosted a lovely party as well – complete with games. Then again, the CIMS alumni have organized themselves in a most admirable way – convening in the city of Bafoussam, some four hours distant from Mbingo for their annual meeting. It was an impressive event – with internists from each hospital in turn reporting on their institutions, mostly relating challenges. This afforded an opportunity for trouble-shooting, as well as sharing ways to improve services. Two academic presentations were made at the meeting, and a scientific committee was also established. This was launched for the purpose of starting to share important cases within the group, as well as to begin to pursue regular publications in scientific journals. It was a delight to witness these innovations made by very capable colleagues.



Gathering of the CIMS alumni for their annual meeting – with internists here representing some eight institutions throughout the Health Board.

Now preparing to depart in August, it is with a heart full of gratitude for them – and for you who made all of this possible.

