

# **JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER**

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



### ***New year – new order...***

*(Popular Jamaican saying)*

We thank God for a brand-new Year – 2019. As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of 2018 whilst simultaneously hoping and planning for the projects in 2019, we pray God will continue to direct and protect us.

The New Year finds our family with fairly big changes. Our daughters have started a new school in the neighbouring country of Togo. The school they attended in Benin was, sadly, not living up to expectations and we thought the girls' education was being negatively affected. The change of school (and living situation) was made easier by the Graciousness of God opening opportunities for living and transportation arrangements, all the while retaining our work presence in Benin. This is still a work in progress, as we pray God will guide us through our day to day activities in both Benin and Togo.

### **Fruits of Reconciliation in Benin**

The church in Benin – Eglise Protestant Methodiste du Benin (EPMB) - is coming into its first year of Reconciliation and the activities to mark this occasion are being planned. Although there are uncomfortable moments, we pray the consensus of 'being one in Christ' remains and harmony will prevail as the Holy Spirit takes control.

### **Polyclinic Bon Samaritain - COMPLETION OF NEW ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK AT PBS**

The Polyclinique du Bon Samaritain (PBS) has also undergone some changes. After reporting a very fruitful 2018 in which it has successfully completed and moved its administrative offices



into its new administration block, it is also now more visible in the community after the completion of the hospital gate and signage. 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.



PBS' plans for 2019 include extending its services to the wider community through a community health programme in addition to improving its mother and child health care services by building an exclusive care centre. We pray God's continued guidance on PBS' management as they strive to be both the medical and spiritual ambassadors of Christ in the Porto Novo community.

### **REPAG - Health Promotion Programme at Temple Galilee PK6**



The Health Promotion programme – REPAG - has also seen the first session for the children's ministry which was successfully held in November with the theme 'Maintaining Personal Hygiene – Hand washing and oral care'. The session was done at our church, Temple Galilee

PK 6 and we were blessed to have our own church member, who is also a medical doctor and an employee of UNICEF, to facilitate the session. As always with children, the session was well attended, interactive and lively with toothbrushes given after the demonstration of the mechanics of brushing. Eighty-six (86) children attended the session. It was proposed that regular sessions be done – the next session hoping to be in February.

### **AFLATOUN PROGRAMME**

In the vein of holistically empowering our children - in body, mind and spirit - we are hoping to start a project which will help them to gain life skills. Research has shown that 51% of adolescents do not complete secondary education<sup>1</sup> and based on this we believe 'it is very important that while still in school these children acquire the essential skills to be successful in life, contribute to their communities and prepare them for the labour market'<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, our next work in progress is to partner with AFLATOUN INTERNATIONAL<sup>3</sup> as we look to incorporate their tried and tested programme into EPMB's 'Ecole de Dimanche' (Sunday School) program. This is in its early stages, although EPMB has started piloting in a few of its temples. We pray God's guidance in this new project as we seek to encourage workers to walk with us - with the plan to launch the programme by the middle of the year.

#### ***Our prayer points are for:***

- *The many changes of the church (EPMB) and hospital (PBS) 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*
- *The REPAG health promotion programme to grow and continue to positively impact the church and its surrounding community.*
- *The new project with AFLATOUN INTERNATIONAL to bear fruit – to positively impact the young people in the church and its surrounding community*
- *A healthy spirit, body and mind for our whole family to be maintained*
- *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:***

- *On-going good health and living experience in West Africa*
- *On-going good health for all our relatives and friends*

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<sup>1</sup> 2019 GEM UNESCO Report

<sup>2</sup> [www.aflatoun.org](http://www.aflatoun.org)

<sup>3</sup> (<https://valueofknowledge.ft.com/articles/teaching-teachers/>).

- *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!!!!*

