

THE BAPTIST HOSPITAL OF FERKESSEDOUGOU.

Physical and spiritual healing.

OUR MISSION.

- To offer the best medical care as possible at affordable prices and within our capacity.
- To reveal Christ Jesus as the loving one and the Savior of those who come in for treatments
- To collaborate with the Minister of Health, the population and all the sanitary installations in the north for the promotion of health in Côte d'Ivoire.
- To do some IEC/CCC activities (Information, Education and Communication for change in behavior.

BAPTIST HOSPITAL OF FERKESSEDOUGOU

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A SHORT HISTORY

The Baptist Hospital of Ferkessédougou is a religious institution. Dr. Charles Beal, an American missionary developed the first medical facility of Baptist Mission of Ferké. The colonial French administration granted an area of about 9 acres for the development of medical and surgical activities. Unfortunately, in 1958, the hospital had to close owing to the leaving of Dr. Beal due to health problems. In 1962, four years later, John and Dwight M. Slater who were both doctors and surgeons fled from Congo and settled in the savannah region of Côte d'Ivoire where they developed the Baptist Hospital of Ferké. Another surgeon, Dr. S. Dillinger joined them in 1968 and gradually the success of the hospital is based on its important surgical activity and its Christian commitment.

Then a great number of missionaries and volunteers arrived. They came from the USA and Europe. They were general practitioners or experts, doctors, pharmacists, maintenance agents, assistants, librarians ...with one goal – the physical and spiritual healing of crowds led by God to the Baptist Hospital of Ferkessédougou.

In the course of the first years patients were offered medical care in buildings made of bricks, but the aspect of the hospital has changed

now. Every ten years, a new modern building is added to enlarge the hospital.

Now the hospital complex includes 13 buildings with 6 devoted to the hospitalization of patients.

61 hospitalization beds are available in this “therapeutic village” which includes buildings designed respectively for surgery, radiology, drugstores, the clinic, the laboratory and its bank of blood, medical care, the devotion room, the bookshop and the administration.

Now, the staff of the hospital includes only three vocational missionaries (2 American nurses and 1 Congolese doctor). The remainder, the rest of the team that is to say 137 members of the staff comes from Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Chad and Benin. More than 70 per cent of the staff (the doctors and the surgeons, laboratory agents, the pharmacist, the anesthetist and the biologist) was trained by the hospital using its own financial resources.

The Baptist Hospital of Ferkessédougou takes care of 40,000 patients every year and dispenses primary and secondary medical care at affordable prices, respectful of their cultural diversity, regardless of their origin or belief.

Patients come from all the areas of the Côte d’Ivoire and even from neighboring countries. They suffer from various diseases and wounds. Malaria and other infections, nasty wounds and AIDS are, of course, very common here and in West Africa, but there are also cases of hypertension, diabetes, allergy and barrenness.

The Community Health Program of Ferké does various awareness heightening activities (hygiene, health, AIDS, fighting back excision, etc.) in the very town of Ferké and the surrounding villages. Every week, some vaccination sessions are organized for mothers and babies on the station.

A social worker supports the patients in urgent situation. He provides patients and families with moral and psychological support if necessary while the almoner chairs prayers and evangelization programs in favor of the staff and the users of the hospital.

At the Baptist Hospital of Ferké, we have been taking care of patients for more than 60 years, but it is God who heals them.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The hospital complex is composed of the services below:

- ✚ The clinic which includes 1 reception office, 5 offices devoted to medical consultation and 1 room for bandages and injections.
- ✚ The laboratory is equipped for all tests even the most elaborated ones such as antibiogram, blood ionogram and transaminases. It is also

equipped with a bank of blood which enables the hospital to perform close to 600 blood transfusions a year.

- ✚ Surgery service. It includes three operation rooms, a birth room and a sterilization room. Round the clock, people coming willingly or evacuated from public sanitary installations of Ferké and elsewhere get in for surgical emergencies.
- ✚ The radiology service. A 300 milliampere device, donated by Baptist American churches permit to meet the radiology needs of the hospital.
- ✚ The hospitalization service. It includes 61 beds: 7 incubators for premature babies. 3 beds are available for those with burns. The contagious cases are placed in a isolation service which includes individual bedrooms.
- ✚ The Community Health Program. It uses its services and works along with Public Hygiene National Institute and other partners (Health Alliance International) to prevent diseases in the area.
- ✚ The maintenance service. This service badly needs a suitably equipped workshop for the newly built facilities and the maintenance of the old buildings. An emergency power engine takes over when there is power cut.
- ✚ The training of the doctors. To meet its need in medical agents, the Baptist Hospital uses a three- year training program to train the doctors of the Baptist Hospital. Practical training completes the theoretical training. Some retraining sessions ensure the efficiency of the medical staff during their career.

MISCELLANEOUS PARTNERS

The Baptist Hospital has always worked along with partners on the national level on the one hand and the international level on the other. Organizations, believers and laïques pray for the hospital. Not only do they donate money and equipment but they also devote part of their time and skills to the hospital. They all act for the achievement of the mission of the Baptist Hospital of Ferké, whether their contribution is punctual or spreads out over time.

❖ Fighting back HIV/AIDS

Beside the awareness heightening program about HIV/AIDS, the hospital ensures the medical cares of those who live with HIV/AIDS including their access to ARV treatment. This project which started in accordance with the Elisabeth Glaser Pediatrics Aids Foundation (EGPAF) is still on along with Health Alliance International (HAI).

❖The National Program against Tuberculosis

The Baptist Hospital of Ferké is approved by National program against Tuberculosis as a medical center for the treatment and control of tuberculosis.

❖Insurances

The Baptist Hospital of Ferké is approved by the insurances below:

1. The association of the agents of CNRA
2. MCI – SOGEM
3. SCA – Inter A
4. Gras Savoye
5. AMAT - CI
6. ASCOMA

SOME FIGURES

At the Baptist Hospital of Ferké,

- 200 babies are born every year
- 70 to 80 patients are taken care of every day
- 40,000 persons are examined each year
- 1100 surgical operations are carried out every year
- 838 children (0 to 5 years) were vaccinated in 2013
- 1914 persons were sensitized in 2013
- Since 1987, 73 doctors have been trained.

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