

NHCP AGM 2018
Review of the year

It is my happy task to briefly summarise what has happened since our last AGM. We will approve the Trustees Annual Report for the Charity Commission shortly, this review puts some flesh on its dry bones.

Thank you very much to Bunmi (Dr Bunmi Olayisade) for her inspiring keynote talk this morning. It is so helpful to have Bunmi, with all her experience and knowledge of so many Christian activities across Africa, as a mentor and guide for NHCP. We learned the importance of being intentional, of listening well and or reasoning *with* rather than reasoning *for*, those we work with. We need to think about our impact – what are the things that need 20% investment to get 80% impact? Where can we be most effective? We should be better at collecting data, we should always be thinking about succession planning.

At our last trustees' meeting, David Laycock suggested that a key message for any charity is: 'Are you making a difference?' That phrase 'Making a Difference' is now highlighted in this year's leaflet (show) and DVD. We *are* making a difference.

On October 1st we celebrated our 25th anniversary in style at Methodist Central Hall Westminster, many thanks to Susan Solanke and Helen Onilado and their friends for hosting us. We joined with the Central Hall congregation to celebrate their church anniversary and meal, and were able to show an NHCP video in the service. We then took part in a Nigeria Chaplaincy and Fellowship service in the afternoon, followed by a social event where prizes were awarded for our short story competition and we welcomed Chibundu Onuzo as our second Patron.

A small group of young adults with a Nigerian heritage (Young Adults Movement or the YAMs for short) have agreed to help NHCP. They are all very busy people and are exploring how best to stay involved and to reach out to other groups, particularly the 18-30s group of the Overseas Fellowship of Nigerian Christians.

Olajide Majekodunmi has joined us as a trustee and one of his roles is to link with the YAMs. We look forward to further opportunities to increase the involvement of people with a Nigerian heritage in the UK.

I have talked for quite long enough about what has happened in the UK. We were able to have a training visit in February/March 2018 and combined this with visits to most of the projects apart from the Northern health centres and Ogoli-Ugboju. The 2018 DVD is, I hope, an enjoyable summary of this visit. Dr Somi Idowu, one of the YAMs, joined us for 10 days and helped with the training.

We have allocated the Muriel Frampton bequest and have a clear process in place for reviewing and reporting so that, for most places, money is being released in phases as progress is made. A couple of days ago I was sent, by WhatsApp, pictures of the new equipment for the neonatal unit and operating theatre at Bethesda hospital, which was very exciting to see.

In the coming year we need to review our strategy, structure, aims and objectives. Things are going well but we are too dependent on a few key individuals, particularly Deaconess Ronke Oworu in Nigeria who does so much to manage relationships with the church hierarchy in Lagos, the bishops and the health facilities themselves. She is a tower of strength.

We have heard from Peter Young, another tower of strength about the longer term trends in our finances, cushioned as they are by the Muriel Frampton bequest. We have lots to think about over the coming year. Thanks to everyone here, and those who cannot be here, for all your support.

David Cundall