

## **OFFICIAL REPORT ON CONJOINED TWINS**

Subject: Separation surgery for conjoined twins Ndi Davis and Daryl

I am writing to report progress in our search for the expert health facilities willing to undertake the much needed separation surgery on Davis and Daryl at reasonable costs. In that wise, we put in place strategies aimed at giving **“HOPE TO DAVIS AND DARYL”**.

### **Background information:**

In April 2015, I received an email talking about the existence of a set of 8 months old male conjoined twins born to an unemployed couple, Ndi Julius and Evelyn on August 27<sup>th</sup> 2014 in the Banso Baptist Hospital. I paid them a visit a few days later and after observing the precarious conditions they were living in, further worsened by their mother who, due to a spinal cord surgery was rendered crippled from the waist, I decided to bring them to Yaoundé and start seeking assistance. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> they arrived here and on the 24<sup>th</sup> were consulted by Prof KOKI, a seasoned paediatrician and Director of the CBF where they were admitted for appropriate medical care and follow up while the search went on.

### **Strategy used:**

I immediately informed the president of the Wimum Cultural and Development Association (WICUDA) who convened his executive bureau members and a think tank group was formed to impulse the fundraising effort to assist with “giving Hope to D&D” as it came to be known.

I contacted Mrs EGBE MONJIMBO in the United States of America, who, using her personal blog “sakerpride”, immediately set to work to sensitize the international community about the plight of the abandoned NDI conjoined twins. She opened a “gofundme” page for the collection of financial assistance which came in from all over the world.

The KILLAH family that had alerted me to the existence of the kids also came forward and organized a religious musical concert in Toronto Canada to collect funds for the support of the Hope for D&D project.

### **Result of the search**

In May and June 2015, the Houston’s’ Children’s hospital, after long discussions led by Dr Ndinjiakat Samuel, finally signalled their willingness to undertake the separation surgery of Davis and Daryl for a cost estimated at USD 524 000. In reporting to the authorities of the CBF, it was clear that this amount, corresponding to about FCFA 280 million seemed exorbitant and It was agreed that the search should continue.

Contact was made with the following agencies:

- **The Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, USA, which took an interest in the case and engaged a dialogue with the family and officials in Cameroon.**

- The “Chaine de l’Espoir” of Prof Eric Cheyson in France, which had just operated on a Guinean Siamese set of twins in May/June 2015;
- Rev Robert Tantoh contacted a Swiss couple who was willing to examine the case and get their doctor in Kigali to treat the children;
- Mr AKALE Henry pointed us to the St John’s teaching hospital in Bangalore India where Dr. Mainak has already formally sent us an acceptance letter as part of the documents necessary for a medical visa to be given for their travel for surgery they need.

These options were presented to the think tank in a meeting on Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup> and the St John’s hospital option retained the attention and admiration of the members. Further discussions with the other member of the team, Mrs Egbe, led to the need for due diligence to ascertain the experience of the health facility to successfully undertake the operation.

It was revealed by Mr Akale who has privy knowledge of the institution that “As concerns the experience of the hospital in these operations, St. John's was among the first 15 university teaching hospitals in India. Created and supervised by the Catholic Bishops of India more than 30 years ago, the credentials of the Professor (MAINAK) who has been identified to take up the case should not be put to question. With over 15,000 Doctors in Bangalore alone (compared to the 4,000 in all of Cameroon) it is certain the twins will get the help they need while at St John's”.

### **In terms of perspectives:**

With the expertise of the hospital ascertained, measures are currently being taken to secure the relevant travel documents so that Mr Ndi Julius and the conjoined twins, accompanied by a nurse the family recruited for a period of 12 months leave for Bangalore as soon as possible for the surgery before they turn 1 year old on August 27<sup>th</sup> 2015. The second week of August seems like a feasible timeline for the departure.

### **RESULT OF THE FUNDRAISING**

So far 3 points of fundraising/collection were identified with the following results:

- 1) **Mrs Egbe Monjimbo through her personal blog** was able to raise about USD 26 000 which will be consecrated to partially covering the costs to be incurred during this first crucial visit estimated at USD 42 000 and will be transferred to India for it.
- 2) **Wimbum Cultural and Development Association (WICUDA)** in Cameroon about USD 12 000, currently found in an account in UBA bank opened in the

name of Davis and Daryl and which will be managed by this group to cover the tickets and the salary of the medical staff recruited to reinforce the team working for the babies.

- 3) **The Gofundme Toronto** which collected about USD 4000 will send this into the St John's hospital account to cover the test for the follow up envisaged 6 months after the operation.

The total amount from funds raised is about **USD 46 600 amount. It is important to mention here that its management rests with those who raised it, and who are conscious of the need for transparency and rendering account to the sponsors with relevant documents showing traceability of the funds collected and their pertinence to the subject of the collection.**

**Projected expenses include the following:**

**PHASE 1: Trip to St John's hospital for the separation surgery**

- 1) Temporary costs of evaluation and surgery notified by St John's USD 6 000
- 2) Round trip ticket for 3 adults and 2 babies on this trip is about USD 8 000
- 3) Administrative costs (visas fees x5 etc) USD 2 000
- 4) Accommodation/feeding for 2 adults for 6 weeks on this visit  
( USD 700/week x 2pers x 6 weeks= USD 8 400
- 5) Medical care of the twins (about USD 1000/weekx6weeks= USD 6000
- 6) Feeding of the babies (USD 250/child/week x2x6)= USD 3000
- 7) Salary of the fulltime medical staff accompanying them while on mission to India  
(USD400/weekx6weeks) USD 2 400
- 8) Salary of the fulltime medical staff accompanying them in Cameroon  
(USD200/weekx44weeks USD 8 800

**Total projected expenditure for phase 1 can be estimated at USD 46 600**

**PHASE 2: The second visit to St John's hospital 6months later for follow up**

- 1) Approximate costs of test for control of recovery ( **USD 2000/child=USD 4000**
- 2) Round trip ticket for 2 adults and 2 babies on this trip is about=**USD 6 000**
- 3) Accommodation/feeding for 2 adults for 2 weeks on this visit  
( USD 700/week x 2pers x 2 weeks=USD 2 800
- 4) Medical care of the twins (about USD 1000/weekx2weeks= USD 2000

- 5) Salary of the fulltime medical staff accompanying them while on mission to India (USD400/weekx2weeks) USD 800

**Projected total expenditure for phase 2 is estimated at USD 15 800**

Total projected costs of the effective separation of Davis and Daryl and the follow up visit can be estimated at about **USD 62 400 (subtotal A =46 600 + subtotal 2= 15 800)**. **To this amount should be added a budget line for unforeseen expenses and incidentals usually set at 10% of total costs = USD 6 240**

**The total expenditure can then be estimated at USD 62 400+USD 6240= USD 68 640.**

**In conclusion:**

We have been able to mobilize the sum of USD 44 600 to finance the surgical operation of Davis and Daryl and give them hope for a better life as separate individuals in their own rights.

**We are hereby soliciting further assistance to cover the remaining costs estimated at USD 20 640 (USD 62 640- USD 42 000)**

For and on behalf of the family  
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