

IHDN News

DECEMBER 2015

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Message from the President

Dear friends,

The year is almost over and we are all very excited about the end of year activities. Typically, this is the busiest time of the year for most individuals, businesses and organizations. It is also the time for us to take stock and reflect on the past 12 months.

We thank the Lord God for seeing us through another successful year. We continue to serve and bless the people of southeastern Ghana through this medical ministry. We successfully sponsored 2 trips to Ghana and shipped a 40ft container .

We continue to receive support from our friends and well wishes by raising \$55,700 during our fundraiser in March. These funds have been used to help in the building of the staff apartment, which is now re-designed to 30 units block. We are remodeling existing hospital space to start a labor and delivery service in 2016. The ambulance we shipped to Ghana arrived safely.

We thank the Lord for allowing us to accomplish all these projects. We also thank all of you, who have prayed and supported us on this journey. Next year, we will be celebrating 20 years of existence as a ministry. We are a very small organization compared to other ministries and operate on shoe string budget and support of people like you. Yet, our reach is very wide and deep. We thank you for your support. We invite you to join us in this celebration by supporting us financially and/or joining us on a trip to Ghana in July 2016.

We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year! May God bless you.

Sincerely

Dr. Edem Agamah

Moody Church, Chicago & Area Churches support IHDN

A seven-member volunteer mission team from the Moody Church, Chicago will be joining the IHDN mission team to Ghana in January 2016. This is a great opportunity to build a relationship with one of the leading Churches in the country. Hope Church, Laurel United Methodist Church , Blessed Sacrament & First Evangelical Lutheran Church Decatur have also been supporting IHDN. PEO of Springfield IL also supported IHDN. We are so thankful for people and churches, who believed in us and supported our efforts. We pray that other churches will step up and join us on this journey and God's name will be glorified. Please pray for a successful trip to Ghana.

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HEALTH STATISTICS

MATERNAL MORTALITY -2015 (per100,000 births)

Afghanistan	- 400
Barbados	-52
Cameroun	-590
Chad	-980
Ghana	-380
Guyana	-250
Haiti	-380
Nigeria	-560
South Africa	- 140
Sierra Leone	-1100
US	-28

Source: World Health Org

www.apps.who.int/iris

Thank God for a successful 27th mission trip to Ghana - January 29 to February 28, 2015

We sponsored the 27th mission trip to Ghana from July 16 to August 17, 2015. The team was made up of the following volunteers : Dr. Edem Agamah & Mrs. June Agamah. We were also assisted by a Ghanaian medical team, made up of 3 doctors, Dr. Sylvarius Amuzu, Dr. Eleazar Blasu, Dr. Gospel Atsu Agamah, who performed surgeries. Mrs. Linda Agamah, a nurse anesthetist provided anesthesia services and Mr. Mawuli Kpodo, a perioperative nurse, assisted with updates on Medical Surgical Nursing lectures.

We undertook the following activities:

1. Medical Surgical Nursing Training, with a competency examinations for the nursing staff of the hospital.
2. English and Mathematics Assessment for all members of staff. This also helped us to identify staff members, who will be trained in the future to assume leadership roles.
3. Donated 20 desks to an elementary school at Worgbato, one of the poor villages near Agbozume. IHDN is adopting this school and plan to offer more resources in the future.
4. Treated over 2,452 patients (62% females), and performed surgeries on 42 patients. Most of the patients had malaria, hypertension, and degenerative joint disease, while hernia surgery was the commonest operation done.
5. We donated choir robes to the EP Church at Agbozume
6. Interviewed and recruited staff for the hospital, including a new Nursing Leadership team made up of Ms. Theresa Morgan, (Matron), Ms. Vincentia Hlogbe (Head of Maternity Unit), Ms. Josephine Kudzawu (Head of Surgery).
7. Hosting of staff dinner and retirement ceremony for Ms. Edith Kudowor, Nursing officer, who was honored for her commitment and service to IHDN. She is retiring from active service but will be available for part time duties when needed.
8. Attended church services at Accra Chapel, Korle Bu and Legon Inter-Denomination Church, Legon. These are two of the leading churches in Accra, attended by many doctors and academicians. It is very encouraging to see how God has blessed these churches with resourceful members compared to other churches.

IHDN Mission Hospital Activity update

The hospital treated over 27,873 patients at the end of October 2015. This is slightly lower than the 31,775 patients treated in the same period in 2014. There is a major delay in issuing National Health Insurance cards. Because of that, most patients without a card do not turn up for treatment at the hospital until they are very ill to the point of death. As a result, most patients admitted are critically ill. With no Intensive Care Unit, some of these patients expire either on arrival or just after admission. IHDN is one of the few hospitals in Ghana that treats patients whether or not they have insurance. We also offer emergency treatments even though patients do not have funds to pay. After admission, we ask the family to help reimburse the cost. For some patients this is an impossibility, so we just discharge them. We have tried to raise local funds from churches and groups to help pay for these uninsured patients, but this has not yielded much.

The biggest challenge remains the delay in payment of claims submitted to the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA). At the time of this writing, we have received payment only for patients treated up to April 2015. We are hope and pray that as the economy improves, the NHIA will be able to pay its bills on time.

Why Me, Lord?
by Becky C. Williamson, MS, RDN, LDN
The Moody Church, Medical Emergency Response Team—Chicago

As I look back upon my life, I stand in awe of the richness of God's mercies, grace, and glory. Never in my dreams did I ever imagine that I'd be answering God's call to go to Ghana, Africa, as a team member on The Moody Church's first short-term medical missionary trip with IHDN. I plan to serve as a Registered Dietitian, Medical Nutrition Therapist, and Educator. I can't say obeying God's calls have been easy. In fact, I can't tell you the number of times I've asked myself out loud while sighing in agony, feeling the bruises of my own pride, "Why am I doing this? What have I gotten myself into?"

After a 20-plus year detour in life, God's call for me to go back to school for an advanced nutrition degree to serve Him was shaped by many spiritual growing pains. However, the more I submitted to His will over my own, the more He opened me up to life-changing, deeply satisfying experiences that multiplied my gratefulness for all that He has provided and done. He removed my sheltered blinders and expanded my comfort zone, armed me with a tender heart and promises that His word would never go out in vain when serving Him. As a result, here in urban Chicago, He showed me inexplicable joy in providing medical nutrition therapy and teaching good nutrition and healthful lifestyle behaviors to various Chicago communities.

God also showed me that His church could accomplish even more than just one individual when serving His needs. While serving with and learning from members of the Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) at The Moody Church, I regularly witnessed Christ's love poured out from each heart as the team tirelessly and self-sacrificially served the parishioners, helping me to grasp more deeply the infinite nature of Christ's love through the body of His church.

So why am I going to Ghana, Africa to serve an unfamiliar people and culture? I can't say specifically; but as the Holy Spirit continues to help me take another step in faith, God's glory continues to be revealed to me and the unity of Christ's love in His beautiful church sparkles ever more brightly in my heart. Through His power and sanctification, I can say with confidence: "Here I am, Lord. Use me how you see fit." It is an honor and privilege to serve Christ for His kingdom.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21, NLT)

Dr. Edem & Mrs. June Agamah Receive Legacy Award for Their Work With IHDN

October 15 was a great day in the lives of Dr. & Mrs Edem Agamah and IHDN. They were honored by the *State Journal-Register* with the Legacy Award in Healthcare. This award was given to them for their work with IHDN in Ghana. Other Legacy Awards were given to recognize noteworthy and extraordinary leaders in Sangamon County. The Agamahs were moved and gave glory to God for all that has been done. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Agamah stated that they were just being obedient servants to fulfill the work that they felt called to do. They did not know that they would get awards for it. We thank all of you who have stood by us over the years and believed in our efforts. We hope the Lord will draw more people and resources to support the work being undertaken.

Twenty-eighth mission trip to Ghana January 28 to February 27, 2016

We are undertaking the 28th mission trip to Ghana from January 28 to February 27, 2016. The team is made up of the following:

Team A- January 28-February 14, 2016

1. Dr. Edem Agamah, Team leader
2. Mrs. June Agamah – Logistics Coordinator
3. Dr. Jill Utley – Physician, Arizona
4. Mr. Noble Adigbli – Emergency Response, Administrator, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
5. Ms Caryl Brato – Nurse – Moody Church, Chicago, IL
6. Dr. Hannah Brooks, Pharmacist – Moody Church, Chicago, IL
7. Mr. Babajide MacAulay – Business & Construction, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
8. Ms. Becky Williamson, Dietician, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
9. Dr. Jimmy Young, Physician, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
10. Mr. Benjamin Johnson, Medical Student, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
11. Ms. Elizabeth Bron, Administration, Hope Church, Springfield, IL
12. Mr. Chris Bron, Engineer & Construction, Hope Church, Springfield, IL
13. Mr. Ronald Portwood, Medical Assistant, Springfield, IL

Team B – January 28- February 27, 2016 - Medical Student Electives

14. Ms. Lacey Wood, Medical Student, SIU School of Medicine, Springfield, IL
15. Ms. Andrea Iyekepolo, Medical Student, SIU School of Medicine, Springfield, IL

We will be joined by a Ghanaian team, including Dr. S. Zakaria, Dr. Sylvarius Amuzu, Dr. Eleazar Blasu, Dr. Gospel Agamah & Mrs. Linda Agamah

The main activities to be undertaken during this trip are:

1. Providing specialized medical and surgical care
2. Assisting with electrical wiring, carpentry and interior work with the 30 unit, 5-story IHDN hospital staff apartment,
3. In-service training in Medical and Surgical Nursing
4. Community Outreach, with Clinics at Worgbato, Lotakor, Taskorner, Nogokpo
5. Tutorials in Internal Medicine & Tropical Medicine
6. Dietary and Nutritional Training for Nurses
7. Pharmacy and Dispensary Management
8. Assisting with planning and administration of the hospital

Please pray with us as we undertake this trip. Pray for the Ghanaian team coming to help us and the people we seek to serve. Pray that in all these God's name will be glorified

Update on Construction of IHDN Staff Apartment & Roads

As at October, 2015, plastering work on the ground floor has been completed. We are yet to install doors, windows, wiring, plumbing and cabinets to allow for occupancy of the ground floor. We hope to complete this by the early parts of 2016 to allow some of the staff to move there. As at the end of September 2015, we have spent about \$342,857, including concrete floor for the 3rd floor and partially completed access road. The building has been redesigned to add another floor to the building to make it a 5 floors with 30 units. We are also praying and asking our friends and well-wishers to help support this project, estimated at \$600-800,000.

IHDN to Host 5th Fundraising Banquet in Springfield

We will host the 5th Fundraising banquet on March 18, 2016 in Springfield, IL. This annual event entitled, "Bringing the world together" will seek to raise \$100,000 in support of the building of the staff apartment and road construction. Since 2012, we have raised \$233,898 at the 4 events we held. These funds have helped us to pay for a back-up generator, complete the inpatient wards and started the Staff apartment. We thank all those who volunteered and also donated funds towards these projects. We will appreciate your continued support.

IHDN to start Labor & Delivery Services

Safe delivery is a luxury in most parts of the developing world. The Agbozume/Klikor/Weta area is no stranger to this situation.

Since 2008, when we opened our doors, we have noted an increase in the demand for hospital bed for pregnant women with acute illness. They are usually admitted with malaria, anemia, hypertension and diabetes. When they improve and discharged, they are lost to follow up, because we do not presently provide delivery services. That is about to change beginning 2016.

We are remodeling existing space in the courtyard to create a 10 - bed maternity ward. We are also converting the private wards into labor and delivery rooms and an operating room. We have obtained and shipped supplies including fetal Doppler, Delivery bed, Vacuum delivery kit, surgical instruments and phototherapy unit.

Medical Supplies Shipped to Ghana

We shipped a 40 ft container to Ghana on Nov 19, 2015. The shipment included furniture, surgical and medical equipment, school desks and books. The cost of the container is \$4,143. We received support from the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, obtained supplies from Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, Memorial Medical Center, Passavant Area Hospital and In His Service Jesus is Lord. We thank all those who supported this effort. Even though most of the items are used, donated, with minimal resale values, IHDN still pays duties and port charges in Ghana. This is usually higher than the cost of shipment. We would appreciate your help in paying these fees after the container arrives in Ghana.

IHDN WILL BE 20 YEARS IN MARCH 2016.**WE ARE INVITING THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1. VOLUNTEERS & FAMILIES, WHO WENT TO GHANA IN THE PAST**
- 2. THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE MINISTRY FROM THE US**
- 3. THOSE JUST CURIOUS TO SEE WHAT WE DO IN GHANA**

TO JOIN US FOR THE SUMMER MISSION TRIP FROM JULY 14-30., 2016.

PLEASE JOIN US SERVE & CELEBRATE WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE THROUGH YOU IN GHANA .

PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TODAY TO IHDN@AOL.COM OR CALL 217-787-6530 TO RESERVE A SEAT IMMEDIATELY. SEATS ARE GOING VERY FAST.

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using the earthly healthcare
ministry of Jesus Christ as
an example.*

www.ihdn.org

MONEY MATTERS

Form 990 Tax return for FY 2014

Total Revenue \$	237,252
Total Expenses \$	247,344
Revenue less Expenses \$	<10,092

Gifts Received in Memory/Honor

In memory of the late Mrs. Nancy Heinzl

In lieu of wedding gifts to honor Mr. & Mrs. Chris & Liz Bron

In lieu of birthday presents to honor Mrs. Marilyn Lawler

Thanks for your support.

We need your continued support. Please prayerfully consider how you can help us continue the work in Ghana with an end of year gift or donation of appreciated stocks or mutual funds. May God bless you.

All donations are tax deductible



Worgbato students enjoy new desk & workbook



English & Maths Assessment for IHDN Staff in progress



Precious & Mawusi perform laboratory tests



Staff apartments under construction



Mr. Ben Agamah, with Dr. Edem & June Agamah



Donation of choir robes to EP Church, Agbozume