

SUMMARY

GHANA MISSION TRIP REPORTS

11th Medical Mission Trip - 2007

1ST IHDN WINTER MISSION TRIP



IHDN sponsored a 13-member volunteer mission team to Ghana from February 1-18, 2007 & February 1-27, 2007. The main focus of this trip was to assist with the ongoing construction work at the IHDN Mission Hospital and extend water to the Hospital site.

See the listed team members. All the volunteers came from Wisconsin, apart from Mr. Stutzman and Mr. Kolding. They were recruited by Mr. David Calley, a former volunteer to Ghana. Summary of activities follow.

Construction work—Originally, the team was supposed to install windows and doors shipped to Ghana in the Outpatient building. Unfortunately, there was a delay in the building, hence the need to focus on some other projects. The team assisted with the laying of walls to various rooms under construction but the bulk of the efforts went into the construction of the driveway into the hospital compound.

Clinic Work—Dr. Agamah held clinics at the IHDN Family Medical Center and also at Worgbato, near the village where we purchased the irregular “W” shaped land. Over 155 patients were treated by Dr. Agamah, who was assisted by Jan Calley, Sally Gaard and Janet Daniels. Most of the patients were returning with hypertension and diabetes. We did not have any major clinical problems or deaths. Because of the dry season, we did not encounter mosquitoes very much, hence very little malaria.

Donations of Desks, Fire Service Manual and Medications—We made donations of 25 desks to the Elementary School at Agbozume. The school has over 700 students, with very poor resources. The school administration and students were very appreciative of this gesture. Apart from not having desks, these students do not have textbooks. There may be only one or two textbooks to be shared among 30 or 40 students. We also donated a Fire Service Training Manual to the Fire Service Department at Denu. We also made a small donation of medications to the Ketu District Hospital at Aflao.

Team Members

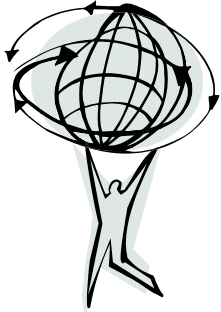
Team A: February 1-18

Dr. Edem Agamah
Mr. John Neal
Mr. Abe Stutzman

Team B: February 1-27

Mr. Dale Abegglen
Mr. David Calley
Mrs. Janice Calley
Mr. David Daniels
Mrs. Janet Daniels
Mr. Gary Gaard
Mrs. Sally Gaard
Mr. Matt Kolding
Mrs. Laura Woodworth
Mr. Phil Woodworth

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Farmers Workshop—Dave Calley and Matt Kolding held meetings with different farming groups. They also visited farms, including a cattle farm to help the farmers improve on their work. The farmers want to raise cattle to produce milk. Mr. Calley thinks a better option is to introduce milk producing goats in the area through Heifer International. Some of farmers implemented the recommendation of Dave Calley on a previous trip by planting hybrid corn. The yield was superior and now farmers are going to start planting that corn

Packing of Warehouse—The team also spent sometime packing and organizing items shipped to Ghana. Hopefully, we will be able to complete an accurate inventory of all medical supplies.

Church Service—We attended church services with the Agbozume EP Church. Dr. Agamah preached on the first Sunday we were in Ghana. After the departure of the first team, Team B attended church service with the congregation at Legon Interdenominational Church on the campus of the University of Ghana , Legon. Professor Senanu, a former Vice Chancellor of the University and a founding member of this church hosted part of the team, while we were in Accra. Accordingly, it was fitting for the group to experience worship in this setting, mingling with the University Professors and students in the premier University of Ghana. They met prominent academicians, and leaders, including the former Vice President of Ghana, Professor Atta Mills, who visited Springfield , IL a few years ago.

Visit to Akosombo Dam—The team paid a visit to the Akosombo Dam. This is a dam built in the 1960s with investments by Kaiser Aluminum Company to generate cheap hydroelectric power for their Aluminum smelter plant in Ghana. In the 1960s there was abundant power generated by this dam. Recently, with low water levels and population growth, the power generated is not enough to go around for 22 million people . The team got the chance to see the low water level. Let us pray for the rains to come so that normal power production could be resumed.

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Shopping & Socialization with the Ghanaian Society in Accra—The team spent last Friday and Saturday in Accra sightseeing and also completing their shopping. One of the team members read in the papers about the high yield of approximately 12% on Money Market investments in Ghana. This led us to pay a visit to Databank, the premier brokerage company in Ghana. We were received very well by the leadership. There was a 30-minute presentation to the group on the Ghanaian economy and investment opportunities in Ghana. The main Mutual Fund in Ghana called Epack gained over 31% return in 2006. Databank is happy to work with both Ghanaians and non-Ghanaians. You can check their website www.databankgroup.com.

We made a stop at Accra Chapel, one of the oldest, non-denominational church based on the campus of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital to visit with Rev & Mrs. Addison. In the evening, Dr. & Mrs. Kwamin hosted a dinner party for the group. There was no electric power so we had to make do with hurricane lamps and candles. I did not get the chance to celebrate my 47th birthday, which fell on Feb 14, so the team used this opportunity to sing and wished me a happy birthday. I thank the Lord for life and good health and all His blessings this far. Thanks to Dr & Mrs. Kwamin and others for remembering my birthday and wishing me well.

Once again we thank the Lord for another successful trip. We thank all of you for your prayers and support.

EXCERPT FROM JUNE 2007 NEWSLETTER

MODEL SCHOOL DESKS BOOST MORALE OF STUDENTS IN GHANA

THEY COME TO SCHOOL EACH DAY, RESIGNING TO THEIR FATE OF SQUEEZING THEMSELVES IN VERY SMALL SIZED CLASSROOM DESKS. THEY KNOW THAT THEY ARE UNCOMFORTABLE IN CLASS BUT THEY HAVE TO COMPLETE THEIR ASSIGNMENTS ANYWAY. THESE STUDENTS, FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT AGBOZUME, ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM OTHER STUDENTS IN SMALL TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN GHANA OR THE US. BUT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES. WHEN THE IHDN TEAM ASSEMBLED 25 NEW DESKS FOR THE SCHOOL, THE EXCITEMENT AND GREAT JOY THAT THESE DESKS PRODUCED IN THE LIVES OF THE STUDENTS AND THE SCHOOL WERE UNIMAGINABLE. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THIS SCHOOL AND OTHERS AS MUCH AS WE CAN. WE THANK GOD FOR THE VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF OF MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER, CHATHAM, IL, WHO HELPED US WITH THESE DESKS. MAY GOD BLESS YOU.