

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear friends,

This has been a very busy year for us. We completed a mission trip to Ghana, hosted a fund raiser and celebrated the graduation of 2 residents and a medical student. We also mourn the loss of Mr. Benjamin Agamah & Mrs. Irene Agamah within a span of 3 months.

We continue to receive interest and support for our work from many individuals. We have been featured in the local newspaper twice.

We share with you our progress report so far.

We would like to thank all of you for supporting our efforts.

May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely

Dr. Edem Agamah

Celebration of the lives of President and wife in the US & in Ghana

Mr. Benjamin Agamah, founding president of IHDN, Ghana went home to be with the Lord on March 14, 2017. Shortly after that, his wife, Mrs. Irene Agamah fell ill and eventually passed away on June 16.

Both Mr. & Mrs. Agamah, were the inspiration behind the formation of IHDN. Mr. Agamah, served as the president of IHDN-Ghana.

Even though we are saddened by the loss, we rejoice in the knowledge that they are in heaven and we will meet again. They leave behind a very rich legacy of Christian Healthcare service and family life. Their sacrifice and inspiration were palpable. As a result, we are now providing healthcare to over 60,000 people. They have demonstrated and modeled, faith in Christ, selflessness, hard work, kindness, compassion, gentleness, caring, integrity and faithfulness.

They will be buried at the Ideal Home Memorial Garden on July 21, 2017. This Garden is near the IHDN Mission Hospital and Hospital and will be used as future burial grounds for partners and supporters of IHDN, who depart this world.

IHDN host 6th Fundraising Banquet in Springfield on April 7, 2017

We hosted the 6th Fundraising banquet on April 7, 2017 at Hope Church Springfield, IL on April 7, 2017. This was attended by 315 guests, who were served by 120 volunteers. Our goal this year was to raise \$150,000 towards the staff apartment and purchase an Xray machine. So far, we have received \$89,000. We thank all who donated. We are hoping that we reach our target to enable us complete these projects. We thank God for the generosity of people like you.

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HEALTH STATISTICS

Per capita (\$) expenditure on health -2007

Ghana	- 113
Ivory Coast	- 67
Togo	-68
Burkina Faso	-72
Africa Region	- 137

HIV/AIDS (per 100,000)

Ghana	- 89
Ivory Coast	- 197
Togo	-138
Burkina Faso	-62
Africa Region	- 174

Source: World Health Org

Thirty first mission trip to Ghana July 13 to July 31, 2017

We are undertaking the 31st mission trip to Ghana from July 13 to July 31, 2017. The team is made up of the following:

July 13 to July 30—Team A

1. Dr. Edem Agamah, Team leader
2. Mrs. June Agamah – Logistics Coordinator
3. Dr. Frances Matthews - Medical Oncologist
4. Dr. Karen Hoelzer – Medical Oncologist,
5. Mrs. Hilda Elie Ahiable, Nurse
6. Mr. Emmanuel Ahiable, Photographer/Artist
7. Ms. Joy Tettevi, Student
8. Dr. John Sutyak Surgeon
9. Mr. Sean Sutyak Student

July 14 to July 31, 2017 - Team B

10. Ms Emma Ahiable—Teacher
11. Mr. Clemence Ahiable, - Personal Trainer/Construction

July 17 to July 30, 2017 - Team C

12. Ms. Akpene Agamah - Student
13. Ms. Aseye Agamah - Student
14. Ms. Alikem Agamah - Student

During this trip, we will be hosting a Continuing Medical Education program at the IHDN Mission Hospital for Doctors, Medical Students, Pharmacists, Physician Assistants and Nurses on July 18, 2017. The goal is to equip these healthcare practitioners with an updated knowledge in the care of cancer patients and trauma management. Topics to be discussed include Cancers of the Breast, Colon, Prostate, Ovary, Uterus, Leukemia, Anemia, Management of Mass Trauma, Burns and Surgical Critical Care. This program has been approved by the Ghana Medical & Dental Council for the award of 3 CPD credit points. Doctors in Ghana are required to accrue at least 15 credit points each year to maintain their license. We will also provide medical and surgical care at the hospital.

On July 21, we will join the Agamah family to celebrate the lives of Mr. Benjamin Agamah and Mrs. Irene Agamah at Agbozume, followed by their burial at the Ideal Home Memorial Gardens, located adjacent to the Hospital. Please join us in praying for this trip and all that we are going to do.

Thank God for a successful 30th mission trip to Ghana – January 26 to February 11, 2017.

We sponsored the 30th mission trip to Ghana from January 26 to February 11, 2017. The team was made up of the following volunteers :

Dr. Edem Agamah, Team leader
Mrs. June Agamah – Logistics Coordinator
Mr. James Borody - Laboratory Consultant, Kalamazoo, MI
Mr. Noble Adigbli – Construction,
Business Development, Administrator, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
Dr. Vanessa Chavez, Clinics, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
Mr. Babajide MacAulay – Business & Construction, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
Mr. Ronald Ingram, Christian Leadership & Discipleship Training, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
Mr. Felix Lulusa, Construction Management, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
Dr. Safiya McNeese, Resident SIU School of Medicine Springfield, IL
Dr. Shely Roy, OB-Gyne Resident SIU , Hope Church, IL
Dr. Ibrahim Cetindag, Surgeon, Cedar Rapids, IA
Ms. Cathleen Brehm, Registered Nurse, Cedar Rapids, IA
Dr. Josiah Zubairu, Resident, University of Iowa, Iowa City

Mr. Matthew Soltys, SIU Medical Student, Cherry Hills Church, Springfield, IL (retuned on Feb 26, 2017)

The following is a summary of the major accomplishments during our trip.:

1. We provided medical care to 1,148 patients in 9 days. This included surgeries on 36 patients.
2. We screened 125 market women and men for hypertension. Over 27% had severe hypertension.
3. We installed a new Chemistry machine and provided training for laboratory staff
4. We provided training in inventory and supply management for hospital staff
5. We built and installed cabinets and wardrobes on the first floor of the staff apartment.
6. We gave lectures to Doctors, Nurses & Students at the Hospital and in the Police Hospital
7. We provided nutritious meals to 80 students at Worgbato

Dr. Hoelzer hosts Fundraiser in support of Breast Cancer Care in Ghana

Dr. Karen Hoelzer, Medical Oncologist at the Springfield Clinic, hosted a Pizza Party at her home on June 10, 2017, to raise funds to support Breast Cancer Care in Ghana. The event was attended by her friends and family. Her fundraising goal is to raise \$10,000. We are pleased to announce that she raised \$2,000 on that day alone. Donations continue to trickle in. She continues to talk to people to support our efforts to provide breast cancer care in Ghana. We thank all who attended the party or supported this fundraising effort. May the Lord richly bless you.

Tribute to Mrs. Irene Agamah -By Akpene, Aseye & Alikem Agamah

Irene (Mama) and Benjamin Agamah (Daddy), were incredible human beings whose kindness and selflessness seemed to know no bounds. Their lives of radical generosity blessed those around them and inspired their children and grandchildren to be sources of blessing to others as well. It's such a gift to be able to hear other people's stories about them, knowing that God used them to touch countless lives. We have recorded some memories of them here to add to the narratives honoring their lives.

Irene Agamah was an enigma, an incredibly remarkable woman whose life remains a bit of a mystery. Despite this, we still felt a closeness to her, especially in the years leading up to her passing. Even though our grandmother spoke only a little English, she found other ways to convey the depths of her love for her grandchildren. Grandma would come to visit when we were still babies, carrying us on her back, sewing us beautiful little outfits, bathing and feeding us with gentle care. Her love was palpable: we saw it in the depth of her gaze, could feel it gently weighing on each of us, a warm blanket of love that we would, far too often, shrug off our shoulders in embarrassment. In retrospect, we see that this was her reaching across the chasm of cross-cultural barriers, offering herself, her touch, her attention.

We were not the only children upon whom she doted, as she loved kids. Every infant was an angel to her. She always felt obliged to make contact with these divine little beings. She loved all children of all colors, shapes and sizes, and these children loved her in return.

Both of our grandparents had such servants' hearts. In their culture, children and grandchildren typically were expected to wait on their elders. However, when they came to visit, they were always more than happy to sweep and wash and clean for us, even when we insisted against it; it was so selfless of them, so giving.

Grandma was an excellent cook. We remember eating her pancakes wondering how she could get them to be so buttery and fluffy, even when she used the same mix we did; they were perfection. We would also beg her to make watercakes - a tantalizing concoction of fried dough, nutmeg and other spices.

Despite not having gone to high school, Grandma was very smart and a quick learner, who taught herself a lot of things. Every few years we might get a new appliance, such as a microwave or the television, and so each time she came to visit we had to teach her how to use this new technology. We only had to teach her once though; when she learned something, she remembered it. Grandma's brain remained sharp as a tack for much of her old age, and we believe it was because she was always reading. Even though she did not always know or understand all the words she will ask for the meaning or look in the dictionary. She would read all she could get her hands on-- newspapers, magazines cereal boxes, you name it. Her curiosity and love for learning knew no bounds.

When she came to the States to visit, she would often walk around our house bundled up with scarves and gloves/mittens, even if the heat was on. She would meander through all the rooms on the ground floor, entering one doorway to walk through another, only to follow the same route again and again and end up where she'd been before. Sometimes she was silent, but more often than not, she would sing, usually in *Ewe*. Our Grandmother, like her husband, loved music. The one English song we remember her singing is

"Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree"

Under the spreading chestnut tree

With my baby on my knee

Oh how happy I should be

Under the spreading chestnut tree.

The image of our grandmother wandering our home in Springfield, singing her heart out is one of the many we will cherish and keep close to our hearts.

Tribute to Mr. Benjamin Agamah By Akpene, Aseye & Alikem Agamah

A slender man, you might take one look at him and never know that he possessed a firm, iron grip; this grip seemed so strange, juxtaposed with his gentleness of spirit. But those who knew him and remembered the way he would take hold of your arm or hand in a tight clasp, knew that it was a prolonged gesture of his deep affection for you. He wanted to reach you, to see you, to connect. This was why he was here on this earth. This is what he was meant to do. To love boldly, and, yet, be tender.

One of the best examples of Grandpa's tender love, and his quiet strength was the way in which he cared for Bobby while he was ill. Bobby was our mother's father, our other grandpa, Howell Wood (Bobby was the name Sarah insisted on calling him as a baby, and somehow, it stuck). Next to Bobby, Grandpa seemed like a young man; though they were near the same age, he was more mobile than Bobby, far more comprehensible and aware of his surroundings. Grandpa didn't have to be asked, but he took it upon himself to care for Bobby, and he did so with such careful grace. By this point, dementia was overtaking Bobby's brain, so it is difficult to get a sense of what their relationship might have been like if not for the disease. Nevertheless, Grandpa's loving care of his daughter-in-law's father was one of the most beautiful things we had the privilege of witnessing. We sought to emulate this kind of love and care toward him when Grandpa later got sick with cancer.

Grandpa was incredibly encouraging in so many ways. Aseye recounts this experience with Grandpa, and the way she received his unwavering support:

“Every time I would see him, I would have entered a new year in school or chosen a different proposed career path — changed in myriad ways. ‘Oh wahn-da-full, wahn-da-full’ he would say with utmost sincerity whenever I updated him on my life's winding trajectory. He always reminded us to ‘learn hard’ and keep doing whatever we were doing as if we were doing it for the Lord.”

To say that Grandpa loved music, would be an understatement. He could play music by ear, and looked naturally at ease behind any instrument: sitting at the piano, cradling his accordion, fingering the saxophone. He looked so serene yet soulful, absorbed in the music for music's sake, for God's sake, for the sake of all who were listening. Each time he played, we'd imagine that it must have been a spiritual experience for him: oh what a gift to possess a natural sense of time, rhythm and feeling and share it with the world.

Once, the three of us girls were alone with our grandparents for the weekend, relaxing and listening to music, when the song “Fix You” by Coldplay came on. At first, we were unaware that our Grandfather was playing any attention to the song, but as it was coming to an end, he surprised us by commenting on the beauty of the song and asked us for the lyrics. Miriam gladly printed them out for him, and we remember feeling so happy that we could connect with our Grandfather in this way. We realized his love of music spanned myriad genres. Hymns, which he performed regularly for us on his accordion, were his favorite, but he was still able to appreciate other styles of music — even alternative rock.

Grandpa found beauty in most things: flowers, gardens, music and even household chores. Recently, we found out that when he was young, Grandpa had been cheated out of a scholarship to art school, and we couldn't help but wonder what his life might have been like had he gone that route. But nonetheless, Grandpa still found ways to be an artist. In one sense, it seemed that everything that Grandpa touched became a study in some art form — even our laundry. a comforting image to come home to after school on the weekdays was Grandpa sitting in front of the television and ironing every crease in every piece of clothing we owned. Perhaps it was therapeutic or cathartic for him somehow; you could see a similar sort of care and attention that he gave to his music. With a craftsman's touch, he painstakingly pressed out each wrinkle, each unwanted crease. He would iron everything, even jeans and underwear. We get the sense that he still would have done it for us even if he did not enjoy it. He had such a sweet, gentle servant's heart. (Contdpage 5)

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We are so thankful to our parents for making it possible for us to know our Grandparents intimately, despite the transatlantic distance that often separated us. One of our greatest regrets is that we did not have the chance to say good-bye and to thank them for all they had done for us and meant to us. Grandma and Grandpa, we would not be who we are today without you, and we are forever grateful for your presence in our lives. We love you.

IHDN establishes a Cancer Care Fund to honor Mr. Benjamin Agamah & Mrs. Irene Agamah

To honor the memories of Mr. & Mrs. Agamah, a Cancer Care Fund has been established by IHDN. This fund seeks to raise money over a 2 year period to start building of a Cancer Center that will provide care to patients in Ghana. Breast Cancer, Cervical Cancer, Prostate Cancers and Liver Cancers are some the main cancers seen in Ghana. Most patients are diagnosed late and do not have the resources to pay for treatment.

IHDN's efforts will focus on education, prevention, early detection, treatment, palliative care and hospice treatment. Please join us in this effort. Please indicate in memo section of your checks "Cancer Care fund". We would also be happy to discuss with you the donation of stocks, bonds and mutual funds to IHDN.

We thank you all those who are going to support this effort. May God bless you.

All donations are tax deductible