

IHDN News

DECEMBER 2017

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

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Message from the President

Dear friends,

The year 2017 that is fast coming to an end has been one of the most challenging but fulfilling years for us in recent memory. We sponsored 2 mission trips and I paid a third visit to Ghana just after my Mom passed away. We said goodbye to both of my parents during the July trip to Ghana. We also celebrated the graduation of 2 residents and medical students from the US as well as the graduation of 3 of the students we sponsored in Ghana. The work of the IHDN Mission Hospital continues to grow, coupled with an increase in the indebtedness of the National Health Insurance Scheme. We continue to receive interest and support for our work from many individuals, and have been given many generous donations. At the annual fundraiser, we were able to raise money to support the ongoing construction work. The lives of so many people, especially children, are being saved through the work of the hospital.

We say thank you Lord. We also say thank you to all of you for supporting our efforts in so many ways. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in advance.

May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

Dr. Edem Agamah

IHDN to host 7th Fundraising Banquet in Springfield on March 23, 2018

We will be hosting the 7th Fundraising banquet on March 23, 2018 at Hope Church. This year we had a goal of \$150,000 but we raised about \$89,000 towards the building of the Staff Apartment and X-ray Machine. All the funds have been used to pay for the construction of the staff apartment.

The goal for the 2018 fundraiser is the same as for this year. Please consider partnering with us again at this event. We thank you for your generous support. May God bless 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

Source: World Health Org

Thirty second mission trip to Ghana - January 8 to February 23, 2018

We are undertaking the 32nd mission trip to Ghana from January 8 to February 23, 2018. The team is made up of the following:

January 8 to January 31 – Team A

Dr. Ruth Kagwima – Resident, Family Medicine

January 18 to February 10, - Team B

Mr. Noble Adigbli - Construction, Community Outreach

January 25 to February 3 —Team B

Dr. Mokenge Malafa - Surgeon

Mrs. Tracy Malafa – Logistics, Construction

January 25- February 10- Team C

Dr. Edem Agamah, Team leader

Mrs. June Agamah – Logistics Coordinator

Ms. Terry Strohl – Nurse

Ms. Daniela Triana – Logistics, Construction

Ms. Patricia Bryant – Nurse

Ms. Anderesa (Theresa) Schroeder – Nurse

Dr. Robert Bussing - Internist

Mrs. Nancy Hermes Bussing - Logistics, Construction

Ms. Chelsea Hermes – Logistics, Construction

Ms. Anna Bussing – Audiologist

Mr. Lewis Dickey—Community Outreach, Elementary School

Mr. Felix Lulusa – Construction

Ms. Ferehiwot Michael—Elementary School, Community Outreach

Ms. Mavis Minta—Nursing Care, Community Outreach

January 25- February 23, Team D

Mr. Gordon Ruan – Medical Student

Ms. Karissa Nulty – Medical Student

Ms. Alexis Scott - Medical Student

Ms. Madison Marvel – Medical Student

Ms. Christine Sulmers – Medical Student

Burial & Memorial Services for Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin & Irene Agamah

On July 21, we were joined by friends and the Agamah family members to celebrate the lives of Mr. Benjamin Agamah and Mrs. Irene Agamah in Agbozume. The service was attended by about 1,500-2000 people. Following the service, they were buried at the Ideal Home Memorial Gardens, located adjacent to the IHDN Mission Hospital. We miss them, but we thank God for the time we had with them, and for using them to bless us. May their souls rest in peace till we meet again.

Thank God for a successful 31st mission trip to Ghana – July 13 to July 31, 2017.

We sponsored the 31st mission trip to Ghana from July 13 to July 31, 2017. The team was made up of the following volunteers:

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

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

1. We provided medical care to 1,145 patients in 9 days. This included surgeries on 23 patients. Hernia surgery was the most common surgery performed.
2. We enrolled 3 patients in the International Breast Cancer Tissue Bank Research project with the Henry Ford Health System and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology.
3. We hosted our first CME/CPD program in Internal Medicine, Surgery, Hematology & Oncology for 112 participants including 43 doctors, 11 physician assistants, 5 medical students and 46 nurses, 5 Laboratory Technicians. The topics discussed included, Cancer of the Breast, Colon, Prostate, Ovary, Uterus, Leukemia, Anemia, Management of Mass Trauma, Burns and Surgical Critical Care. This program was 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 .
4. We provided nutritious meals to 150 students at Worgbato.
5. We scanned medical records and trained Ghanaian staff on how to scan records.
6. We inspected the ongoing construction of the staff Apartment and made suggestions to improve on the work.

We thank all who prayed for us and supported this trip. May the Lord richly bless you.

The Plight of the Village Children By Dr. Edem Agamah

In most parts of the developing world, like Ghana, children who are born in small towns and villages face a tremendous amount of challenges before growing up into adulthood. These children, are precious and loved by their parents and other family members. They live communally and are raised by the village. Yet, it is not enough to help them overcome the health challenges they face growing up. While adults in the village are able to better withstand the harsh realities of living in a village, these parents and their families have very little understanding of the high health risks their children face. Once the children start walking, they are left to walk and play in the dirt thereby exposing them to diseases like worms, typhoid fever and malaria.

Most of these families are very poor and live on less than \$2 a day. Their parents may not have completed high school, let alone gone to school. They are far removed from modern healthcare. The practice of traditional African religion accompanied by the traditional healing practices or voodoo, are what they all know in the village. When a child gets sick, he/she is sent to the local herbalist or the village voodoo man. This child and their family may not have any National Health Insurance. They do not also have the financial means to pay for the cost of care. This is the typical situation facing patients at IHDN Mission Hospital in Ghana.

This past July, during our mission trip, we took care of a 6 year old boy, who was admitted with a history of seizures for 3 days. The boy was in coma when we first saw him. He was diagnosed with cerebral malaria, a severe complication of malaria. He received aggressive treatments, including blood transfusion and by God's grace, he recovered. Despite the fact that he had no insurance, he received excellent care. After he was discharged home, his grandmother decided to send him to the village voodoo man because she felt the illness was a spiritual one. While receiving care with the voodoo man, he got sick again. God being so good, it was at that time that the hospital outreach team made follow ups and found him ill. The family was encouraged to bring him to the hospital for care. When he returned, he was diagnosed with Typhoid fever. Again, he was treated and he improved and was discharged home.

This experience illustrates the challenges facing the IHDN Mission Hospital. Children admitted to the IHDN Mission Hospital receive excellent care, but we struggle to recover the cost. We have been trusting the Lord to provide for the next set of resources to help care for these children. To reduce the pressure on the hospital, we are embarking on a major community health outreach. We will recruit families with children and provide needed health education on malaria, worms, typhoid fever and the need to get Health Insurance. Hopefully, we will be able to prevent some of these children from getting very sick and having extremes of illness as we do now. Our prayer is that the Lord helps us to reach out to the villagers with the Gospel and meet their needs through our actions and the way we engage the community. Please join us as we seek to make a difference among the poor.

Congratulations to our new graduates

We would like to congratulate the following IHDN Staff members, who just completed their education successfully. They were sponsored by IHDN to complete professional training as follows:

1. Mr. Friday Fianu—Nurse Anesthetist
2. Ms. Bernice Egu—Registered Nurse
3. Mr. Julius Tetteh—Accounting

We thank all who supported this sponsorship effort. These workers are now back at the hospital and working full time.

Money Matters

One of the unique characteristics of IHDN is that we have a lot of activities going on outside the United States. We provide medical care for over 35,000 patients at the IHDN Mission Hospital each year, with a staff of 83, including 3 doctors. However, most of the funding and support comes from the US, without which we would not be able to continue with what we do. We continue to operate under severe financial challenges due to the non payment of Insurance bills by the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). We thank all of you for supporting our efforts. The following financial report was submitted as of September 30, 2017.

Amount owed by the NHIS to IHDN Mission Hospital in 2016 - \$257,788

Amount owed by the NHIS to IHDN Mission Hospital in 2017 - \$200,275

Payment has now started trickling in slowly but a large amount of money is yet to be paid. This indebtedness has severely affected the running of the hospital.

Financial Report from IHDN Mission Hospital, Ghana from January - September 2017

Total Revenue— \$ 171,308

Total Expenses— \$ 277,384

Deficit - \$106,076

Debt Owed to Pharmaceutical Companies - **\$113,318**

Debt Owed for Laboratory Supplies - **\$ 20,090**

Salaries Owed Staff - **\$ 31,433**

IHDN Staff Apartment Construction Expenses as of Sep 2017—\$103,381

Thanks for the following designated donations to IHDN in 2017:

Donations received in support of the following projects and in honor of the following

1. Breast Cancer support - \$9,300
2. Educational/School support - \$ 1,240
3. In Memory of Benjamin & Irene Agamah/Cancer Fund—\$1,300
3. In Memory of Mr. Jerry Smoczyk - \$1,050
4. In Honor of Mr. David Elder - \$75
5. In Memory of Millie Brewer—\$100

Summary of IHDN Tax Return—Form 990 2016 filed with the IRS

Total Revenue - \$341,885

Total Expenses - \$375,898

Revenue Less Expense - (\$34,013)

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Please Save the Dates:

***January 27, 2018 -**

*Medical, Surgical & Critical Care Nursing at IHDN
Mission Hospital, Weta-Adzadokpo, Ghana*

***February 1, 2018-**

*2nd Update in Internal Medicine, Surgery, Hematolo-
gy & Oncology at the IHDN Mission Hospital, Weta-
Adzadokpo, Ghana*

*** March 23, 2018 -**

7th Annual Fundraiser at Hope Church, Springfield, IL

*** July 19-August 2, 2018 -**

*33rd Mission Trip to Ghana and the celebration of
the 10th anniversary of IHDN Mission Hospital in
Ghana*

Thank you for your support. May God bless you