

# IHDN News

JULY 2016

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Message from the President

Dear friends,

We are midway through the year and a lot has happened in our lives, first as individuals, then as an organization. In March of this year we celebrated the 20th year anniversary of IHDN in Springfield. We are planning another anniversary celebration in Ghana on July 23. We will invite the Agbozume/Klikor and Weta Communities, local and national leaders to join us celebrate this anniversary.. We want to thank God for sustaining over the years and helping us achieve this success.

We had a successful 28th mission trip to Ghana in January. We had volunteers from Moody Church, Chicago, IL. We hope to build on this relationship in the future. We are also about to embark on our 29th mission trip to Ghana with a 17-member mission trip.

We hosted our 5th Fundraising Dinner in March to raise funds for the Staff apartment. So far, we have received support from our friends and well wishes by raising \$70,000. This money has been sent to Ghana to assist with the construction of the Staff apartment.

We continue to treat patients at the IHDN Mission Hospital under very challenging conditions. Last year we treated over 36,000 patients, over 80% of whom participate in the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). The NHIS have not paid bills submitted to them since July 2015 and our operations have been severely undermined. We are praying for God's guidance as we respond to this major financial challenge.

We thank the Lord for allowing us to accomplish all these projects. We thank you for partnering with us. May God richly bless you.

Sincerely  
*Dr. Edem Agamah*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Successful 28th Mission Trip 2

My Dog is very sick 3

29th Mission trip 4

Construction update 4

Fundraiser update 4

Mission Hospital 5

Donations 5

### HEALTH STATISTICS

#### NEONATAL MORTALITY -2015 (per1,000 births)

Afghanistan	- 36
Barbados	-8
Cameroun	-25.7
Chad	-24
Ghana	-25
Guyana	-22.8
Haiti	-25.4
Nigeria	-34.3
South Africa	- 11
Sierra Leone	-34.9
US	-14

Source: World Health Org

[www.apps.who.int/iris](http://www.apps.who.int/iris)

### **Thank God for a successful 28<sup>th</sup> mission trip to Ghana - January 28 to February 27, 2016.**

We sponsored the 28<sup>th</sup> mission trip to Ghana from January 28 to February 27, 2016. The team was made up of the following volunteers:

#### **Team A January 28-February 14, 2016**

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

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

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

We were also assisted by a Ghanaian medical team, made up of Dr. Sylvarius Amuzu, Dr. Eleazar Blasus, Dr. SM. Zakaria, Mr. Kobina Bediako, Dr. Gospel Agamah and Mrs. Linda Agamah. Drs. Zakaria and Gospel Agamah performed surgeries with anesthesia support from Mr. Bediako and Mrs. Linda Agamah.

#### **Clinical Activities**

Over **1,073** patients were treated in **9 days**, while team A was in Ghana. Most (**60%**) of these patients were women, while majority (**84%**) were insured by Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme. (NHIS). Surgeries were performed on **36** patients. Hernia surgery was the commonest (**55%**) procedure performed. Most of the non-surgical patients had malaria, hypertension and degenerative joint and spine diseases. Several children were admitted with Malaria, severe bacterial infection and diabetes mellitus. We saw **8** patients with breast cancer and **1** with prostate cancer. Breast biopsies were obtained and reviewed in the US, by Dr. Nagendra at Memorial Medical Center. The results were sent to Dr. Zakaria to offer the appropriate treatments in conjunction with Dr. Agamah's recommendations.

One of the severely ill patients we saw had advanced heart failure and cirrhosis of the liver with a huge scrotal swelling. He came to the hospital because he thought he could be operated on to reduce the scrotal swelling. He received aggressive treatment for his heart failure and cirrhosis of the liver with improvement in his swelling. We treated a comatose child with meningitis. Both of these patients were uninsured; we could not recover the cost of care.

There were several emergencies involving motor vehicle/motorbike accidents. The treatment included debridement, suturing of lacerations, pain relief and IV fluids. There were a few patients with fractures that were referred elsewhere because we do not have X-ray facilities at the hospital. Almost all of these patients were uninsured.

There were no deaths during our stay.

## **My Dog is Very Sick, by Dr. Edem Agamah**

I like dogs. When I was growing up in Ghana we had a lot of dogs. These dogs were different from American dogs. They were mainly watch dogs, so we kept them in the dog house or chained them outside the house. They do not come to the living room or bedroom. When people come to the house, they bark and you know that there was someone in the house. In the night we release them to roam freely in the compound and act as watch dogs. I enjoyed taking care of them, especially when they get pregnant and have little puppies.

One of our dogs was named Hannah. She was a favorite. Hannah was small, black, and friendly but could bark very loud. She was also very fertile and produced a lot of puppies. One day Hannah was released in the night. She managed to get out of the house. Unfortunately she was knocked down by a vehicle and died. I remember being very much traumatized and sad. That was over 35 years ago, but the memory was replayed to me recently.

Someone shared with me recently how she was distressed because her dog was very sick and she was going to put her to sleep. It took me some time to realize what was going on. She was a widow and did not have a lot of people in her life besides her sister. Her dog was her companion and her everything. She was getting distressed because she was going to lose an important part of her household.

While the loss of your dog is not the same as the loss of a relative, it is a major loss that has to be placed in the right context. I wondered how one comforts a person who has just lost or about to lose their dog. There will be no obituary, no funerals or memorial service, no eulogy. There is no promise of meeting again in heaven. However, I have to be available, empathetic, and supportive when someone is going through this loss—knowing very well that it is only human beings who have been called to follow the Lord and seek after God's kingdom, with a future home in heaven.

If these things are true, what happens to the dogs we love? Why then do we love them so much and feel the pain when they die? For one thing, they listen to you and are good companions. They do not gossip or undermine you. Despite these things, they cannot replace what one gets from human beings.

All around us, we find people yearning for relationships with someone. People want someone to talk to and have a healthy relationship with. There are widows, widowers, orphans, singles, single parents, young adults and the poor among us. Most of these are longing for someone to show the genuine love of Christ. In Mark 12:31, Jesus commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves, the second highest command after loving God. This is much harder for us at times to do. It may at times be easier to relate to a dog than humans for various reasons. Dogs don't gossip, they are loyal, they help keep you company, they do not hurt your feelings. Human beings, though more precious than any cute dog may get on your nerves or hurt your feelings. Despite this, we are to love one another as He loved us. But how is this possible? It takes the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to help us accomplish these. Each of us has the potential to change the destiny of someone by what we say or do. You can encourage someone, bless, or hurt them. Who knows, you might even get the chance to meet and engage someone who is grieving over the loss of a dog. You might win them for Christ by your love. You may get to spend eternity together after this life. May the Lord help us as we see to build communities for His kingdom. May we be challenged to rise above the relational challenges and reach out to one another for the glory of God.

## Twenty-ninth mission trip to Ghana July 14 to July 31, 2016

We are undertaking the 29<sup>th</sup> mission trip to Ghana from July 14 to July 31, 2016. The team is made up of the following:

Dr. Edem Agamah	Leader
Mrs. June Agamah	Logistics
Ms. Aseye Agamah	Administrative support
Ms. Alikem Agamah	Clinical & Logistic Support
Mrs. Hilda Ahiable	Clinical Support
Mr. David Johnson	Pastor's Conference & Leadership Training
Mrs. Sharon Johnson	Elementary School–English & Math Classes
Dr. Raj Sinha	Surgery
Ms. Alina Sinha	Clinical Support
Mrs. Judith Greenhalgh	Interior Decoration & Children Ministry Support
Mr. James Borody	Laboratory support
Mr. Stuart James	Computer Science
Mrs. Lori James	Elementary School–English & Math Classes
Ms. Ebony James	Children Ministry Support
Mr. Fredrick James	Children Ministry Support
Mrs. June James-Muehlner	Computer Science & Construction
Mr. Edmund James	Construction

One of the major events of this trip is the Celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the Agbozume/ Klikor & Weta communities and public officials on July 23, 2016. We will use this occasion to challenge the people in Ghana to step up and contribute financially in the growth and development of this hospital. We will use the occasion to raise funds to purchase of a \$70,000 Digital X-ray machine that is needed by the hospital. We will also commission the extension of water and access road to the Elementary School at Worgbato.

### Update on Construction of IHDN Staff Apartment & Roads

Concrete work on the floor for the fifth floor is currently being undertaken. We do not have a crane to lift materials to build the fifth floor. We have a hoist, which is an improvement over the manual labor but not as efficient as a crane. Once the floor is cast, the columns will go up. We will then work on the gables and then proceed to the roof. We are still working on finishing the ground floor to allow for early occupancy. We have to build counter tops, closets, and cabinets in the kitchen before they occupy. Please continue to pray and support this ongoing effort.

### Update on 5<sup>th</sup> Fundraising Banquet in Springfield

We hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Fundraising banquet on March 18, 2016 in Springfield, IL. The goal of this event was to raise an awareness of our work in the community and raise \$100,000 towards the construction of the Staff Apartment. We hosted 240 guests. As of now we have raised a total of \$70,000. The funds have been sent to Ghana to assist with the construction. We thank God for the generosity of people like you. We thank Hope Church for allowing us to have this program at the Church compound. We also thank all the 125 volunteers who helped us make this event a success. We say a big thank you to all individuals and organizations that donated funds and services towards this event. We have not reached our goal so we would appreciate your continued support in this effort.

## **IHDN Mission Hospital Report**

Over 36,340 patients were treated in 2015. This included 3,085 patients admitted to the inpatient wards. Most of the admitted patients had malaria, septicemia, and anemia. Over 339 surgical procedures were performed in 2015. Most of them were suturing of lacerations, excision of lipoma, and hernia repair. The volume of surgery continues to increase putting pressure on the resources we have. Our portable sterilizer went out of service recently. We are hoping to replace this during the upcoming mission trip to Ghana.

## **Huge Debt Affecting Operation of IHDN Mission Hospital**

The operations of the IHDN Mission Hospital are being undermined by the persistent delay in the payment of hospital bill by the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). Most of our patients (80%) carry the NHIS card. When we take care of them we expect the NHIS to reimburse us. However, this is not so in Ghana. As at now NHIS owe the hospital over \$160,000. Our suppliers, who have been extending credit to us have all stopped. Payment of salaries has been delayed once again. While our workers are very dedicated, they also need to buy food and meet their daily expenses. This has really reduced staff morale and undermining our operations. We have written to and contacted the leadership of NHIS. Promises have been made but as of now, no funds have been received. This is one of the most challenging periods in our history. Please pray alongside with us as we deal with this reality.

## **Container Shipped to Ghana.**

We shipped a 40-ft. container to Ghana on May 11, 2016. We would like to thank Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach for the donation of Medical Supplies. We also thank In His Service, Memorial Medical Center, Passavant Area Hospital, and Twelve Baskets Full for the donations of medical supplies and medications. We thank Midwest Mission Distribution Center for the storage & shipment of the container to Ghana.

## **Hope Church Supports Water and Road Project for Elementary School at Worgbato**

We received a donation of \$5,000 to help pay for the extension of water and road works to the Elementary School at Worgbato. We thank the body of Christ at Hope for this generous donation

## **First Evangelical Lutheran Foundation, Decatur**

We received a donation of \$5,000 from the First Evangelical Lutheran Foundation, Decatur to help us buy materials for the Staff apartment building. We thank them for this donation.

International Health and Development  
Network  
P.O. Box 7488  
Springfield, IL 62791

Nonprofit  
Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Springfield, IL  
Permit No. 125

*A medical missions group  
using the earthly  
healthcare ministry of  
Jesus Christ as an example.*

[www.ihdn.org](http://www.ihdn.org)

## **MONEY MATTERS**

### **Form 990 Tax return for FY 2015**

Total Revenue \$	228,355
Total Expenses \$	217,355
Revenue less Expenses \$	11,000

### **Gifts Received in Memory/Honor**

In memory of the late Mr. James Metz—died Dec 23, 2015

In lieu of birthday presents to honor Mrs. June Agamah—June 11

**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**