# IHDN News

DECEMBER 2013

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Message from the President**

Dear friends,

In a few days, we will be entering another New Year. Before then we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We thank God for His redemption through Christ and the opportunity for us to also be called His children. We thank God for another successful year in His service through IHDN.

We completed two mission trips to Ghana in 2013. We purchased a backup generator and opened an Inpatient Ward at the IHDN Mission Hospital in Ghana. We continue to see an increase in the demand for our clinical services despite limited resources. Reimbursement from the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), is usually late and inadequate. We thank the Lord for helping us keep our doors opened despite these challenges. We shipped two 40 ft. containers to Ghana in 2013.

We have received material support and encouragement from several of you. We are very thankful to all of you for your kindness and generosity. We thank all our volunteers and staff both in the US and Ghana for their outstanding services to advance His Kingdom. Without your help we would not have paid salaries, bought supplies or build new wards let alone take care of our patients.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely

*Dr. Edem Agamah*

**Shipment of Supplies & Hospital Equipment to Ghana**

We shipped another 40-foot container to Ghana on December 3, 2013 from the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. It contained furniture, tools, and supplies needed for the IHDN Mission Hospital. We thank Mr. Mark Freeman and Mrs. Pat Wright for the great job being done to support the work of IHDN. The first container shipped on April 30, 2013 was eventually cleared on July 20, 2013, just in time for the commissioning ceremony.

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**HEALTH STATISTICS**

**GHANA/AFRICA**

Maternal Mortality in 2008

(per 100,000)

Ghana : 350

Burkina Faso 560

Ivory Coast— 470

Togo—350

Sierra Lone– 850

Africa—620

United States—21

Source: World Health Organization

www.who.int/en

. **Our 23rd Medical Mission trip to Ghana another success**

We undertook the 23rd mission trip to Ghana from July 11 to 25, 2013. The team members and projects were:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Dr. Edem Agamah | Team leader |
| 2. | Mrs. June Agamah | Logistics |
| 3. | Ms. Alikem Agamah | Student—Clinic |
| 4. | Dr. James Wade | Oncologist from Decatur—Clinics, Breast Cancer lecture |
| 5. | Mrs. Susan Wade | Artist—Interior Design & Decor, signage and pictures |
| 6. | Mr. Richard Coffee | Computer Networking |
| 7. | Mrs. Mona Sue Coffee | Accounting Software—Peachtree, SAGE 50 |
| 8. | Mrs. Nancy Holmes | Nursing services, Oncology nursing training |
| 9. | Mr. David Esparaz | Medical Student—Clinic |
| 10. | Mr. Krishna Patel | Medical Student—Clinic |
| 11. | Ms. Kristin Davidson | Pre-Med Student—Clinic |

We were assisted by the Ghanaian medical and nursing staff at the IHDN Mission Hospital. We attended to over 1,025 patients at the outpatient clinic of the IHDN Mission Hospital. There were twice as many women as men, and several very sick children under 5 years. We thank God and all team members and the Ghanaian hospital staff for helping us save lives. One challenging patient was a young child with severe malaria and anemia. The malaria had affected his brain (cerebral malaria) and his hemoglobin dropped to 2.5gm/dl (normal is 12-15gm/dl). He was barely responsive when he came but with the speed and efficiency of the staff, they had blood to transfuse and initiated antimalarial treatments in less than an hour. Thank God he survived. Before we started blood transfusion services, children with this form of malaria would die in front of us, before they could get to the nearest hospital to receive care. Now, we are able to save their lives. Despite this advance, the ultimate goal is for us to increase the awareness and prevention of malaria in the community. Hopefully, we will get there one of these days.

Dr. SM Zakaria, our surgeon volunteer from the Police Hospital, joined us for a few days and performed surgeries on 8 patients. After his departure, my cousin, Dr. Gospel Agamah, a medical officer at Agormenya, in the Eastern Region and his wife Linda (nurse anesthetist) took over the surgical duties and performed several hernia surgeries.

We saw very advanced cancer patients, who had travelled to several hospitals in Ghana seeking care. We brought specimens from 2 of these patients to the US for their diagnoses to be confirmed. Cancer care is very expensive all over the world, and Ghana is no exception. For us to do a good job, we will need to have the financial resources to go to the next level. Hopefully, the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) will start paying for some cancer care, which will go a long way