

IHDN News

JULY 2019

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Message from the President

Dear friends,

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be on our way to Ghana or have reached Ghana. We are very thankful to God for another opportunity to serve. This will be the 35th Mission trip to Ghana. It has been a very hectic, challenging but rewarding journey. We have had a very busy first half of the year so far.

We had a successful mission trip to Ghana late January/February 2019. We mourned the death of Ms. Maxine Bradrick, FNP, who was the founding secretary of IHDN. She passed away on March 2, 2019 at the age of 85 years.

We hosted the 8th Annual Fundraising Dinner on April 12, 2019 and raised money to pay for a brand new digital X-ray. This has been shipped to Ghana to improve on our diagnostic capabilities.

Two of the medical students, who went to Ghana with us in January 2019 graduated and became doctors this May. Similarly, one of our former student graduates, became a pediatrician.

We have been featured in the local newspaper. We are very thankful to God for all these happenings.

The work of the IHDN Mission Hospital continues. The staff are making great sacrifices as they work under extreme financial pressure with non-payment of NHIS (Insurance) bills since August 2018.

Several of you have supported us on this journey. This is a big encouragement for our efforts. We would like to thank you for believing in us.

May God bless you and your family.
Sincerely

Dr. Edem Agamah

IHDN hosts 8th Fundraising Banquet on April 12, 2019

We hosted the 8th Fundraising banquet at Hope Church, Springfield, IL on April 12, 2019. This was attended by 278 guests, who were served by 100 volunteers. Our goal again was to raise \$150,000 towards the staff apartment and purchase an Xray machine. So far, we have received \$80,113, which is 57% of our goal. We have used the funds to pay for a new digital X-ray, which has been shipped to Ghana. The rest is of donation is going towards completion of staff apartment. We thank God for the generosity of people like you. We appreciate the support of those who donated their money and time. We welcome the support of those yet to donate. Thank 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 fifth mission trip to Ghana July 18 to August 2, 2019

We are undertaking the 35th mission trip to Ghana from July 18 to August 2, 2019. The team is made up of the following:

1. Dr. Edem Agamah, Team leader
2. Mrs. June Agamah – Logistics Coordinator
3. Ms. Alikem Agamah, New Medical Student, SIU School of Medicine, Springfield, IL
4. Dr. Karen Hoelzer-Medical Oncologist, Springfield, IL
5. Dr. Charles Sheaff-General Surgeon, Jacksonville, IL
6. Dr. Rama Poola– Endocrinologist, Springfield, IL
7. Ms. Chandana Poola—Student, Springfield, IL
8. Dr. Teresa Vazquez- Pathologist, Chicago, IL
9. Ms. Jessica Pirkle—Medical Student, UIC, Rockford, IL
10. Ms. Paula Oneal—Radiographer, Republic, MO
11. Mr. Blake Bowers—Premed Student, SIUE - Edwardsville, IL
12. Ms Bala Ramaraju –Student, Aurora, IL
13. Dr. Josaih Alamu- Epidemiologist, UIS, Springfield, IL
14. Ms. Georgia Winson, Director, Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, Springfield, IL

During this trip, we will be hosting the 5th Continuing Medical Education program at the IHDN Mission Hospital for Doctors, Medical Students, Pharmacists, Physician Assistants and Nurses on July 25, 2019. The goal is to equip these healthcare practitioners with an updated knowledge in the care in Surgery, Endocrinology, Pathology & Hematology & Oncology. Topics to be discussed include Management of Burns, Wound Care, Mass Casualty and Surgical Complications. Other topics include management of Pre-Diabetes & Diabetes, Complications of Diabetes, Diabetes in Pregnancy, Running a pathology lab in resource poor setting, Familial breast cancer, Oncologic Emergencies and Prostate Cancer.

This program is jointly provided by SIU School of Medicine and IHDN USA. It is approved to provide a maximum of 5.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits for Physicians.

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.

Our team will be joined by Ms. Georgia Winson and Dr. Alamu, both in leadership at the Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach. They are travelling to Ghana to explore how best they can work with the local hospitals in Ghana.

IHDN Future Mission Trips:

Winter Mission Trip— January 23-February 8, 2020

January 23– February 21, 2020– Medical Student Electives

Summer Mission Trip— July 16– August 1, 2020

Thank God for a successful 34th mission trip to Ghana – January 24 to February 23, 2019.

We sponsored the 34th mission trip to Ghana from January 24 to February 23, 2019. The team was made up of the following volunteers :

January 24 to February 6 – Team A

Pastor Dustin Bramer –Pastor at Hope Evangelical Free Church, Springfield, & EMT

January 24 to February 10 – Team B

Dr. Edem Agamah, - Team Leader
Mrs. June Agamah – Logistic Coordinator
Dr. Jackie Wierzbicki, Surgeon, Northwestern University

January 24 to February 23, - Team C

Mr. James Collins – Final Year Student, SIU School of Medicine
Mr. Terrence Thompson – Final Year Student, SIU School of Medicine

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

1. We provided medical care to 1,050 patients in 9 days. This included surgeries on 36 patients.
2. We performed over 35 surgical operations
3. We screened over 59 people for hypertension at the Agbozume market.
4. We gave lectures to Doctors, Nurses & Students at the Hospital and in the Police Hospital
5. We provided nutritious meals to 150 students at Worgbato

IHDN planting seeds of Global Health in the hearts of future doctors in the US.**By Dr. Andrea Iyekopolo**

When I was a 4th year medical student at the SIU School of Medicine, I went to Ghana on an IHDN medical mission trip with Dr. & Mrs. Agamah in 2016.. This trip was life changing for me. It opened my eyes and refined my aspirations to include Global Health into my career path as a doctor. As a result I purposely sought a Pediatric Residency training at the University of Illinois, Chicago, because of the excellent and concurrent training in pediatrics and Global Health.

In November of 2018 my colleagues and I set on an unprecedented medical mission trip to Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. My training from working at IHDN hospital and prior experience from living in Agbozume for 4 weeks assisted me to adapt with ease to the culture of Vietnam and also work efficiently at the largest hospital in Vietnam City Children's Hospital. At City Children's Hospital we worked closely with the medical team to devise a quality infection control guideline in the intensive care units. Our goal was to decrease the number of deaths related to mechanical ventilator usage.

My time at IHDN was invaluable and set the foundation of my career goals in Global Health. I look forward to returning to IHDN now as a Pediatrician."

Ghana! Here I Come!!

By: Bala Ramaraju (Student at the Illinois Math and Science Academy)

As an aspiring medical professional, I have always set an eye out for opportunities that allow me to help others and give back to the community. From tutoring young children with cognitive disabilities to participating in the Feed My Starving Children Organization to volunteering at the HSHS St. John's Hospital, I have engaged in activities that allow me to learn about people and the struggles they face daily. I hope that these experiences will allow me to understand the bigger picture of real-world problems. I am always eager to meet new people and help them in any way I can.

About a month ago, a family friend introduced the International Health and Development Network (IHDN) to me and I was intrigued by the possibilities that IHDN could provide. After doing my research, I came to learn that every year, a group of volunteers travel to impoverished regions of developing countries and strive to help those in need. I was fascinated. After reaching out to the Network itself, I was accepted to join a Medical Mission Trip to Ghana, West Africa. I am extremely lucky to travel with a group of extremely resourceful physicians and volunteers to empower underprivileged regions of Ghana with medical and public health knowledge and resources. We will be traveling to the IHDN Mission Hospital in Weta, Ghana. This opportunity will allow me to enrich my understanding of the medical field. Particularly, I am excited to be at the forefront, serving the needs of the impoverished villagers.

We will be involved in a multitude of activities such as physical checkups, medical record-keeping, diagnostic procedures and surgeries, hands-on patient care, the establishment of new technologies, and community outreach. This opportunity will not only make an everlasting impact on those in Ghana but also the Mission Team Volunteers. I strongly believe it will help me, personally, to discover the trajectory of my passion.

Leadership changes at IHDN

Mr. Tim Rice, has resigned as IHDN Secretary. Mr. Rice was the second secretary of the organization. He and his family have supported IHDN in so many ways. They made multiple trips to Ghana to help with the ongoing work. We thank him very much for his service to IHDN

Dr. Karen Hoelzer, is the new secretary to IHDN. Dr. Hoelzer is a medical oncologist, who just retired from active practice from the Springfield, Clinic. She was part of the 2017 team to Ghana.

Mr. David Miller has also resigned as IHDN Treasurer. Mr. Miller was the second treasurer of IHDN. He has also visited Ghana to teach high school English. We thank him for his service to IHDN

Mr. David Anderson an accountant is the new IHDN Treasurer. He supported his daughter Emma to go to Ghana in 2011

We thank all those who served in leadership in the past and are going to serve in the future. We thank all our volunteers, who serve in so many ways to make our work successful. May God bless you.

Help us raise funds

Select IHDN as your charity on smile.amazon.com when you shop at amazon. Amazon will make donations from your purchase to IHDN. Thanks.

Tribute to Ms. Maxine Bradrick, MSN, ANP-BC, (7/17/1933-3/2-2019)
by Dr. Edem S. Agamah

I first met Ms. Maxine Bradrick in 1983, when she visited a doctor friend in Lome, Togo. She was then the health officer in Charge of the US Embassy Clinic in Accra, Ghana. At that time, I was a medical student in Ghana and the Medical School was closed down. My dad worked in Lome, Togo so I was introduced to one of his doctor friends, who worked at the US Embassy/Peace Corps Clinic in Lome. Maxine came to say hello to this doctor friend, when she was visiting Lome, on a business trip. It was there that we struck a relationship. She invited me to come and visit her in her office whenever I returned to Ghana.

It was there that I discovered that we had common friends both in medicine and outside medicine. I also got to learn of her Christian ministry outreach to Ghanaian doctors and nurses with the gospel and sharing of new medical knowledge. She introduced me to CRU (previously called Campus Crusade for Christ). Over a period of time, our friendship grew as we shared Christian Fellowship and several ministry and counselling opportunities. Together, we ministered to several people in Ghana. Soon, my family and friends became friends of Maxine, as she hosted us in her house and entertained us with the help of her chef, Lawani.

In 1987, I had the chance to come to the United States for post graduate training. I did not have money to pay for my upkeep. It was Maxine who loaned me money to help me rent an apartment, buy furniture and got settled in New Orleans, LA. Despite being away in Ghana, we maintained a very close relationship. Eventually she retired and came back to the US. I shared my vision of being called to be a difference maker in the lives of the poor, especially in Ghana but did not know what or how this would happen. Maxine encouraged me to keep on praying and trusting the Lord for guidance.

In March 1996, Maxine and I worked together with some friends and helped incorporate a Medical Missions organization called International Health and Development Network (IHDN). IHDN's goal is to help share the love of Christ to poor communities in the world, using the earthly healthcare ministry of Jesus Christ as the model. Maxine became the founding secretary. She would travel all the way from Bakersfield, CA to Springfield, IL at least twice a year for board meetings. She held this post for several years until traveling to the Midwest became very challenging. Though she retired from this position, she continued to encourage and support our work. She donated money generously towards the work in Ghana. Today, the IHDN Mission hospital is providing medical care to over 32,000 villagers each year in Ghana.

Maxine, was a trusted friend. She also made friends with several people including doctors and nurses from Ghana. My late parents also became very good friends with Maxine as she shared her love for roses with my dad. One of the memorable moments in the lives of my parents was when Maxine visited them at Agbozume, where the work of IHDN started. My late parents also visited the US we were very much blessed when our family visited Maxine in Bakersfield, CA.

Maxine was very loving and caring. She was thoughtful and helpful to many. She was a sister in Christ and we shared the same heart beat for the disadvantaged. She had a great way of reaching out to people. She was used by the Lord to bless me and several people. We will miss her. We are however comforted to know that she is resting peacefully in the bosom of the Lord and we will meet again.

IHDN received money after Maxine's death to help support our work

Maxine, Rest in peace.

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using the earthly
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Jesus Christ as an example.*

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IHDN receive donations to purchase a Glidescope

Dr. Johanna Chookaszian, a recent IHDN Mission volunteer and anesthesiologist from the Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago, launched a fund-raising effort to purchase a Glidescope for the IHDN Mission Hospital. We received a total of \$4,200. A GlideScope is a portable easy to use high resolution video laryngoscopy system used by anesthesiologist for airway visualization. The funds will help pay for this equipment for the hospital. Our anesthesiologist will be able to do their work more efficiently. We thank all those who donated.

Thank you for Gifts received in honor of:

Mr. Richard Morris, who passed away on January 30, 2019 at the age of 72 years. - \$1200

Mrs. June Agamah, who celebrated her birthday on June 11, 2019—\$50

Update on Cancer Care Fund.

We continue to raise funds in support of Cancer Care at the IHDN Mission Hospital. Our immediate goal is to raise enough money to enable us establish a pathology laboratory at the hospital. The following cancers: Breast Cancer, Cervical Cancer, Prostate Cancers, Colon Cancer and Liver Cancers are being seen more frequently now than before. Because of lack of resources, most of these patients are diagnosed very late. They also 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.