

IHDN News

DECEMBER 2019

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

The year 2019 is almost over and we are very glad to share aspects of our work with you. We are very thankful to God for another year to serve. We have made 35 Mission trips to Ghana so far. It has been a very hectic, challenging but rewarding journey. We thank all our volunteers and supporters who made this happen. .

We have leadership changes. We welcome Mr. Andy Graber to as a board member of IHDN USA. Our services continue to grow alongside demands for our expertise and resources.

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 February 2019.

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.

We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely

Dr. Edem Agamah

IHDN to hosts 9th Annual Fundraising Banquet on April 3, 2020

We will be hosting the 9th Fundraising banquet on April 3, 2020, at Hope Church, Springfield, IL. This year's event was attended by 278 guests and we raised \$ 80,113 ; reaching 57% of our goal. We used the funds to purchase a digital X-ray machine, which was sent to the hospital in Ghana, while the rest of the funds went to support the staff apartment. In 2020, our goal is raise funds to help support the operations of the hospital and build a maternity clinic at the village of Worgbato. When built, this clinic will provide a safe environment for deliveries and offer medical care to children closer to home. Please put this date on your calendar. We thank you for your partnership on this journey. 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
Africa Region	- 174

Source: World Health Org

Thirty sixth mission trip to Ghana January 23 to February 18, 2020

We are undertaking the 36th mission trip to Ghana from January 23 to February 19, 2020. The team is made up of the following:

Team A— January 16 to February 8, 2020

1. Mr. Noble Adigbli, Leadership Development & Construction, Moody Church, Chicago, IL

Team B— January 23 to February 8, 2020

2. Dr. Edem Agamah, Team leader
3. Mrs. June Agamah – Logistics Coordinator
4. Pastor Beth Yokley—Mission Pastor, Hope Church, Springfield, IL
5. Ms. Julie Zara - Educator, Business Development, Zara Collision, Springfield, IL
6. Ms. Dorothy Kane—Nurse, Ultrasounds. First Step, Springfield, IL
7. Mr. Felix Lulusa, Construction, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
8. Dr. Joan Miedema, Internist-Pediatrician– Moody Church, Chicago, IL
9. Mr. Charles Davis, Construction, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
10. Mr. Kossi Eklow—Construction, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
11. Ms. Stephanie Wiegert, Nurse Practitioner, Moody Church, Chicago, IL

Team C— January 23 to February 18, 2020

12. Ms. Tatiana Kelly, final year Medical Student, SIU School of Medicine, Springfield, IL

During this trip, we will be hosting the 6th Continuing Medical Education program at the IHDN Mission Hospital for Doctors, Medical Students, Pharmacists, Physician Assistants and Nurses on January 30, 2020. The goal is to equip these healthcare practitioners with an updated knowledge in patient care in Surgery, Internal Medicine, Hematology & Oncology. Topics to be discussed include Management of Burns, Management of Buruli Ulcer, Breast Reconstruction after mastectomy, Acute Kidney Injury, Chronic Kidney Diseases, Renal Diseases in Pregnancy, Hematological Complications of Pregnancy, Thrombotic Disorders of Pregnancy, Subarachnoid Hemorrhage, Acute Coronary Syndrome, Cirrhosis of the Liver and Management of Liver Failure.

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

This program is expected to be 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.

We will also offer leadership training seminars for staff and discuss Ethics, Volunteerism, Nursing In-service Training and Construction support.

IHDN Future Mission Trips:

Summer Mission Trip— July 16– August 1, 2020

Winter Mission Trip— January 21-February 6, 2021

January 23– February 19, 2021– Medical Student Electives

Thank God for a successful 35th mission trip to Ghana – July 18 to August 2, 2019.

We sponsored the 35th mission trip to Ghana from July 18 to August 2, 2019. The team was made up of the following volunteers :

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

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

1. We provided medical care to 1,040 patients in 9 days.
2. We performed over 24 surgical operations
3. Updated lectures in Medicine, Surgery, Hematology & Oncology
4. Training of staff on the use of the Digital X-ray
5. Training of staff on the use of the Ultrasound machine
6. We provided nutritious meals to 200 students at Worgbato
7. Donation of medications to Hematology Department, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital
8. Donation of Computers to Charis College of Health Sciences and Amissah Arthur Learning Center.

During this trip, Dr. Agamah joined his family to attend the funeral of his late cousin, Naval Commander Kwasi Blekpe, who passed away this year and a great supporter of IHDN Ghana. May He rest in Peace.

IHDN Receives support to ship container to Ghana

We received a grant from the Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach to help us pay for the container shipment to Ghana. We continue to receive support from Midwest Mission Distribution Center in storage and shipment of the container to Ghana. We thank them very much for their support.

Thanks for Dr. Charles Sheaff and Dr. Charles Wilson for donating ultrasound machines to IHDN

We also thank Memorial Medical Center for donation of medical supplies and ultrasound machine for the IHDN Mission Hospital in Ghana.

We thank Hope Church for their continued support.

IHDN welcomes new board member

Mr. Andy Graber, Customer Service Team Lead with Teejet Technologies, was recently appointed to the IHDN Board. Both Andy and his wife Emily, have been serving IHDN for several years now. Over the past 8 years, they have been closely involved in planning and hosting or fundraisers. We thank God for people like Andy and Emily, for their commitment to serve the poor.

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.

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 30,000 patients at the IHDN Mission Hospital each year, with a staff of 100, 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, 2019.

Amount owed by the NHIS to IHDN Mission Hospital in 2019 - \$264,231

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 2019

Total Revenue— \$ 256,926

Total Expenses— \$ 339,792

Deficit - \$82,865

Debt Owed to Pharmaceutical Companies - \$99,048

Debt Owed for Staff Salaries - \$ 19,428

Debt owed for Electricity - \$ 6,667

IHDN Staff Apartment Construction Expenses as of Sep 2019—\$66,158**Summary of IHDN Tax Return—Form 990 2018 filed with the IRS**

Total Revenue - \$292,009

Total Expenses - \$376,158

Revenue Less Expense - (\$84,149)

All donations to IHDN are tax deductible. Thank you very much for your support. May God bless you

Comparison of Mission Experiences 2019: Ethiopia and Ghana

By Karen Hoelzer, MD

Ethiopia and Ghana are under resourced countries in East and West Africa. I was privileged to visit both countries in 2019. Permit me to share some observations about short-term mission trips with you, especially with those who have not had the opportunity to participate in a mission trip.

In general, short-term mission trips give us an opportunity to:

1. Give back,
2. Help others,
3. Learn about other cultures and traditions,
4. Lend support through direct patient care, teaching, moral support, political support, special talents/skills, or financial support, and
5. Share fellowship with other like-minded individuals.

My mission experiences started through a more than 20-year friendship with Dr. Agamah. My first trip to Ghana was in July 2017 and my second trip in July 2019. I waited until after the rainy season to visit Ethiopia in October 2019. The Ghana experience was to the IHDN Mission Hospital, based in rural village called Weta-Adzadokpo. The Ethiopian trip was sponsored by Samaritan's Purse to the MyungSung Christian Medical Center, a South Korean built teaching hospital in Addis Ababa. Clean and hot water, electricity, and internet are more appreciated now after visiting both Ghana and Ethiopia.

The capitals of Ghana and Ethiopia are at similar latitudes, separated by three time zones, and 7800 feet of elevation. Ethiopia has no sea port making it more difficult to send supplies. With the higher elevation, there is no need for malaria prophylaxis in Addis Ababa. Although further away, travel is easier to Ethiopia with direct flights from Chicago.

Both countries are poor by American standards, but Ethiopia is worse off with a per capita income of \$951 per year compared to Ghana's \$2262 per capita. Poverty in both countries impacts the availability of healthcare, especially in rural regions. Ghana is threatened by systemic corruption, Ethiopia by ethnic unrest. Ethiopia struggles with hundreds of thousands of refugees, some from other countries, and some internally displaced. Poverty is decreasing in both countries with just under 30% of Ethiopians living on less than US \$2 per day and about 12% of Ghanaians living on less than US \$2 per day.

Malaria is listed in the top five causes of death in Ghana. Diarrheal diseases are included in the top five causes of death in Ethiopia. The remaining 5 top causes of death in both countries include cardiovascular diseases, lower respiratory infections, cancer, and neonatal deaths. We have about 26 times as many physicians in the US per 10,000 people as are available in Ethiopia. We have more medical oncologists in Springfield (17) than all of Ethiopia (6) and Ghana (10).

We live in a special country for the most part free of ethnic conflict and systemic corruption. Traveling abroad helps us to appreciate what we have at home. Many people overseas would give anything for the opportunity to come here and have a chance for education, a chance to advance based on merit, free speech, and freedom of movement.

Barriers to mission travel include time away from family and friends, concern for safety and health, travel associated fatigue, and the expense. For those who are unable to travel but would like to help, a financial contribution to IHDN or Samaritan's Purse would be much appreciated!

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Thank you for Gifts received in honor of:

Mr. Martha Havey, who passed away on October 3, 2018 - \$50

Ms. Hannah Brook's Birthday - \$50

Mrs. Roberta Volkman Christmas gift—\$100

IHDN Reclaiming land for future developments

As the IHDN mission hospital continue to provide excellent services to villagers closer to home, there is a great demand for more services. We are also mindful of our limitations for additional services. One area of need for the hospital has been improved pathological diagnostic services. We also studying the demand for us to build a morgue. Because over half of the land owned by IHDN is water logged, we have started reclaiming this part of the land to be used for future developments.

Our prayer is that we will be able to raise a volunteer construction team to help us jumpstart some of these projects in the not too distant future.

IHDN Mission Hospital to install Solar power and improve internet Connectivity

The cost of electricity to the hospital in Ghana is about \$3,000 each month. We are not able to pay this bill on time. We received a generous donation and we are in the process of working to install a solar power system to help us reduce the cost of power. We are also working to improve on internet connectivity. We thank all our friends for their generous support. May God bless you.