

IHDN News

DECEMBER 2016

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Message from the President

Dear friends,

The year is almost over and we invite you to join us celebrating what God has used us to accomplish during the year. In this edition of the newsletter, we document major aspects of our work.

We would like to thank all of you, who came along on this journey. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely
Dr. Edem Agamah

IHDN Mission Hospital Report – January-September 2016

Over 27,185 patients were treated at the outpatient clinic, 2,102 were admitted to the wards and 22 deaths were reported. Over 43% of the outpatients had malaria, followed by upper respiratory tract infection (17%). We added maternity and delivery services to the work. At the end of September 2016, seven babies were delivered. Most of the patients admitted had malaria, septicemia and anemia. Over 1142 procedures were performed. Most of them were wound dressing, suturing of lacerations, hernia repair and hydrocele surgery. Over 70% of patients who died, were pronounced dead on arrival.

We were able to replace our portable sterilizer, which has helped our surgical operations. We also introduced an Electronic Medical Records system called Kpal Hospital Management System.

IHDN to host 6th Fundraising Banquet in Springfield on April 7, 2017

We plan to host the 6th Fundraising banquet on April 7, 2017 at Hope Church 3000 Lenhart Road, Springfield, IL. We will continue to use this event to raise an awareness of our work in the community and raise \$100,000 towards the construction of the Staff Apartment. This year we hosted 240 guests. Collectively, we raised a total of \$70,000. These funds were used to pay for the construction of the staff apartment.. We thank God for the generosity of people like you. We would like to invite you and your friends to join us again next year. We are recruiting volunteers to help us with this event so please contact us if you would like to participate.

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HEALTH STATISTICS

TUBERCULOSIS -2015 (per1,000 births)

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Afghanistan | - 61 |
| Barbados | -0 |
| Cameroun | -49 |
| Chad | -21 |
| Ghana | -44 |
| Guyana | -0.71 |
| Haiti | -21 |
| Nigeria | -586 |
| South Africa | -454 |
| Sierra Leone | -20 |
| US | -10 |

Source: World Health Org

www.extranet.who.int

Thirtieth mission trip to Ghana January 26 to February 11, 2017 - Team A

We are undertaking the 30th mission trip to Ghana from January 26 to February 11, 2017. The team is made up of the following:

- Dr. Edem Agamah, Team leader
- Mrs. June Agamah – Logistics Coordinator
- Mr. James Borody - Laboratory Consultant, Kalamazoo, MI
- Mr. Noble Adigbli – Construction,
Business Development, Administrator, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
- Dr. Vanessa Chavez, Clinics, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
- Mr. Babajide MacAulay – Business & Construction, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
- Mr. Ronald Ingram, Christian Leadership & Discipleship Training, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
- Mr. Felix Lulusa, Construction Management, Moody Church, Chicago, IL
- Dr. Safiya McNeese, Resident SIU School of Medicine Springfield, IL
- Dr. Shely Roy, OB-Gyne Resident SIU, Hope Church, IL
- Dr. Ibrahim Cetindag, Surgeon, Cedar Rapids, IA
- 12. Ms. Alin Cetindag, HS Student, Springfield, L
- 13. Ms. Cathleen Brehm, Registered Nurse, Cedar Rapids, IA
Dr. Josiah Zubairu, Resident, University of Iowa, Iowa City

Team B

January 26 to February 26, 2017 - Team B

Mr. Matthew Soltys, SIU Medical Student, Cherry Baptist Church, Springfield, IL

Can we pray Together? – By Dr. Edem Agamah

My parents taught us how to pray when we were little children. We learned how to pray for everything in life from personal and family needs to praying for others and their cares and concerns. We also learned how to pray for societal needs, our country and things of nature that are beyond human control.

We prayed before going to bed for God's forgiveness of our sins and protection throughout the night. We thanked Him when we woke up healthy and prayed for guidance throughout the day. As we grew up, we learned that some people go to sleep and do not wake up healthy or they die. We prayed to thank God before meals and for our school work. We also prayed for the government of the day for good rainfall and abundance of harvest. We prayed for the sick and the needs of others.

When I committed my life to Christ I prayed and asked God to help deepen my faith in Him and use me to advance His kingdom. The routine prayers in the Agamah family became more meaningful to me. I grew in my understanding and meaning of my salvation in Christ and the privilege for me to serve and live for Him.

As a medical student, I heard stories of great surgeons, who prayed before surgeries. I admired missionary doctors who served the poor, prayed and trusted God to provide for their need.

When I became a doctor, I incorporated prayer into my practice. I pray for and with my patients, especially those who wanted to trust God for their healing. I have witnessed answered prayers and a lot of unanswered prayers too. Throughout this my faith has been strengthened.

When patients are critically ill, it is very common for friends and families to pray for God's healing. Church prayer groups and pastors usually join in this prayer effort to intercede on behalf of the sick. Some of my patients recognize that beyond medications, it is the Almighty God, who gives life and restores health and are willing to entrust their poor health situation into His hands.

Recently, I visited a critically ill patient. As I was about to leave, his wife shared with me that people are praying for him. I did not know where he was in his faith journey but I was touched by what his wife shared with me. I stopped for a moment and told them that I am glad to hear that people are praying for him. I mentioned that in moments like this it is very important for us to call upon our God, who created us. I asked whether we can all come together and pray for him. They were surprised and agreed to pray.

As we were about to pray, the nurses and other care givers came into the room and I told them we were about to pray. I asked whether they would like to join us in prayer and they also said sure. So the family, nurses, other care givers joined this patient and family to pray for him. We prayed for God's perfect will to be fulfilled in his life. We knew that he was not going to get better so we asked that he will have a peaceful transition to meet his maker.

After I left the room, his wife followed me and thanked me for praying with them. She informed me that our time of prayer was the best experience they have had throughout the husband's illness. I was stunned by this revelation. Here we were with a patient, who received a lot of powerful drugs and high tech medical treatment to restore his health. When he got better briefly, we patted ourselves on the back for great care. One would have thought that this should have been the best experience for him and the family. Unfortunately, we were wrong. It is an unplanned prayer with the family and care givers that meant more to them.

. I have been reflecting on this experience. I have been trying to understand the power of prayer.. What is the role of prayer and what impact does prayer have on my work as a doctor? If prayer is helpful, why don't we use prayer more often in all that we do as doctors and nurses? In African traditional cultures, the medicine man uses prayer as part of his tool to take care of sick patients. He lays his hands on them and pray to the gods they believe in. The medicine man is able to make impact on patients and maintain a successful traditional practice and people believe in them.

With great scientific and biological advances and better medicines, the spiritual side of humanity has been pushed aside in the practice of modern medicine. We are not just a collection of cells or tissue that started malfunctioning and needing a tune up or replacement. We have a very complex body, spirit and soul. We have been created uniquely. We should talk more about prayer and actually praying for one another and also with one another. If you have been following of the work of IHDN, note that we have prayed for you. We are thankful to God for people like you, who have partnered with us on this faith journey. Despite these challenges we face, we are encouraged "not to be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petitions, with thanksgiving, to present our requests to God. And we trust that the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 – paraphrased.

So come and lets thank God for another year that is about to end. You may have had some challenges but let us be thankful that we are alive. Let us pray for the coming year and the days ahead. Let us pray that we get to know Him and live for Him.

Container Shipped to Ghana.

We shipped a 40ft container to Ghana on November 3, 2016. We would like to thank the Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach for the donation of Medical Supplies. We also thank In His Service, Memorial Medical Center and Passavant Hospital. We thank Midwest Mission Distribution Center for the Storage & Shipment of the Container. We thank the Hope Church members and other volunteers who came to load the container.

Thank God for a successful 29th mission trip to Ghana – July 14 to 31, 2016.

We sponsored the 29th mission trip to Ghana from July 14 to 31, 2016. The team was made up of the following volunteers :

1. Dr. Edem Agamah - Leader
2. Mrs. June Agamah - Logistics Coordinator
3. Ms. Aseye Agamah - Administrative support
4. Ms. Alikem Agamah - Clinical & Logistic Support
5. Mrs. Hilda Ahiable - Clinical Support
6. Mr. David Johnson - Pastor's Conference & Leadership Training
7. Mrs. Sharon Johnson - Elementary School – English & Math Classes
8. Dr. Raj Sinha - Surgery
9. Ms. Alina Sinha - Clinical Support
10. Mrs. Judith Greenhalgh - Interior Decoration & Children Ministry Support
11. Mr. Stuart James - Computer Science
12. Mrs. Lori James - Elementary School – English & Math Classes
13. Ms. Ebony James - Children Ministry Support
14. Mr. Fredrick James - Children Ministry Support
15. Mrs. June James-Muehlner - Computer Science & Construction
- Mr. Edmund Muehlner - Construction

Clinical Activities

We were assisted by a Ghanaian medical team, made up of 3 doctors: Dr. Sylvarius Amuzu, Dr. Eleazar Blasu, Dr. Gospel Agamah and Sister Florence Bagidah. Drs Gospel Agamah & Raj Sinha performed surgeries with anesthesia support from Sister Bagidah.

Over **906** patients were treated in **9 days**. Most (**66%**) of these patients were women, while majority (**88%**) were insured by Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme. (NHIS). Surgeries were performed on **31** patients. Hernia surgery was the commonest (**51%**) surgery 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.

The commonest emergencies were severe malaria and motor vehicle/motorbike accidents. Because we do not have an X ray machine patients with trauma were referred to other hospitals. We are praying and hoping that we raise enough funds to purchase a Digital Xray unit in the coming year. There were no deaths during our stay.

Church service at Agbozume & Christian Leadership training

We attended church services at the Agbozume, Evangelical Presbyterian Church where Pastor David Johnson preached the sermon from Acts 10. Pastor Johnson challenged us to step out of our comfort zones and reach out to those disadvantaged in society.

Pastor Dave Johnson also held follow-up Christian Leadership workshop for some of the Christian Leaders, who attended the leadership training sessions last year. He was able to make visits to their various places of work at the end of the workshop.

Feeding of Students and villagers at Worgbato.

We cooked and served rice, fried chicken and green beans and gravy to over 80 students and villagers at Worgbato. For most of the students, this was their first chicken meal for the year.

Celebration of 20th anniversary

We hosted the celebration of the 20th anniversary of IHDN in the courtyard of the hospital. Over 500 visitors, including several dignitaries, friends and families across the world joined us in this celebration. The Minister of Health was represented by Mrs. Martha Gyansa-Lutterodt, Director of Pharmacy at the Ministry of Health. We had friends and family from the US, Canada, Togo, and other parts of Ghana. There was musical performance by various groups, including brass band music, up-tempo hymns by the Agbozume EP Church Choir. We were entertained by an African cultural group that performed various traditional dances and acrobatic displays. During the celebration we honored Ms. Josephine Agbekporu, Mr. Precious Atipoe and Mr Jacobson Agamah for 20 years of service to IHDN.

Road Construction and Water Supply to Worgbato

We completed the construction of the 0.75 mile road leading to the elementary school at Worgbato at a cost of approximately \$10,000. Before this road was built, the only way to get to the school was through a foot path that meandered through sandy coconut fields. It is the same foot pathway that leads to the whole village of Worgbato.

The construction of this road involved scraping off sand from the foot pathway to reach a relatively solid base. Coconut trees and other trees in the way were cut down. The next step was transportation of gravel from a gravel pit, which was about 30 miles from Worgbato by Mr. Prudence Agamah. Mr. Victor Gbewordo, used the bobcat to spread and compacted the gravel on the road.

We also completed the extension of clean water from a 2 mile connection point to the school at Worgbato at a cost of approximately \$8,000. The school will sell some of the water to the villagers to help them pay their water bill and also support the school.

Hope Evangelical Free Church, Springfield, donated \$20,000 towards the road and water projects for Worgbato. We had a lot of donated services so we saved on the actual cost of these projects. The savings of \$2,000 was used bring gravel to construct the road leading to the new staff apartment at the hospital compound. We thank the leadership and congregation of Hope Church for believing in us and supporting our work in Ghana. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless our relationship and use this for His glory

Update on Construction of IHDN Staff Apartment & Roads

The columns have been erected on the fifth floor and very soon the beams will be cast for the roofing to be added. Led by Engineer Edmund Muelhner and Mrs. June James-Muehlner, the construction workers worked on the first floor (ground floor) They installed cabinets, closets and wardrobes and painted the building. This allowed us to open this floor for public viewing during the 20th anniversary celebrations. Rev. Dr. Seth Agidi, the moderator of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, prayed for God's blessings on our efforts and for resources to enable us complete the rest of the work. We thank the First Evangelical Lutheran Foundation, Decatur for their \$5,000 donation that helped us to buy additional materials to complete the work on the first floor. We thank Rev. Dr. Agidi, who also supported our efforts. For the period from January to September 2016, we have spent \$157,063 on the staff apartment building.

English & Maths enrichment classes at Worgbato

Mrs. Sharon Johnson led the team of volunteers including Mrs. Lori James, Ms. Ebony James, Mr. Fredrick James, Mrs. June James-Muehlner, Pastor Dave Johnson, Mrs. June Agamah, Mrs. Judith Greenhalgh and Mrs. Esther Tettevi to host enrichment classes in English Writing, Reading and Mathematics for about 80 students at Worgbato. Even though our visit was at the end of their semester, the students were very focused and enthusiastic to learn. The opportunity to review what they learned during the semester in addition to new materials was very exciting to the students.

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Computer science training, Internet and Server Set up

Mr. Stuart James held computer science classes for the hospital staff. Topics included opening and closing of documents in MS Word, and Excel. For most of the staff this was their first time of using computers. They were encouraged to spend time in the computer lab, which some of them took seriously. It was encouraging to see Ms. Agatha Adama, of housekeeping, aka “Chicago Mama”, learning key boarding. We encouraged her and others to press on.

Mr. James configured and installed a new sever for the hospital. He also installed a wireless bridge that allowed the hospital to receive broadband internet connectivity from 20 miles away

IHDN Mission Hospital Financial Statement—Jan-Sep—2016

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Revenue from NHIS | \$ 250,3536 |
| Debt owed by NHIS to hospital | \$ 95,736 |
| Hospital Expenses | \$ 277,018 |
| Unpaid Bills by hospital to suppliers | \$ 84,108 |

Gifts Received in Memory/Honor

In memory of Mr. Carl Volkman —died October 11, 2013
In honor of Mrs. Roberta Volkaman

Thanks for your support.

All donations are tax deductible