

IHDN News

JULY 2021

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

We are in very challenging but exciting times. The human race is presently facing a major destruction of lives by the infection from the SARS-CoV-2 virus, named Covid-19 infection. As of July 18, 2021, over 190 million people have been infected and 4 million died.

The virus, which spreads by close contact, forced us to change our life style including avoiding close contacts. However, with the hard work of scientists and vaccine manufacturers, vaccines have become available, especially in the developed world. As a results, a lot of the restrictions have been lifted with gradual move to normalcy.

The virus is behaving like a trickster, that tries to dodge the immunity presented by the vaccines. Therefore we are seeing an increase in new strains of the virus infecting people, especially those who are not immunized.

We respect the autonomy and decisions of those who do not want to be vaccinated. We also know all the bad things this virus can do to the body from head to toe, especially among those not vaccinated. Even those who are vaccinated could still get infected but the severity of illness is less and they recover quickly.

If you are a reader of this newsletter and have been vaccinated, we thank you for being vaccinated. If you are not yet vaccinated we understand. We would like to encourage you to step up in faith and get vaccinated. We understand the side effects of the vaccines, including the very rare blood clots that occurred in 10 people who got the vaccine in Europe. We are able to manage this complication effectively. When you get vaccinated, you will help reduce your risks of getting serious infections.

We undertook our 37th Mission trip to Ghana. In this newsletter, you will read about some of the great work being done. You will also meet one of our staff we sponsored to become a physician assistant. We will be in Ghana, by the time you receive this newsletter. We have included some details of our activities and the report from the IHDN Mission Hospital.

We continue to receive support from you and we are very thankful. We also welcome your prayers, and continued support of those yet to join us in this effort to advance God's kingdom and be a blessing to the poor and disadvantaged among us.

May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely

Dr. Edem Agamah

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HEALTH STATISTICS

Per capita (\$) expenditure on health -2017

United States	-10,246
Switzerland	- 8009
Ghana	- 146
Ivory Coast	- 175
Togo	-103
Burkina Faso	-129
Sub-Sahara Africa	- 198

COVID-19- July 18, 2021

US	- 34,070,286
India	- 31,106,065
Nigeria	- 169,329
Ghana	- 98,435
Ivory Coast	- 21,597
Togo	-3111
Burkina Faso	3,315

Source: World Health Org
www.coronavirus.jhu.edu

Thirty eight mission trip to Ghana July 22 to August 8, 2021

We are undertaking the 38th mission trip to Ghana from July 22 to August 8, 2021. The team is made up of the following:

1. Dr. Edem Agamah - Team Leader
2. Mrs. June Agamah - Logistic Coordinator
3. Dr. Michael Fenner - Surgeon
4. Ms. Emma Fenner - Medical Student
5. Mr. Theodore Agbemapele - Medical Student

Our team will be joined by Dr. Thomas Agbemapele, an internist, based in Ghana. During this trip, we will provide specialist care to patients with medical and surgical problems at the IHDN Mission Hospital. We will commission the solar power plant, host a leadership training seminar for the IHDN Ghana staff. We anticipate attending to over 1200 patients during this trip. We will also visit with ministry partners, learn and encourage one another as we press on this faith journey. Our 25th Anniversary Celebrations have been postponed to 2022 because of Covid Protocols.

The 7th Updates in Internal Medicine, Hematology & Oncology, Surgery and Obstetrics was hosted by Zoom on July 15, 2021 so there will not be any meeting in person. Over 60-70 doctors, physician assistants and nurses participated in this program. The participants had the opportunity to update their knowledge base and also obtain continuing medical education documentation to maintain their licensure. It was a very successful program. We thank all those who presented and participated in the program.

Tentative Dates for Future Mission Trips to Ghana

39th — January 20– February 6, 2022

40th — July 21 to August 7, 2022

We are presently recruiting volunteers to join the 39th Mission Trip to Ghana from January 20 to February 6, 2022. Please contact us, as soon as possible if you have an interest in being part of this team.

Thank God for a successful 37th mission trip to Ghana – January 23 to February 18, 2020.

We sponsored the 37th mission trip to Ghana from January 23 to February 18, 2020. The team was made up of the following volunteers :

1. Dr. Edem Agamah, Team leader
2. Mrs. June Agamah – Logistics Coordinator

We were assisted by a Ghanaian medical, surgical & nursing team, made up of 3 doctors, Dr. Henry Kpeli, Dr. Gospel Agamah, and Dr. Sefakor Torsu and 3 Physician Assistants (PA) – PA Wisdom Vidzah, PA Kekeli Akorli & PA Solomon Adawu and the dedicated Nursing & Midwifery team.

We treated over 1,085 patients in **9 days** at the out-patient clinic. Over 67% of these patients were women. Most of the patients were younger than 50 years. The clinic attendance was slightly higher than for the same period in 2020. Most of these patients had malaria, hypertension and musculo-skeletal disorders. Once again, we saw a few patients with various stages of breast cancer and prostate cancer. Some of the patients came from Accra to receive care. We also arranged terminal care for some of the advanced cancer patients, who came looking for treatment. We thank God for another successful mission trip. We thank Him for using us to advance His kingdom.

Congratulations to Mrs. June Agamah

Mrs. June Agamah published a personal memoir called **Caryl's Closet**. She documents some of the journey with IHDN. Please check it out at www.junewoodagamah.com

We are yet to establish a Hospice program at the hospital. There were several patients with rare medical conditions including one with deposition of uric acid crystals in the elbow and big toe joints (tophi). We saw a young child with a tumor of the jaw that we suspect to be lymphoma or sarcoma. It was quite challenging getting a diagnosis and for the child to get to the teaching Hospital for further work up. Eventually he went to Ho, but we are yet to know the outcome of his visit.

Celebrating IHDN Team Member—Physician Assistant –Mr. Cruze (Wisdom) Nunya Vidzah

Cruze started working at the IHDN Mission Hospital in 2011 as a Registered Nurse. After 4 years of service he was sponsored to pursue further training as Physician Assistant. He returned to the hospital in October 2019, first as an Intern and now providing full time care at the hospital. Cruz is a very responsible team player. He is able to liaise effectively with other team members. He is a Christian leader, who is able to minister to the spiritual needs of patients and colleagues. He is a member of the coordinating team of the hospital Christian Fellowship. He values Integrity, Honesty, Respect and Professionalism. He is very thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to serve with IHDN and also to be sponsored for further training. We thank Cruze for his faithfulness.

Money Matters

We rely on generous donations from friends like you to support our work in Ghana. We send out newsletter updates and host annual fundraiser banquets themed “Bringing the world together” to raise funds to help pay for our work in Ghana. Our last event was April 12, 2019. We have not hosted any such event since then because of SARS-CoV-2 (corona virus) pandemic and social distancing requirement. If you are receiving this newsletter, you or someone close to you have supported IHDN in the past. We would like to appeal to you to continue your support to help us keep our doors opened. Thanks for your support.

IHDN Staff position

We presently have a staff of 113 employees including 3 doctors and 43 nurses. We have sponsored 21 people to pursue medical, nursing, midwifery, accounting and public health training. Out of these, 11 of them have returned to work full time for IHDN, while 8 of them are still in school. Two people did not fulfil their obligations to IHDN and efforts are being made to recover the funds spent on them plus interest.

We congratulate all staff, who graduated and returned to serve at the hospital. We know they could get higher pay elsewhere but are making sacrifices to serve the poor. Our prayer and hope is that their sacrifices would not be in vain and the Lord will reward them for all that they have given away.

Financial Report from IHDN Mission Hospital, operations from January - Dec 2020

Total Revenue— \$ 503,757

Total Expenses— \$ 516,293

Deficit - \$12,536

Other financial Highlights of IHDN Ghana in 2020—Paid for from IHDN USA

Construction Expenses - \$147,607

Staff Sponsorship - \$7,407

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www.ihdn.org

Thank you for your donations

In the absence of our annual fund raiser, we sent out mails to all of you appealing for funds. We are pleased to inform you that at the time of submitting this report, we received about \$48,000. The funds have been sent to Ghana to pay for supplies and buy building materials for the hospital. We thank all of you for your support. Our monthly salary is over \$20,000, which is very challenging to meet most of the time. There is at least a 6 month delay in payment of bills submitted to the National Health Insurance. We have therefore set out by faith to raise about \$120,000 each year to help us meet salary obligations and buy medications and supplies. Please consider joining this effort. Thanks for your support. All gifts are tax deductible.

Help us raise funds on Amazon.com

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

We thank God for their lives and for using them to bless many.

Solar Power System to be commissioned at IHDN Mission Hospital

Construction work on the Solar Power System is completed. We will commission this plant during our mission trip to Ghana. We have already started seeing a drop in our electricity bills. We thank God for blessing IHDN with this resource. We thank our friend for the generous donation of \$60,000. We thank Solar Light Ghana and all the workers involved for making this a reality. To God be the Glory!