

# IHDN News

DECEMBER 2022

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

We were not able to mail this newsletter in the summer but most of you should have received email updates.. Please join us in thanking God for seeing us through another challenging year. We are very excited to share with you aspects of our activities in 2022.

The Covid-19 pandemic has subsided but not gone away. As mentioned elsewhere, the virus is here to stay with us. We now have several means to prevent and treat this infection in the US. Nevertheless, we should still be mindful of the harmful effects of this infection, especially on those with high risk factors like diabetes, heart disease, leukemia, lymphoma or obesity.

We sponsored the 39th and 40th Mission trips to Ghana in January 2022 and July 2021, respectively. We share major highlights of these trips We also provide some financial updates and new initiatives like the pathology department project in Ghana.

We were able to host our annual fundraiser in June 2022. In November, we hosted the leadership team from Ghana, who presented IHDN's work at the Global Missions Health Conference in Louisville, KY.

We are thankful for the support we have been receiving from you. We also appreciate your prayers and encouragement as we partner to advance God's kingdom. Working together with you, we have become a blessing to the poor and disadvantaged among us. To God be the Glory. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in advance.

May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely

*Dr. Edem Agamah*

### IHDN Mission Hospital Team Visits the US

We hosted a 3-member leadership team from the IHDN Mission Hospital, Ghana from November 4 to December 2, 2022. The team was made up of Mr. Mark Dedzoe, Hospital Administrator, Dr. Gospel Agamah, Surgical Specialist, Mr. Kofi Friday Fianu, Nurse Manager and Nurse Anesthetist. The main goal of the trip was to attend and present the work of IHDN at the Global Missions Health Conference in Louisville, KY. They also had the chance to share, learn and interact with several people. These include but not limited to visits to Springfield Memorial Hospital, Jacksonville Memorial Hospital, Hope Evangelical Free Church, Springfield, Moody Church, Chicago, Midwest Mission Distribution Center, Pawnee, IL and Rotary Club in Petersburg. They have since returned home. We thank all who hosted them and created a very great experience for them.

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### GLOBAL STATISTICS

#### Inflations Rates (%) -2022

United States	- 8
United Kindgom	- 9.1
Ghana	- 27.2
Ivory Coast	- 5.5
Togo	-5
Burkina Faso	-14.2
Ukraine	- 20.6

Source IMF

#### Infant mortality rate per 1000

US	- 5.4
India	- 27
Nigeria	- 72.2
Ghana	- 33
Ivory Coast	- 57.9
Togo	- 44.3
Burkina Faso	- 52.8

### **Thank God for thirty ninth mission trip to Ghana January 20 to February 4, 2022**

We completed our 39<sup>th</sup> mission trip to Ghana from January 20 to February 4, 2022. The team was made up of the following:

- |                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Edem Agamah     | - Team Leader                       |
| 2. Mrs. June Agamah    | - Logistic Coordinator              |
| 3. Dr. Michael Fenner  | - Surgeon                           |
| 4. Mr. Francis Mensah  | - Medical Student                   |
| 5. Ms. Ezme Holloway   | - Medical Records/Coding Specialist |
| 6. Mr. Duane Young     | - Attorney/Builder                  |
| 7. Mrs. Rita Young     | - Administrative Assistant          |
| 8. Mr. Morris Young    | - Building Contractor               |
| 9. Mrs. Patricia Young | - Nurse/Midwife                     |

This was another successful trip. Working together with the Ghanaian Medical and Surgical team, we treated over 926 patients in **8 days**. We performed 33 surgeries including 17 hernia repair, 3 hysterectomies, 7 cesarean sections with overall 13 deliveries during the period. We also did 3 breast biopsies and excision of lipoma & tumors. The construction team supported the Ghanaian team in making cabinets, counter tops, door and window frames for both the staff apartment and the Pathology building. The team assisted in data entry and analyzing of community survey data on IHDN Mission Hospital. We also hosted leadership training seminars for senior staff of the hospital.

We thank all who donated, prayed and supported us on this trip. May the Lord richly bless you.

### **Fortieth mission trip to Ghana January 20– February 4, 2022**

We undertook the 40<sup>th</sup> mission trip to Ghana from January 20 to February 4, 2022. The team was made up of the following:

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Dr. Edem Agamah       | – Team Leader   |
| 2. Mrs. June Agamah      | – Logistic Coordinator                                |
| 3. Dr. Sanjai Nagendra   | – Hemato-Pathologist & Anatomic Pathologist           |
| 4. Ms. Nikita Nagendra   | - Student   |
| 5. Ms. Murial Washington | – Medical Laboratory Technologist, Histotechnologist, |
| 6. Dr. Robert Kropp      | - Internal Medicine Resident, SIU School of Medicine, |
| 7. Mrs. Ernestine Moore  | - Registered Nurse                                    |

We treated over 969 patients including 24 surgeries. The main goal of this trip was to set up the pathology laboratory. We faced major challenges including delay in clearing the pathology equipment from the port. Thankfully about 4 days before our departure, we took delivery of the equipment. Working day and night, Dr. Nagendra, Ms. Washington and assisted by Mr. Afetsi, the Ghanaian volunteer they were able to set up and prepare slides. We were very excited when the slides came out well and a pathological diagnosis was made in the village on a breast biopsy. Our goal is improve on this effort, including investing in a slide scanner to help us launch telepathology. We thank all who have supported us in this venture.

### **Continuous Medical Education for Doctors, Medical Students and physician Assistants**

We hosted the 8th and 9th updates in Internal Medicine, Hematology & Oncology, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology on January 12, 2022 and July 13, 2022 respectively. These educational efforts offered 5.25 Category 1 CME credits and GMDC 3 CPD Credits. We had over 45-50 participants at various times during this conference. We thank all the speakers and the participants for making these programs a success.

## How a trip to Ghana with IHDN changed my world view on Healthcare

*By Jesseca Pirkle, Medical Student, Univ of Illinois, Rockford, IL*

*IHDN Mission Volunteer—July 2019*

**“You have uncontrolled diabetes and will need to be started on insulin. You will need to take it with meals and keep it refrigerated.”**

I had just completed my first year of medical school at the University of Illinois and was eagerly absorbing everything on my volunteer trip to Agbozume, Ghana with the International Health Development Network (IHDN). While I was still learning the intricate pathophysiological processes medicine had to offer, I was familiar with the significance of this diagnosis. However, I had yet to see firsthand what was to follow this statement.

**“I don’t have access to a refrigerator for the insulin.”**

In the United States, the outrageous price of insulin had been a hot topic for discussion. However, given my novelty to the field at the time, I had yet to observe any barriers to patient care in the clinic. As a result, my ignorance prevented me from even considering that individuals may lack something as common as a refrigeration device for their medication. My attending promptly developed an innovative solution, an icebox, after a quick assessment of the patient's access and needs.

This interaction proceeded to replay in my head as I returned to the United States to continue my medical education. I found myself constantly thinking about health disparities and inequities with each patient interaction. I began to see that these barriers were not isolated to third world countries like the small village in Ghana. Rather, they uniquely impact millions of Americans in a variety of different ways. I wanted to do more to be able to overcome these barriers hand-in-hand with my patients. Shortly after my trip, I found myself applying to add a Masters in Public Health with an emphasis in Health Policy and Administration to my education tract. The degree combination has granted me a strong understanding of both healthcare and legal systems and medical pathophysiological processes. This allows me to identify uncommon disparities and inequities experienced by my patients, such as lacking in access to a refrigeration device, and overcome them through advocacy and policy change.

While I would have faced the harsh reality of barriers to care in my clinical rotations, my time as a member of the IHDN team gave me a significant advantage when that time came. It opened my eyes to different perspectives, introduced me to new cultural traditions, gave me my initial opportunity to explore clinical medicine firsthand, influenced my understanding of patient barriers, and taught me how to think outside of the box to overcome those barriers. Years later, the interactions from my trip to Agbozume, Ghana continue to significantly morph my approach to patient care and make me a better provider and patient advocate. For that, I am forever grateful for my time as a member of the IHDN team.

### IHDN Mission Hospital Update— January 1 to September 30, 2022

Number of patients treated	25,198
Number of Admissions	2,956
Total Antenatal Attendance	813
Total Deliveries	179
Total Cesarean Sections	49
Maternal Mortality	1
Hernia surgeries	19
Thyroidectomy	4
Excision biopsy	3
Number of Staff	109

#### Construction Expenditure January 1 to September 3, 2022

Staff Apartment	\$17,311
Clinical Laboratory & Pathology Dept	\$30,038
Women & Children Health Center	\$45,876
Total	\$93,225

#### Hospital Financial Profile -January 1 to August 31, 2022

Total Revenue Generated	\$356,272
Hospital Expenditure	\$346,258
Total Owed Suppliers	\$98,492
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$88,480</b>

#### Welcome to Dr. David Aggah to IHDN Mission Hospital

We would like to welcome Dr. David Aggah to the IHDN Mission Hospital. Dr. Aggah, who first joined IHDN as pharmacist and was later sponsored by the Hospital to pursue medicine at the University of Allied Health Sciences, Ho. He completed his medical school rotating internship. He is single. We are proud to have him join our team. We thank God for blessing him with knowledge and ability to become a doctor to serve the poor. Please join us in welcoming him.

#### Congratulations to the new IHDN doctor - Dr. Daisy Adjorlolo

We would like to congratulate Ms. Daisy Adjorlolo for successfully completing her medical degree from the University of Allied Health Sciences, Ho. She will now be pursuing her rotating internship for 2 years. We are very proud of your accomplishment. We thank God for your dedication to learning and for blessing you with the ability. Dr. Adjorlolo's education was sponsored by IHDN Mission Hospital.

#### Bringing the World Together Fundraiser Dinner t held on June 24, 2022.

We hosted the 9th "Bringing the world together" fundraising dinner on June 24, 2022. This was our main event to raise awareness, acknowledge what God is using us to accomplish through IHDN and raise support. So far we have raised over \$99,000. The funds will be used to continue the work on the Women & Children Health Center, Clinical Laboratory and Pathology Building and the 5th Floor of the staff apartment in Ghana. We thank all of you who have donated in support of our projects. May God bless you.

### **Forty first mission trip to Ghana January 19– February 11, 2023**

We are undertaking the 41<sup>st</sup> mission trip to Ghana from January 19 to February 11, 2022. The team is made up of the following:

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Edem Agamah           | – Team Leader          |
| 2. Mrs. June Agamah          | – Logistic Coordinator |
| 3. Ms. Alikem Miriam Agamah  | - Medical Student      |
| 4. Ms. Jill Thiede           | - Medical Student      |
| 5. Ms. Keaboka Nyumbu        | - Medical Student      |
| 6. Ms. Kamaria Coleman       | - Medical Student      |
| 7. Dr Michael Fenner         | - Surgeon              |
| 8. Mr. Selormey Etse Dzikunu | - Administrator        |

During this trip, we will be hosting 4 final year medical students from SIU School of medicine, who will be on electives in Tropical Medicine and International Health. Students will have a lot of clinical exposure to tropical diseases like malaria, typhoid fever and diarrheal diseases. They will also get a lot of experience in managing severe complications of diseases like hypertension, diabetes and heart failure. There will be surgical operations and leadership development workshops. We thank all who are supporting this trip.

### **Gifts received in Memorial for the following**

1. Mr. Craig Fuchs, who passed away on April 16, 2022
2. Mr. Jacob Weller, who passed away on December 31, 2022

May the Lord comfort our hearts as we remember these loved ones.

### **Gift received in Honor**

First Church of the Brethren  
Thanks for the donation

## **Money Matters**

We rely on generous donations from friends like you to support our work in Ghana. Our fundraising efforts and ministry support have declined since the Covid –19 pandemic. Although we saw some improvement in donations, we are still behind in our targets. The IHDN Mission Hospital in Ghana is also facing a lot of challenges, including the high inflation rate in Ghana and the nonpayment of bills by the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme. We would like to appeal to you to continue your partnership with us to help save lives of the poor. We thank you for your support.

### **Financial Report from IHDN USA Form 990 Tax Return for January - December 2021**

Total Revenue— \$ 333,298  
Total Expenses— \$ 331,894  
Net                   \$    1,404

### **IHDN receives tax deductible donations of stocks and mutual funds and by**

Checks made payable to IHDN  
Zelle at 217-622-6530  
Paypal

International Health and Development  
Network  
P.O. Box 7488  
Springfield, IL 62791

Nonprofit  
Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Springfield, IL  
Permit No. 125

*A medical missions group  
using the earthly  
healthcare ministry of  
Jesus Christ as an example.*

[www.ihdn.org](http://www.ihdn.org)

### **Updates on Pathology Department Initiative**

Construction of the Clinical Laboratory and Pathology Department building in Ghana is about 50% completed. We were able to complete the pathology lab and install equipment to help us make pathological diagnosis. When fully operational patients will have timely diagnosis and receive cancer treatment closer to home. We are raising money to help buy a slide scanner, which will allow pathologist to review the slides at any part of the world and give a diagnosis. This scanner cost \$50,000 and we have raised about 20% of the amount already. We thank all who are supporting us on this projects.

### **42nd Mission trip. July 20 to August 5, 2023**

We are presently recruiting volunteers to join the 42nd Mission Trip to Ghana from July 20 to August 5, 2023. Please contact us, as soon as possible if you have an interest in being part of this team.

### **Help us raise funds on Amazon.com**

Please select **International Health & Development Network** as your charity on smile.amazon.com when you shop at Amazon.com. Amazon will make donations from your purchase to IHDN. Thanks.