

IHDN News

JULY 2023

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be in Ghana on the 42nd Mission trip. Please join us in thanking God for blessing our work in Ghana and the US over the past 27 years. We are very excited to share with you the mid-year progress report for 2023.

We sponsored the 41st Mission trip to Ghana from January 19 to February 11, 2023. We share major highlights of this trip and update you with our ongoing projects and financial situation.

We hosted our 10th annual fundraiser on March 24, 2023 and presented our progress report to the community. We also attended the Spring TECH (Technical Exchange for Christian Healthcare) Conference, which was held at the Maranatha Conference Center, Northern Shores, MI, where we presented the report on the work of IHDN in Ghana. Our work was well received.

Construction work is continuing on the Clinical Laboratory and Pathology building in Ghana.

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.

May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely

Dr. Edem Agamah

Continuous Medical Education for Doctors, Medical Students and physician Assistants

We hosted the 10th and 11th updates in Internal Medicine, Hematology & Oncology, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology on January 11, 2023 and July 12, 2023 respectively. These educational efforts offered 5.25 Category 1 CME credits and GMDC 2 CPD Credits. We had over 80 physicians, residents, medical students, nurses and physician assistants joining at various times during each of these conferences. We thank all the speakers and the participants for making these programs a great success.

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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

Thank God for the 41st Mission trip to Ghana January 19 to February 11, 2023

We completed our 41st mission trip to Ghana from January 19 to February 11, 2023. 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. Ms. Alikem M. Agamah - Final Year Student, SIU School of Medicine
5. Ms. Keaboka Nyumbu - Final Year Student, SIU School of Medicine
6. Ms. Jill Thiede - Final Year Student, SIU School of Medicine
7. Ms. Kamaria Coleman - Final Year Student, SIU School of Medicine
8. Mr. Selormey Dzikunu - Administrator, San Francisco, CA

We were assisted by several dozen Ghanaians to enable us have a great experience.

This was another successful trip. Working together with the Ghanaian Medical and Surgical team, we treated over **1,457** patients in **16 days**. About 68 % of these patients were women. Most of them were younger than 50 years. 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.

We performed 44 surgeries. Most of the surgeries (30%) were hernia repair and 2 thyroidectomies. There were 27 deliveries including 8 deliveries by cesarean section.

The medical students, who have since graduated to become doctors, gave presentations on the following topics - Kamaria – Malaria, Breast Cancer & Stroke, Alikem-Prostate Cancer & Helminthiasis, Keaboka – Typhoid Fever, Hypertension, Heart Failure Jill -Diabetes, Malnutrition & Asthma. The students saw patients with severe malaria and its complication of severe anemia, sepsis, stroke, heart failure, hypertension and pneumonia. They saw patients with advanced breast cancer and prostate cancers. Mrs. June Agamah hosted a seminar on conflict resolution.

We had an outreach program at the Agbozume market, where we screened the market men and women for high blood pressure. Over 26% of those screened had elevated blood pressure. We will continue to screen as many people in the community to help reduce the morbidity and mortality from this disease.

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

Forty second Mission Trip to Ghana—July 20 to August 4, 2023

We will be undertaking our 42nd Mission trip to Ghana from July 20 to August 4, 2023. The team is made up of the following -

Dr. Edem Agamah	Team Leader
Mrs. June Agamah	Logistic Coordinator
Ms. Arya Sreedhar	Student
Ms. Helen Moose	Midwife – SIU
Dr. Vidya Sundareshan	Physician
Ms. Ernestine Moore	Nurse

Please join us in praying for a successful trip. We thank all who donated in support of this trip.

Construction Updates

Work continues on the Clinical Laboratory and Pathology Building. The workers are focusing on finishing the outer structure of the 2nd and 3rd floor. This will pave the way for the interior work including, plumbing, electricals and wood work and to be completed. Construction work on the Women & Children Health Center at Worgbato has not progressed since January, 2023. This is because of the need to fence the land to avoid encroachment and other problems that we may face. We are hoping and praying that once we have more funds we will be able to complete these projects by the end of the year.

Why I decided to join the IHDN Mission Team to Ghana

*Jill Thiede -4th year SIU Medical student **

First year resident, Family Medicine, Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital, San Diego, CA

Walking in the muggy heat of a Midwest August, I said a silent prayer as I arrived on campus for my first day of medical school at Southern Illinois University Medical School (SIU). I prayed that God would connect me with a supportive, faith focused community to walk alongside through the next four years. In retrospect, that prayer has been answered in innumerable connections with classmates, mentors, and community members. The prayer may have been answered most quickly, however, by me sitting down in class that morning next to Miriam Agamah, with whom I soon became close friends. We were drawn closer with our deep conversations on our faith and purpose in life.

During the next couple years, over dinners together and with a few classmates, I learned about Miriam's trips with her family to Ghana, the International Health and Development Network (IHDN), and the work they did in Agbozume. IHDN is deeply rooted in faith and in the community they serve and I learned of the personal connections IHDN has with the region. Additionally, I found a strong faith community during those dinners with my classmates.

In my own life, I was praying frequently for God to continue to guide my use of the gifts he has given me. I have been blessed to receive an excellent education both in medical school, as well as being a registered dietitian and receiving a public health degree. While continuing praying for guidance in my career path, I decided to pursue family medicine, where I found meaning in connecting with my patients and working with them over a wide array of disciplines, touching on almost anything from cradle to grave.

As the opportunity presented itself during the transition between third and fourth year, I found myself being called to the International Health and Tropical Medicine elective with IHDN. The past experiences God had provided me will serve me to provide better education and medical care from a public health background. I am looking forward to building upon the strong relationships I already have with my fellow students, developed over many faith filled discussions, as we provide care and evangelism. As a student, I am looking forward to making more connections with patients as well as learning first hand about Tropical and International medicine.

My current career plans will likely take me internationally in the future, and I hope learning from experienced teachers like Dr. Agamah now will allow me to delve into tropical medicine more deeply as a physician. Even if my future career does not take me internationally again, I know that the experiences I will have on our trip will encourage me to become a more Christ-centered, patient-focused physician.

*Article written before graduation from the Southern IL School of Medicine, Springfield

10th Annual Fundraising Dinner

We hosted the 10th annual fundraising Dinner on March 24, 2023 that was attended by 246 people. The goal was to raise \$150,000 to help us complete the Clinical Laboratory and Pathology building, pay for a digital pathology scanner and complete the Women and Children Health Center.

So far we have raised \$114,620. We are very thankful to all who donated to support our work. We thank all others who volunteered their time in the planning and hosting of this event. May the Lord bless you and strengthen you in all that you do.

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healthcare ministry of
Jesus Christ as an example.*

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43rd Mission trip planned for January 25 to February 17, 2024

We are presently recruiting volunteers to join the 43rd Mission Trip to Ghana from January 25 to February , 2023. Please contact us, as soon as possible if you have an interest in being part of this team.

Money Matters

Gift received in Honor of
Lydia Claire Tapia Del Valle

Gift received in Memory of
Frank Albanese

Fundraiser at Auburn,IL

Helen Moose and her family hosted and event in Auburn, IL to help raise \$3,475 towards the construction of the Women and Children Health Center. We thank all who donated.

We thank Howard Heart Ministries and the Creative Planning Foundation for their generous support of our work

Several people continue to support our work. We would like to thank you for all the support we are receiving. May God bless you.

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

Checks made payable to IHDN

Zelle at 217-415-1414

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