

IHDN News

DECEMBER 2023

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The year is almost coming to an end and we want to extend our end of year greetings to you and your family.

We have had a very busy year. We are very thankful to the Lord for seeing us thorough two mission trips to Ghana in January (41st) and July (42nd). We share major highlights of the last trip with you. We also shed light on developments and changes at the IHDN Mission Hospital in Ghana. We provide financial updates on activities in Ghana.

We purchased new pathology equipment and slide scanner that are on the way to Ghana.

We attended the Global Missions Health Conference in Louisville, KY. We lost some team members, made new friends and received lots of inquiries about our work.

We are very 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 helps flooding families at Agbozume and surrounding areas

Several parts of Ghana have experienced an unusually high amount of rains in 2023. This has led to flooding in various parts of the country. What most people have read about in the news is the areas affected by the water from the Volta Lake.

What has not been widely reported is the flooding and devastating losses in both the Ketu North and South districts of Ghana.

The Agbozume area and surrounding towns and villages were not exempted. Most people lost their homes and properties due to the flooding. They had to evacuate their homes to seek shelter with friends and families.

A lot of the victims attend the EP Church at Agbozume.

IHDN therefore made donations of mattresses, detergents and food items to over 25 families. While these gifts will not be adequate to replace their losses, we wanted to encourage them in their greatest time of need.

We thank God for all who donated in support of these flood victims. We pray that the Lord helps them to heal and recover form their losses.

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GLOBAL STATISTICS

Inflations Rates (%) -2023

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| United States | - 4.1 |
| United Kindgom | - 7.7 |
| Ghana | - 42.2 |
| Ivory Coast | - 4.3 |
| Togo | -5 |
| Burkina Faso | -1.4 |
| Ukraine | - 17.7 |

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 Forty Second mission trip to Ghana July 20 to August 4, 2023

We completed our 42nd mission trip to Ghana from July 20 to August 4, 2023. The team was made up of the following:

1. Dr. Edem Agamah - Team Leader
2. Mrs. June Agamah - Logistic Coordinator
3. Ms. Arya Sreedhar - Student
4. Mrs. Helen Moose - Midwife
5. Dr. Vidya Sundareshan - Infectious Disease Specialist
6. Mrs. Ernestine Moore - Nurse

This was another successful trip. Working with the Ghanaian Medical and Surgical teams, we treated over **795** patients in **8 days**. We performed 18 surgeries including 8 hernia repairs, 2 cesarean sections and 12 deliveries during the period. We hosted leadership training seminars for senior staff of the hospital and held joint fellowship meeting with the hospital staff.

We hosted an outreach program at the Agbozume market, where we screened over 65 subjects for hypertension. Over 26% of the people screened had elevated blood pressure. They were educated on hypertension and then referred to the hospital for treatment. We thank all who donated, prayed and supported us on this trip. May the Lord richly bless you.

Visit to Keta Nursing & Midwifery Training College

We visited the Keta Nursing & Midwifery Training College to learn about the school and some of the challenges they faced. Their immediate needs include computers and hostel facilities for students. Some of the students are not able to pay their fees and needed assistance. We discussed ways that we could build a collaborative relationship with the school. We hope that we will be able to support them in future.

Lectures at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital

Dr. Sundareshan gave a lecture on Antimicrobial Stewardship at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra. This was mainly attended by residents and specialist from the Department of Medicine. We are hoping to build on this effort to build a relationship that pursues scholarly work with the department. We thank all who were involved in this program.

Continuous Medical Education for Doctors, Medical Students and physician Assistants

We hosted the 11th Updates in Internal Medicine, Hematology & Oncology, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology on July 12, 2023 respectively. This educational effort offered 5.25 Category 1 CME credits and GMDC 2 CPD Credits. Topics discussed included Non-Malignant Breast Diseases, Sexually Transmitted Infections, Antimicrobial Stewardship, Heart Failure, Chronic Kidney Diseases, Cervical Cancer and Colorectal Cancer.

We had over 80 doctors, physician assistants, medical students, pharmacist, nurses and others participants at various times.

We thank all the speakers and the participants for making this program a success.

The 12th Updates in Internal Medicine, Hematology & Oncology, Surgery Obstetrics and Gynecology is on January 17, 2024

IHDN to sponsor 43rd mission to Ghana from January 25 to February 17, 2024

We will undertake our 43rd mission trip to Ghana from January 25 to February 17, 2024. The team is 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. Murial Washington - Medical Laboratory Technologist, Histotechnologist,
5. Dr. Stephanie Short -Internal Medicine Resident, SIU School of Medicine
6. Ms. Kanicia Green - Medical Student, SIU School of Medicine
7. Ms. Maria Pilar Mayorga - Accountant
8. Mrs. Ernestine Moore - Registered Nurse

During this trip, we will provide medical services, and teach. Our learners from SIU School of Medicine will be undertaking their electives in Internal Medicine & Tropical Medicine at the hospital. We are also hoping to commission the new Pathology Slide Scanner to commence telepathology services at the hospital.

IHDN Acquire Pathology Slide Scanner, Tissue Processor, Embedding Station & Microtome

We are pleased to announce that through the generous support of friends, we were able to purchase the pathology Slide Scanner, Automated Tissue Processor, Embedding Station & Microtome. We had a microscope donated to us. These have been shipped to Ghana. We are hoping to take delivery of these items before the mission team arrives in January 2024. We thank all who donated in support of the Pathology Department project. May God bless you.

IHDN Mission Hospital is now EP Church International Mission Hospital

The IHDN Mission Hospital in Ghana has changed its name to the EP Church International Mission Hospital. This will allow us to work closely with the EP Church as we serve together in His vine yard. We are hoping that this will lead to better ministry opportunities for both IHDN and the Church. We thank God for all involved in this effort.

Visit to EP Church International Mission Hospital by Dr. Hong - Oct 24-November 8, 2023

Dr. Kung Hong, a missionary radiologist, recently visited the hospital in Ghana as part of the Moody Church Stamp team visiting Ghana. He preached at the EP Church, Agbozume, gave lectures on Xrays, Ultrasound and read Xrays at the hospital. During the trip, he made donations of books and a financial gift from his friend, Mr. Lee, to the hospital. On the last day of his trip, he was joined by Mr. Noble Adigbli and Mr. Kevin Tobin to present relief items to flood victims on behalf of IHDN. We thank them and the Moody Church family for supporting the work of IHDN. May God bless them

IHDN Mission Hospital Update— January 1 to August 31, 2023

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Number of out patients treated | 19,125 |
| Number of Admissions | 2,235 |
| Total Surgeries | 282 |
| Number of Staff | 115 |

Dr. David Aggah & Mr. Wisdom Friday resign from IHDN Mission Hospital

We regret to announce that during the last quarter of 2023, Dr. David Aggah (September 2023) & Mr. Wisdom Friday Fianu (October 2023) resigned from the IHDN Mission Hospital. These two were sponsored by IHDN to pursue their higher education. The expectation was for them to come back to work and help build the clinical services at the hospital. However, they decided to resign. We thank them for their work with IHDN. We wish them well in their endeavors.

Flooding destroys several properties in several villages near Agbozume and Weta

Due to the heavy rainfalls in 2023, several people living in small towns and villages lost their homes and properties and farms. Access to the Women and Children Health Center was cut off. Several people had water borne diseases and were treated at the hospital. Part of the area in the hospital was also flooded, damaging the underground electrical cables. As a result we lost power generation from the solar plant. Thankfully, this was partially repaired. We are waiting for final specialized cable replacement.

Accident on hospital compound leads to death of tipper truck driver

A tipper truck driver died in a single vehicle accident at the hospital entrance in late November 2023. He was hired to bring gravel to reclaim the flooded grounds on the hospital compound. Unfortunately, he died at the entrance of the hospital when his truck hit the concrete super structure of the entrance gate. He died from the injuries he sustained.

This accident led to damage of electrical cables and resultant interruptions in power supply to the hospital. We thank the members of staff, volunteers and the engineers and all those who came to support us and restore power and normal traffic flow during this challenging times.

Our sympathies go to the bereaved families and close associates.

Christian Bible Church renew their support for IHDN

Christian Bible Church, Cissna Park, Illinois continue their support for the building of the Women & Children Health Center in Ghana. The Church raised \$8116 in November to help us buy materials to complete this building project. Since September 2022, they have raised a total of \$15,816 in support of the construction.

We are hoping to resume construction as soon as we have additional funds. We still need about \$53,000 to complete this project.

We thank them for their faithfulness and generosity. We also thank all who have raised money towards this facility. When fully built and functional, the lives of pregnant women and children will be saved. Eventually the healthcare profile of the village of Worgbato and surrounding areas will change.



Sister Francisca and her nursing team



With Ghana team at the Airport in Accra



Mission Team after Church Service



Outreach at Agbozume market



Pregnant women at the ante-natal clinic



Ward rounds at Maternity ward



At Ohare before departure to Ghana



Dr. Hong in front of Hospital



During rounds at the Emergency Ward



With the Hospital Staff after workshops



Flooding at Agbozume and other villages



Donation of food & relief items to victims

What is Pathology and what are Pathology Slides used for?

Someone from Ghana recently asked me about the meaning of pathology and “what were these slides we keep on talking about”? She wondered whether we were referring to people who have died. I was very surprised about the question and realized that we have made a lot of assumptions about our ongoing work in providing pathology services in Ghana.

It appears that in Ghana Pathologist are synonymous with doctors who work in the morgue and do autopsies to determine the cause of death. As a result Pathology Department is erroneously thought of as a morgue. While this is true to some extent that is not all that pathologists do. Likewise pathology department is not all morgue.

Pathology is that part of medical science that studies the origin, nature and course of diseases. It involves the study of manifestations of diseases and the changes occurring in various organs. The practice of medicine involves the need to make pathological diagnosis for various ailments affecting the body. A correct and timely diagnosis helps the doctor prescribe the correct treatment. Ideally, one needs to make a diagnosis of an ailment before the patient passes on. Unfortunately, in some parts of the developing world this is not possible. This is largely due to the shortage of pathologists and inadequate resources.

Patients die prematurely without accurate diagnosis and treatment. In some of these settings, autopsies are usually done to reveal the diagnosis after the patient dies.

While this helps clarify the cause of death, the focus of our pathology initiative in Ghana is to help make a diagnosis before death. This will allow the doctors to prescribe the correct treatment and save lives.

Making a diagnosis involves taking part of the body tissue (biopsy). This is processed in special machines and cut into very thin, fine pieces that are mounted on glass slides. The glass slides are then stained with special chemicals by technicians called histology technicians and then given to the doctors to read and interpret the findings. These doctors are called pathologist. They are in very short supply in Ghana and most developing world. Ghana has about 30 for a population of 33 million. Most of them live and work in urban areas.

Pathological diagnosis is expensive and complex. It involves specialized training. This is one of the major reasons why people living in resource poor areas do not have access to this type of service. They therefore die prematurely of treatable diseases. In villages and elsewhere they have big funerals to honor the dead.

IHDN is leading the effort to make a difference. We will initially focus on the early detection and diagnosis of diseases like breast, cervix, prostate cancer and colon cancers in rural Ghana. The pathology services will help us provide this needed service. We will offer surgical pathology diagnostic services and then add post mortem services once we have the human and material resources. We plan to train histology technicians to prepare the slides and to be scanned by the new slide scanning machine we purchased. This will then be sent to the pathologist elsewhere to be read. In our case, we will send to the US to be read by our colleagues.

Gifts received in Memorial for the following

Larry Lashbrook, who passed away on October 4, 2023

May the Lord comfort Larry’s family and the hearts of all who have lost loved ones.

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

Checks made payable to IHDN

Zelle at 217-415-1414

Paypal

Thank you for your generous donation

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using the earthly
healthcare ministry of
Jesus Christ as an example.*

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Money Matters

We rely on generous donations from friends like you to support our work in Ghana. We are very thankful to all who have been supporting us. This year has been particularly challenging for us. Although our donations increased, our expenses have also increased. The re-imbursements from the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme continue to lag behind. We have faced unexpected losses due to flooding and damaged electrical equipment and power supply at the hospital. We have spent resources to reclaim the hospital compound and prevent future flooding and damaged infrastructure. We have used our reserves and funds from the US to pay for expenses of the hospital operations. We are also lagging behind in payment of bills owed pharmaceutical companies. We would like to appeal to you to continue your partnership with an end of year tax-deductible donation to help us save lives of the poor. We thank you for your support.

Preliminary Financial Report from IHDN Ghana Operations January-October 30, 2023

Account Payable (Amt owed to others) - \$110,522

Account Receivable (Amt owed by others)- \$113,989

Total Revenue— \$ 579,573

Total Expenses— \$ 698,512*

Net loss \$ -(118,939)

* Expenses paid from funds received from IHDN USA

Construction Expenses since 2014 & Amount needed to complete buildings

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Staff Apartment | - \$1,168,711 | \$8,277 |
| Pathology Building | - \$ 416,148 | \$11,429 |
| Road Construction | - \$ 91,718 | \$99,284 |
| Warehouse & workshop | - \$ 44,638 | \$12,614 |
| Women & Children Center | - \$ 82,304 | \$41,462 |