

IHDN News

DECEMBER 2024

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

We seize this opportunity to extend our end of year greetings and gratitude to you and your family.

We are very thankful to the Lord for seeing us through two mission trips to Ghana in January (43rd) and October (44th). We have had a very busy but successful year. We share some major highlights with you in this report. We also share updates from the E.P Church International Mission Hospital (formerly IHDN Mission Hospital) with you. We provide financial updates.

We hosted a community wide Breast Cancer Awareness durbar during our trip to Ghana in October.

We attended the Global Missions Health Conference and also presented our report at the TECH Conference in Louisville, KY in November. We received lots of inquiries about our work in telepathology. We thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support. Working together, we are advancing God's kingdom. Together, 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

Breast Cancer Awareness & Survivorship Durbar in Ghana

If you have a breast lump and do not know that it is cancer and live in avillage, you may be diagnosed very late and may not survive. You may not have enough money to pay for your food and let alone travel to a big city to receive cancer care. You may chose death and reject treatments. IHDN hosted a Breast Cancer Awareness and Survivorship Durbar at the EP Church International Mission Hospital in Ghana on October 10, 2024. This was attended by over 300 people including politicians, businessmen, and community leaders. Themed "Early detection saves lives", we introduced our rural cancer program with a focus on breast cancer care to the community. We have treated over 22 breast cancer patients so far. The staff performed a great informative play on the journey of a market woman with breast cancer in Ewe. Myths and cultural barriers were highlighted. Breast cancer survivors shared their cancer journey. We received a donation of approximately \$952 from **Greatness in You**, (giyou.org) a US-based Ghanaian group. We also raised about \$195 from the audience. Internet connectivity by Starlink was deployed for the hospital by Dr. Prince Kludejson of Celltel. We thank all who supported this effort. May God bless you all.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Forty Third Mission Trip to Ghana	2
IHDN Fundraiser	2
Former patient donates to the hospital	2
CPD for Doctors	2
44 th Mission tip	5

GLOBAL STATISTICS

Inflations Rates (%) -2024

United States	- 3.3
United Kindgom	- 2.5
Ghana	- 23
Ivory Coast	- 2.6
Togo	-2.7
Burkina Faso	-0.7
Ukraine	- 11.2

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 Third mission trip to Ghana - January 25 to February 17, 2024

We completed our 43rd mission trip to Ghana from January 25 to February 17, 2024. 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. Muriel 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 - Nurse

We were joined by Dr. Gospel Agamah, a volunteer Ghanaian Surgical Specialist, & Dr. Kobina Bainsan, a Dermatologist and Public Health Physician. This was another successful trip. Working with the Ghanaian Medical and Surgical teams, we treated over **1622** patients in **17 days**. We performed **37** surgeries including **15** hernia repairs, **9** myomectomies, **3** cesarean sections and **1** mastectomy. There were **12** deliveries during the period. We screened 65 subjects for hypertension at the Agbozume market. Over **26%** of the people had elevated blood pressure. They were referred to the hospital for treatment. We provided leadership training on customer service and cost accounting. We thank all who donated, prayed and supported us on this trip. May the Lord richly bless you.

IHDN Hosts the 11th Annual Fundraiser Dinner

Our 11th Annual Fundraiser Dinner called "Bringing The World Together" on June 7, 2024 was attended by 282 guests. Our goal was to raise \$150,000s to complete the Multipurpose Pathology Laboratory building, grow the Cancer program and complete the Women and Children Health Center at Worgbato. Over \$107,000 was raised. We thank all who volunteered and contributed financially to support of our work. We will appreciate your donation to help us reach our fund raising goal. May God bless you for your generosity.

Former patient supports hospital with detergents, toiletries, food items in Ghana

Mr. Freeman Amedume, a young mason, donated several items to the hospital in August 2024. Freeman attended a vocational school near the hospital. While in school, he fell very ill and received excellent medical care at the hospital. He promised to support the hospital one day with items of value. He saved money regularly to enable him buy these items. We thank Mr. Amedume very much for his generosity. You are an encouragement to us all. We pray that your example will inspire others to support the hospital, no matter how much money they have. May God bless you.

Continuous Medical Education for Doctors, Medical Students and physician Assistants

The 12th & 13th Updates in Internal Medicine, Hematology& Oncology, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology were held on January 17, 2024 & on September 25, 2024, respectively. This educational effort offered 5.25 Category 1 CME credits and GMDC 2 CPD Credits for providers in Ghana. Over 100 doctors, physician assistants, medical students, pharmacist, nurses participated in each program. We thank all the speakers and the participants for making this program a success.

The 14th Updates in Internal Medicine, Hematology & Oncology, Surgery Obstetrics and Gynecology is on January 22, 2025

IHDN completes 44th mission to Ghana from October 2 to 18, 2024

We completed our 44th mission trip to Ghana from October 2 to October 18, 2024. The team was made up of the following:

1. Dr. Edem Agamah - Team Leader
2. Mrs. June Agamah - Logistic Coordinator
3. Dr. Rajanbir Singh - Internal Medicine Resident, SIU School of Medicine
4. Ms. Omar Al Tamimi - Internal Medicine Resident, SIU School of Medicine
5. Mrs. Hilda Elie Ahable - Nurse

We were joined by Dr. Nelson Agboadoh, a volunteer Ghanaian Surgical Consultant, who performed surgeries on several patients. We treated over **897** patients in **9 days**. We performed **34** surgeries including **4** hernia repairs, **4** hysterectomies, **4** breast biopsies, **4** Cesarean sections and **1** mastectomy. There were **12** deliveries during the period. We hosted leadership training seminars for senior staff of the hospital and held joint fellowship meetings with the hospital staff.

IHDN ATTENDS GLOBAL MISSION HEALTH CONFERENCE & PRESENTS AT THE TECH CONFERENCE IN LOUISVILLE, KY

We attended the Global Missions Health Conference (GMHC) in Louisville, KY in November 2024. This annual conference brings together most mission groups all over the world. It allows us to learn from one another, network and build new relationships. IHDN presented our report at the TECH Meeting, the day before the Conference. The telepathology work in Ghana was very well received. We made new friends and received lots of inquiries about this work in other parts of the world. We thank all who supported us and made it possible for us to attend the conference.

IHDN to undertake 45th Mission trip to Ghana from January 30-February 22, 2025

The team is made up of the following:

1. Dr. Edem Agamah - Team Leader
2. Mrs. June Agamah - Logistic Coordinator
3. Dr. Mokenge Malafa - Surgical Oncologist
4. Dr. Melanie Barnard - Breast Surgeon
5. Dr. Wendy Lim - Surgery Resident, SIU School of Medicine
6. Dr. Akpene Sarah Agamah - Psychiatry Resident, Loyola School of Medicine
7. Dr. Alikem Miriam Agamah - Radiology Resident, University of Indiana
8. Ms. Stella Udoetuk - Final Year Student, SIU School of Medicine
9. Ms. Ashely-Ann Walker - Final Year Student, SIU School of Medicine
10. Mr. Michael Brown - Final Year Student, SIU School of Medicine
11. Mr. James Loeffler - Biomedical Engineer,

Mission Team Visits Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG)

We were hosted by Dr. Peter Yeboah and Dr. James Duah at the CHAG headquarters in Accra. We shared our new initiatives in pathology diagnosis and our vision of developing a rural cancer care program for the people living in rural areas of Ghana. We were very well received and we plan to have further discussions on growing this much needed care. We also visited Ho, to attend the board meeting of the EP Church International Mission Hospital.

IHDN Mission Hospital Update— January 1 to August 31, 2024

Number of out patients treated	18,288
Number of Admissions	2,087
Total Surgeries	226
Number of Staff	124

A transform experience in Ghana—By Dr. Omar Al Tamimi

My experience in Ghana was truly transformative. It gave me a fresh perspective on what it means to practice medicine in resource-limited settings compared to the advanced healthcare systems I've been accustomed to in the US. Although the trip lasted only two weeks, it was an intense and deeply immersive experience, packed with lessons that will stay with me for a lifetime. Working in a country with limited diagnostic tools forced me to rely heavily on clinical skills, especially the physical exam. Many of the diagnostic tools we take for granted simply weren't available, but this challenge underscored the true essence of medicine.

The people of Agbozume, where I stayed, made this journey unforgettable. Despite the daily challenges they face, they are among the kindest and most welcoming individuals I've ever met. Everywhere we went, we were greeted with the warm and heartfelt "e wezo, e wezo," meaning "welcome." Their genuine kindness created a profound sense of comfort and belonging.

The group I traveled with, led by Dr. & Mrs. Agamah, felt like family, with each of us playing a significant role in the project and contributing to our collective mission of serving the needs of others. Our discussions, especially at the end of the day, were meaningful, reflecting on the cases we encountered and the experiences we shared. The extended family in Ghana—the hosts who cared for our food, transportation, and well-being—shared the same goal, each playing a unique role in supporting us and ensuring our focus remained on helping others.

One of the most impactful parts of the trip was organizing a breast cancer awareness program in a community where the disease is prevalent but deeply misunderstood. Many people, out of desperation and misinformation, turn to herbalists or charlatans rather than seeking medical advice. The program aimed to dispel these misconceptions, providing education on early detection and proper medical care. It was rewarding to see the positive impact of this effort on the community.

This trip enriched me both personally and professionally. It brought me a profound sense of satisfaction, contentment, and growth. I gained medical knowledge, sharpened my clinical skills, and created beautiful memories. During my time there, I witnessed cases that are rare in the U.S., such as advanced-stage breast cancers, multinodular goiters, and salivary gland tumors, often presenting at stages far beyond what we usually encounter due to late diagnoses and limited resources.

Working at the IHDN hospital and seeing all the facilities that are being developed, most recently the pathology lab, was deeply motivational. What struck me most were the stories of the staff—the pathology lab technicians, the infusion room nurse—who had achieved so much despite limited resources. They trained themselves through online courses and self-learning, overcoming significant barriers to provide the best care possible.

Their resilience and creativity were nothing short of inspiring. It was humbling to witness how, with determination and hard work, they made the most of what little they had, continuously striving to improve themselves and their community.

This experience taught me the power of perseverance and the value of finding solutions even in the face of adversity. The lessons I learned, the memories I made, and the people I met in Ghana will forever remain in my heart. Until next time, Ghana.

Congratulations to Mr. Mark Dedzoe for graduation from Law School in Ghana

Mr. Mark Dedzoe, the administrator, finished the professional law school in Ghana. He was called to the bar on October 11, 2024. Your faithfulness and hard work has been rewarded. We thank God for using you as a blessing to many. Continue to serve for His glory.

.The most rewarding experience in my life – Dr. Rajanbir Singh, Internal Medicine Resident,

Going to Ghana on my electives was truly one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It exceeded every expectation I had before arriving. From the moment we landed, I was struck by the vibrant energy and warmth of the people. Accra, the capital city, was a bustling, colorful scene: the streets were filled with pedestrians, motorbikes, and cars. People were moving about, living life with an undeniable sense of joy and purpose.

During our first day in Accra, I was immediately taken by the freshness of the food. It was unlike anything I had tasted before—everything seemed to come straight from the farm to the table. The fruits, in particular, were so fresh that their sweet aroma reminded me of my home in India, where produce is equally vibrant and full of life.

After our brief stay in Accra, we traveled to Agbozume, a small village in southern Ghana, where the IHDN Hospital is located. That evening, we were warmly welcomed by the hospital staff, who were excited to see us and eager to start our work together. What followed was a deeply impactful journey of providing medical care to the local community.

One of the most striking things about the people we treated was their resilience. Despite facing serious health challenges, poverty, and limited access to medical resources, the patients greeted us with smiles and gratitude. It was a humbling experience that taught me so much about the strength of the human spirit.

In Ghana, we had very few resources compared to what we are accustomed to in the U.S. With limited access to advanced diagnostics, we relied heavily on our physical exam skills and patient histories. The only imaging tool available was X-ray, and lab tests were minimal. However, I was in awe of the local doctors and nurses. They showed incredible resourcefulness in providing care despite the challenges. In many cases, one doctor would serve as a primary care provider one day, then switch roles to become an emergency doctor, pediatrician, or gynecologist the next. The shortage of doctors meant they wore many hats, often taking on multiple specialties at once.

One aspect of the experience that really stood out was the prevalence of diseases I don't often see in the U.S. For example, I was shocked to see young women presenting with advanced stages of breast cancer, some already at stage 4. We worked to assess their conditions, perform physical exams, and schedule biopsies where possible.

It was clear that news of our arrival had spread quickly—patients lined up to see Dr. Agamah, the lead physician, and the rest of us. The need for healthcare was immense, and yet, despite the scarcity of resources, people came with a sense of hope.

Beyond the medical aspects, my time in Ghana taught me valuable lessons about life, gratitude, and privilege. I realized just how fortunate we are to have access to healthcare, technology, and basic comforts that we often take for granted. In Ghana, despite the hardships, the people were rich in spirit, kindness, and community.

For the two weeks I spent there, I felt completely at home. The local people made sure we were well-fed, and the food was always delicious and comforting. I didn't have to worry about the typical concerns, like food safety, mosquitoes, or illness. The hospitality I received was unparalleled, and it truly felt like I was among family.

On our way back to the U.S., we spent another day in Accra, where I had the opportunity to visit a Sikh temple. I was pleasantly surprised to meet several Sikh businessmen working in the area, which was a reminder of how interconnected our global community truly is.

Looking back, this medical mission trip was one of the highlights of my career. It was a profoundly eye-opening and fulfilling experience, one that I will cherish forever. And if the opportunity arises, I will return in a heartbeat.

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

Money Matters

Donations from friends like you help support our work in Ghana. We are very thankful to all who have been supporting us. We have consistently used our reserves and funds from the US to help pay for expenses of the hospital operations. We are lagging behind in payment of bills owed pharmaceutical companies. We would like to appeal to you to continue your support with an end of year tax-deductible donation to help us save lives of the poor in Ghana. We accept donations by Check, Zelle (217-415-1414), and appreciated Stocks and Mutual Funds, Contact “ihdn@aol.com” for details.

We thank you for your support. May God bless you

Preliminary Financial Report from IHDN Mission Hospital Ghana Operations. Period— January-October 31, 2024

Account Payable (Amt owed to others) - \$126,125

Account Receivable (Amt owed by others)- \$80,994

Total Revenue— \$ 380,810

Total Expenses— \$ 595,431

Net loss \$ -(214,621)*

* Expenses paid from funds received from IHDN USA

US Tax Return Form 990 for 2023

Total Revenue - \$435,081

Total Expenses - \$361,924

Revenue less Expenses - \$73,157—Used to pay outstanding bills from 2022

Gifts in Memory of Mr. David Elder

We received a total donation of \$1,580 in Memory of Mr. David Elder, who passed away on May 5, 2024. David was a great volunteer and supporter of IHDN. We thank all those who donated in his Memory. May God bless you.