

IHDN News

JUNE 2012

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be in Ghana. It barely made it to the printers before our trip. We take pride in the relationships that we have with our friends and all who support us. We therefore are aware of the need to keep you updated on what is happening with IHDN.

We have had a very busy year so far. We sponsored a winter mission trip to Ghana; hosted a fundraiser; and have another mission trip now underway. Several people have sacrificed their time and resources to help us accomplish these endeavors. We thank them for their support. Our work in Ghana is rapidly growing, beyond our capacity to handle. The resources have been stretched to the limit. We continue to look for additional workers to help relieve some of the pressures on the hospital staff; but most people want to live in the big cities where they can make more money. Because we do not make a lot of money in a village setting, we are not a competitive option for most people we interview. Our prayer is that we find people who are called to serve the poor to join our team, here in the U.S. and in Ghana. Thanks for being part of this faith journey. May God bless you.

Sincerely

Dr. Edem S. Agamah

President, IHDN

Mr. Tim Rice visits Ghana

Mr. Tim Rice, secretary of IHDN, paid a visit to Ghana on June 9 -16. He spent time with the IHDN team, including Mr. Ben Agamah. He also fixed several computers in the hospital. This is the 4th visit to Ghana by Mr. Rice. It will be recalled that Tim first went to Ghana in 1998 with his wife Nancy to set up a computer training program. Since then, he has taken his whole family to Ghana and continues to support the work of IHDN. On a sad note, after Mr. Rice came back from Ghana, his mother, Ms. Sharron Hale, who was ill for some time, passed away on June 25. Our sympathies go out to the Rice family. We also thank the family for designating memorial donations in support of IHDN.

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HEALTH STATISTICS

GHANA

Infant mortality Rate : 50

(per 1000)

Under 5 mortality Rate : 74

(per 1000)

No of neonatal deaths :
22,000

USA

Infant mortality Rate : 7

(per 1000)

Under 5 mortality Rate : 8
(per 1000)

No of neonatal deaths:18,000

Source: World Health Organization

www.who.int/en

Winter Medical & Surgical Mission trip to Ghana a great success

The 20th mission trip to Ghana in 2012 encompassed the time from January 26 to February 23, 2012. The team members were:

Team A. January 26-February 8, 2012

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Edem Agamah | Team leader |
| 2. Dr. John Sutyak | General surgery |
| 3. Ms. Sarah Fink | Nurse Anesthetist |
| 4. Ms. Lynne Allen | Surgical nurse |
| 5. Dr. Michael Sinha | Electives (returned February 23) |

The main focus of the trip was providing medical and surgical care to the people of southeastern Ghana. We held daily medical and surgical clinics at the IHDN Mission Hospital at Weta. With the help of the Ghanaian medical staff, we attended to over 960 patients for the 6 days. Most (710) were female; only 75 were children. The most common diagnosis was malaria, followed by hypertension and degenerative joint diseases. Dr. Sutyak and the surgical team performed 32 operations. Most of the surgical cases were hernias, hydroceles, or breast cancers. Specimens from 7 breast cancer patients were reviewed by Dr. Onsi Kamel and Dr. Sanjai Nagendra, pathologists at St. John's Hospital and Memorial Medical Center, respectively. Some of these cases were presented at the weekly Tumor Board hosted by Memorial Medical Center. Most of the patients who needed further care were referred to Dr. S.M. Zakariah, one of our surgical colleagues at the Police Hospital in Accra. We intend to build on this experience by recruiting more surgical teams in the future. We thank all the volunteers and those who supported this trip.

Fundraising event held in support of inpatient ward in Springfield

A fundraiser was held on March 23, 2012 in Springfield in support of the inpatient ward that is currently under construction. We received support from several people, including volunteers from Hope Church of Springfield and First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Decatur. We also had publicity from the local newspaper (the *State Journal-Register*) and WLUJ. There was a fashion show, a video documentary on IHDN and fine Ghanaian food. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Richard Donlon of Christ Community Health Services, Memphis, Tenn. He challenged us to continue to contribute our resources to support work that helps the poor. We are pleased to announce that we raised over \$53,880 in cash, representing 54% of our target for the event. These funds were used to purchase building materials, including cement and roofing sheets. We thank all those who participated in this event. We also thank all those who donated in support of the building fund.

Memorial Donations to IHDN

We received memorial donations of \$3,330 in memory of Mr. Michael Bredehoft, who passed away this year. We also received donations in memory of Mr. Charlie Brittin and Mrs. Rhonda Miller. We pray for God's peace and healing for the bereaved families. We thank all who donated.

Gifts in Honor of Mr. Benjamin Agamah

We received a gift in honor of Mr. Benjamin Agamah, who celebrated his 84th birthday on January 5. In lieu of gifts, donations were made to IHDN. We thank those who donated.

Update on inpatient wards and other construction

Construction activities are continuing, with part of the wards being roofed. Please see pictures online at www.ihdn.org. There was a severe shortage of cement in Ghana in the past 3 months due to a breakdown at the cement factory. This led to price increases from 13 GH cedis to 20 GH cedis per bag. The problem has been resolved but prices are yet to come down. If prices do not come down further, our initial estimates of \$1.3 million to complete the inpatient ward will be revised. In the meantime, we are focusing on finishing work on a portion to hold 40 beds out of the planned 80-bed inpatient ward. We are also reviewing and praying about a proposal to add a labor and delivery ward due to heavy demand for quality maternity care in the area. This will help reduce the mortality of pregnant women during delivery. Our hope and prayer is that we will be able to raise enough funds and other resources to complete the 40-bed wing by July 2013.

Congratulations to Mr. Mark Dedzoe

Mr. Mark Dedzoe, the acting Administrator at the IHDN Mission Hospital completed an MBA, in Hospital Administration, at the University of Ghana Business School. Mark is one of the success stories of IHDN, which sponsored his postgraduate education. He was one of the students who participated in the math enrichment classes in 1999. He went on to receive an IHDN sponsorship to pursue an undergraduate degree at the University of Ghana. He came back to work for IHDN when the hospital was opened in 2008. During the last 2 years Mark worked hard, combining his responsibilities at the hospital with his academic work. We thank God for Mark. We pray for God's guidance as he continues to serve Him.

Dr. Collins Okpoti joins IHDN Staff

We welcome Dr. Collins Okpoti, who joined the medical staff of IHDN Mission hospital. We also thank all the doctors who filled in on a part time basis, including Dr. Noble Ayayee. The workload has increased and we are still looking for more medical and nursing staff.

Twenty-first mission trip to Ghana July 2-18

The 21st mission team should be in Ghana as you read this newsletter. The team members are:

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Edem Agamah | Team leader |
| 2. | Mrs. June Agamah | Logistics |
| 3. | Ms. Akpene Agamah | Student |
| 4. | Ms. Aseye Agamah | Student |
| 5. | Ms. Alikem Agamah | Student |
| 6. | Ms. Kelsey York | Student |
| 7. | Mr. Jeffrey Zelennik | Student |
| 8. | Ms. Susan Lobb | Registered nurse |
| 9. | Ms. Katherine Savage | Medical student electives |

The U.S. team will be joined by a Ghanaian surgical team led by Dr. S.M. Zakariah from the Police Hospital in Accra. We estimate that 20-30 surgical operations will be performed. We will also offer a nursing assistant training course for high school graduates interested in healthcare professions. Students who complete the program will be given the opportunity to join the staff of the hospital. We will also share the gospel and encourage the people in the Agbozume-Klikor and Weta

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an example.*

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What can you do to help to IHDN?

We are often asked the question “What can I do to help you?” This question usually comes from friends and colleagues who value our mission and want to help. Here are several ways in which you can help:

Pray, pray and pray for IHDN. Pray that we will remain faithful to the call to serve Him to the best of our abilities. Pray for His blessings to be upon us and provide all our needs.

Develop a dynamic interest and follow our work.

Ask questions, give us feedback, tell the IHDN story to your family and friends, and invite them to join us in helping the poor in Ghana.

Donate your time. Use your skills, expertise, and knowledge to help bless our efforts both in the U.S. and in Ghana.

Donate appreciated stocks, mutual funds, or bonds to IHDN. This helps IHDN, and you also get a tax deduction for the full value at the time of donation (not the value at purchase) to the extent you are eligible to deduct charitable gifts. Donate items of value—things that you can use in the U.S. that can also be used in Ghana.

Donate money to help with immediate needs.

We continue to receive some of these blessings, and we are thankful to all who share themselves and their resources with us.