

IHDN News

JUNE 2010

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

“Be careful.” This is one of the commonest exhortations offered when one wants to remind loved ones and friends to be cautious in whatever they do. I do hear this almost every year when I tell people I am going to Ghana on a mission trip. I also recall receiving this advice from family and friends, just before I left Ghana to go to the US for the first time.

Recently, when someone reminded me to “be careful” on our next Ghana mission trip, I started wondering what this really meant. I have been wondering what being “careful” on a mission trip would look like. Wash your hands always? Take your anti-malarials? Drive safely? etc. The fact is that there is an endless list of things that we need to exercise great care in our daily lives—not only on a mission trip. The Lord also encourages us to “be careful” to obey all the laws, among several other things (Joshua 1:7).

In a few days’ time we will be embarking on our 17th mission trip to Ghana. Our team is made up of 25 volunteers recruited from various backgrounds. We will be giving lectures to doctors and nurses in Accra, and continue with our work at the IHDN Mission Hospital at Weta. We will also conduct workshops on Emergency Medical Response; train firemen; and also host a Christian Family life seminar. We will exercise great caution as we serve. Nevertheless, the best thing we are going to do is to go by faith and entrust all that we do into His hands.

We thank all of you who have been supporting us up to this point. If you are reading this newsletter, we encourage you to continue to support us in your prayers. Pray for the Lord to bless our trip and the work we are going to do. Pray for the people we are going to serve, that we will be effective in our service. May the Lord richly bless you.

Sincerely

Dr. Edem Agamah

Sincerely,

Dr. Edem S. Agamah

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COUNTRY ECONOMIC DATA (2009)

GHANA

Population (mill)	24.3
Life Expectancy	57 years
% Cell Phone	50%
Internet Use	4.3%

USA

Population (mill)	309.7
Life Expectancy	78 years
% Cell Phone	89%
Internet use	75.9%

Source: www.Worldbank.org

Fishing For a Lifetime

by Akpene Sarah Agamah, Student, Wheaton College, IL

On July 1, 2010 I will embark on my 14th mission trip to Ghana, West Africa. I am often asked if I get tired of the routine of traveling to Ghana each summer. To be completely honest, I really look forward to this trip every year. Yes, the packing and consolidating of medicines and supplies can get a bit tedious and monotonous at times; but it is all part of the process leading up to an amazing experience. This year's trip is especially important to me because I have just finished my freshman year of college; thus I will be going to Ghana with fresh, new perspectives on life and the world.

My first year in college has helped broaden my horizons. I have learned how to survive on my own, and away from home. I have learned how to interact and live with new people in a different environment, and I have also been exposed to a wealth of knowledge and information. This past semester I took a course entitled "Third World Issues" which has had a special impact on me. This course sought to address the many issues and problems plaguing the countries of the Global South (which refers to nations that do not experience the prosperity and stability of wealthier countries), and discuss practical solutions to the problems. In class, we talked a lot about the importance of empowering the local people of struggling nations in order to bring about the positive development that will improve their lives. We discussed how instead of throwing money at the problems in these countries, wealthy nations seeking to be of service would be more effective by providing the education and resources that these countries need to support themselves.

This is the mindset of IHDN, as we travel to Ghana each year. We work with Ghanaians to help them improve their livelihood and their communities, by educating them and providing job opportunities and means for them to expand economically and help them live healthier lives. Over the past 16 years, IHDN has provided training in nursing, computer science, math, and English for elementary and high school students, and quality health care for the people of Agbozume and the surrounding areas. During these years, a school was also painted, and the main road in Agbozume was cleared of trash, and paved. A Women's Enterprise group was organized for the ladies in the village who make and sell batik, so that they would be able to have better opportunities to make their business grow. An old Chinese proverb says, "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." In the same way, one of the goals of IHDN is to equip those who are in need with the education and training that will allow them to be able to sustain themselves, without relying on funding from external sources.

As I grow older, I have begun to understand these ideas more and more, and taking the "Third World Issues" course really helped to bring everything full circle. Tackling the many issues that prevent countries in the Global South from moving forward is a daunting, but not impossible task. Over the years, IHDN has learned that patience and perseverance are important tools to keep in mind, and to use frequently. Each year, I have a greater appreciation for what we do in Ghana. It has been really fulfilling to know that I am involved with an organization that seeks to address poverty and disease in an effective way. I am excited to see how God will use IHDN in the future.

New Doctor Joins IHDN Mission Hospital

Dr. Leslie Wheatley Ajavon has been recruited as the new Medical Officer in charge of the IHDN Mission Hospital, Weta. He joined the medical team on May 3, 2010, following the departure of Dr. Isaac Barnor (see story below). We are delighted to have Dr. Ajavon join our team.

He graduated from the University of Ghana Medical School, Korle Bu, and just completed his housemanship (Rotating Internship) at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. He is an avid sportsman and participated in the University games as a medical student, winning the outstanding sportsman award in 2002. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Ajavon to our team.

IHDN Doctor Leaves for Further Postgraduate Training

Dr. Isaac Barnor, the former Medical Officer in charge of the IHDN Mission Hospital, Weta, has been accepted into the postgraduate training program in Ear Nose & Throat Surgery at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi. Dr. Barnor worked with IHDN Mission Hospital from November 2008 until April 2010. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

National Health Insurance Accreditation for IHDN Mission Hospital in Ghana

After a long wait, IHDN has finally received accreditation from the government of Ghana to receive patients insured with the National Health Insurance Scheme. This important development will allow patients who are covered by health insurance to come to the hospital for their government-funded medical care. We expect more patients to visit the hospital as a result of this, stretching our resources. However, we thank God for the opportunity to care for the people. We hope and pray that the government will continue to fund and sustain this National Health Insurance program.

Dr. & Mrs. Edem and June Agamah honored with donations to IHDN

On June 12, Mr. & Mrs. Steve and Sally Seiple hosted a party at their home for Dr. & Mrs. Edem and June Agamah to celebrate their 50th birthdays. In lieu of gifts, donations were made to IHDN to honor them. A total of \$7,505 was donated to support the work of IHDN. These funds will help to pay for new laboratory equipment and supplies, valued at over \$13,300. We are also buying a cardiac monitor, which will be used on the 2010 mission team's work in Ghana. We thank all who donated so graciously and generously. We also want to thank the Seiples for hosting the event. May the Lord richly Bless you all.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Decatur supports IHDN

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Decatur recently held a spaghetti dinner in support of the upcoming mission trip. An amount of \$860 was raised at the dinner. Mr. Sean Fitzgerrel, a member of this church and our team member will be assisting with Boys & Girls Scout and Hospital administration. Sean has been interviewed by local radio stations and was featured in the local newspaper Herald Review on June 4, 2010. (<http://www.herald-review.com>). We are excited about this relationship and we thank all the brethren for ongoing support that IHDN is receiving.

Short Term missionaries commissioned Hope Evangelical Free Church

The 17th volunteer missions team to Ghana was commissioned in a brief but special ceremony at Hope Evangelical Free Church, during the 3 weekend church services on June 5&6, 2010. This is an important part of our preparation as we bring ourselves before the body of Christ at Hope Church to bear us up in prayers for the upcoming mission to Ghana. Hope Church has supported IHDN since 1996 and we are very grateful for both organizational and individual support received over the years. We are thankful to God to be part of this body of Christ in Springfield, IL. We thank Pastor Blake, Steve Seiple and the leadership for the ongoing support of IHDN.

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IHDN to host updates for Doctors and Nurses in Accra

Members of the IHDN mission team traveling to Ghana this summer will be helping update the knowledge of doctors and nurses at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra on July 5, 2010. Dr. Peter Martin will be giving updates in Anesthesia, Dr. John Saint in Gynecology, Dr. John Sutyak in Surgery & Trauma, and Dr. Robert Bussing and Dr. Edem Agamah in Internal Medicine & Oncology. Ms. Susan Lobb, Ms. Vivienne Dawkins, and Ms. Stephanie Lee will offer updates in Peri-operative Nursing & Critical Care.

IHDN Mission Hospital continue to host Medical Students and Residents for Electives

The IHDN Mission hospital is hosting Dr. Brandon Francis, Senior Resident from Rush Medical School in Chicago & Ms. Katherine Thompson, a final-year medical student at the SIU School of Medicine in Springfield. This elective is focused on tropical diseases, and provides an opportunity for participants to enrich their experience in clinical medicine.

Financial Report for FY 2009 (January 01-December 31, 2009)

Total Revenue:	\$146,217
Total Expenses:	\$160,290
Deficit:	(14,073)

For more information contact 217-787-6530 or E-mail ihdn@aol.com.

IHDN sponsors 17th Mission Trip to Ghana, June 12-August 2, 2010

Mission volunteers to Ghana and their activities

Name	Duties
Team A: June 12- July 10, 2010	
1. Dr. Brandon Francis	Clinic, Community outreach, Psychiatric Initiative
Team B: June 16 – July 14, 2010	
2. Mrs. Hilda Ahiable	Clinic, Catering & Hospitality services
3. Mr. Clemence Ahiable	Clinic & Logistics
4. Mr. Immanuel Ahiable	Landscaping & Logistics
Team C: June 30-July 14, 2010	
5. Mrs. Karen Barber	Women Enterprise & Logistics
6. Ms. Paige Barber	Clinic
7. Mr. Sean Fitzgerrel	Clinic, Boys & Girls Scouts, Logistics, Youth Forum
8. Ms. Christi Minick	Operating Room Technician
Team D: July 1-14, 2010	
9. Dr. Edem Agamah	Clinic, Oncology Updates, Christian Family Life Seminar
10. Mrs. June Agamah *	Logistics, Christian Family Life Seminar
11. Ms. Akpene Agamah	Clinic, Youth Forum, Logistics
12. Ms. Aseye Agamah	Clinic, Youth Forum, Logistics
13. Ms. Alikem Agamah	Clinic, Youth Forum, Logistics
14. Dr. Robert Bussing	Clinic & Physician Lectures
15. Ms. Vivienne Dawkins*	Clinic, Nursing Updates
16. Dr. John Saint	Gynecology surgery & Gynecologist Updates
17. Dr. John Sutyak	Surgery & Trauma Updates
18. Mr. Mathew Soltys	Clinic, Youth Forum
19. Ms. Susan Lobb	Operating Room Nurse, Peri-operative nursing updates
20. Mr. Daniel Higginson	EMT/Fire Service
21. Ms. Stephanie Lee	Critical Care Nursing, Critical care updates
22. Mr. Robert T Bussing	Clinic, Youth Forum
23. Mr. Gary Thompson **	Medical Laboratory Training
Team E: July 2-14, 2010	
24. Ms. Katherine Thompson ***	Clinic, Medical Student/Electives
25. Dr. Peter Martin	Anesthesia, Anesthesiology lectures

* *Departing Ghana July 10, 2010*

** *Departing Ghana July 12, 2010*

*** *Departing Ghana August 2, 2010*

Outstanding projects/needs to be completed

Building a ministry and/or a medical facility from scratch is always a very daunting undertaking. Thankfully, we have been blessed by the faithful support of friends like you. As we continue our work, we have identified several needs that will enhance our work. Almost all of them are capital-intensive. We have started praying and planning to raise funds. Please join us in prayer and consider supporting us with the following needs:

1. Complete the access road to the IHDN Mission Hospital
2. Complete arrangements to obtain and install an X-ray machine for IHDN Mission Hospital
3. Complete underground water reservoir to increase our capacity to harvest rain water
4. Complete an FM radio station to assist with health education and Christian Outreach
5. Construct Inpatient wards for IHDN Mission Hospital
6. Recruit and retain more nurses and doctors for IHDN Mission Hospital
7. Provide accommodations for medical and non-medical staff working in a Ghanaian village
8. Strengthen the local community involvement in support of the work of IHDN in Ghana
9. Strengthen management team of IHDN Mission Hospital Ghana and IHDN USA.
10. Operating capital accommodate the needs of patients with National Health Insurance, which is not usually reimbursed in timely fashion

Help Needed in US Office

IHDN is in need of a volunteers to help manage the daily operations of the organization in Springfield. The positions are part time and non-paid. If you or someone you know is interested in sharing his or her talents with us.

Help Needed for IHDN Mission Hospital, Ghana

We are recruiting medical and non-medical volunteers, who would commit to spending at least 3months in Ghana.

The areas of need are:

1. Physicians & Surgeons
2. Dentists
3. Nurses & Medical Laboratory Technologist
4. Pharmacist & Radiographers
5. Computer Scientist
6. Business and administrative managers
7. Construction workers
8. English, Math & Science Teachers
9. Agricultural scientist or farmers
10. Discipleship training and Christian Leadership

Please contact to Dr. Agamah at ihdn@aol.com if you are interested in this opportunity