

IHDN News

DECEMBER 2009

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Another year is almost gone and very soon we will usher in a new decade. It was only a few years ago that we were worried about Y2K. The decade went by so fast that we hardly think about all the anxiety and fears we had at that time. We also did not know that IHDN would be accomplishing all the things we have done this past decade. We do not have the same concerns that we did in 2000. We do not know what is ahead of us as a nation or as God's people. However, one thing we do know is the constancy of the One who called us to serve and obey. He is ever present and the source of our strength, hope, and joy.

In this issue, we celebrate another successful year of ministry to the people of Ghana. We thank all of you who were involved with this work. You have done so much in so many ways that we cannot enumerate here. We also invite those sitting on the sidelines, admiring our work to step up and get involved in some way. We also wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the Lord richly bless you.

Dr. Edem S. Agamah

President, IHDN

IHDN concludes another successful mission trip to Ghana

IHDN sponsored another successful mission trip to Ghana from June 24-July 28, 2009. This was the 16th mission trip to Ghana. The list of volunteers and their activities were published in the June 2009 Newsletter. In this edition, we summarize the activities of the Ghana team.

One of major highlights of the trip was the celebration of the 1-year anniversary of the IHDN Mission Hospital and a Health Fair at Weta. Over 500 people, including Lt. Col. (Rtd) Cyril Necku, Deputy Volta Regional Minister and Dr. Andrews Ayim, the Ketu District Director of Health, attended this ceremony. This is now the second major hospital in the Ketu North district, with a catchment area of about 30-40,000 people. We also conducted a cross sectional study on hypertension (See article).

IHDN sponsors the training of Nurse Anesthesiologist

Mr. Marcellinus Djreke, one of the founding nurses of the hospital, has decided to pursue further training as a nurse anesthesiologist. IHDN is sponsoring his 2-year training at a cost of about \$10,000. Marcellinus is 27 years old, married with a son. This training will help us increase the surgical care we provide currently at the hospital.

COUNTRY ECONOMIC DATA (2007)

GHANA

Maternal mortality 560
(per 100,000)

Mortality rate <5yr 115
(per 1,000)

Health Expenditure \$33
(per capita)

USA

Maternal Mortality 11
(per 100,000)

Mortality rate <5yr 8
(per 1,000)

Health Expenditure \$6,719
(per capita)

Source www.Worldbank.org

Admiring the One Who Matters - Dr. Edem S. Agamah

For the past few months, I have observed that people are very complimentary towards me. This is especially so for people who are meeting me for the first time. I have often had people come to tell me that they admire the work of IHDN.

Initially, I was very uncomfortable receiving all these praises because I did not think that we have done much to deserve all the commendations. I would say that we are just instruments of God in achieving what has been done, to Him be the glory. One day, someone reminded me that despite being an instrument, I was obedient to the call, so I should take the praises and accept the admiration with grace.

I recall that when I was a young teenager, I was one of the youngest and smallest students among big boys and girls in my class. I read the story of Jesus Christ when He visited the temple and faced the intellectuals of the day. He taught, challenged and confounded the elite scholars of that day. I liked that story very much. I started admiring that young man and wished I could be like him. I wished I could have His intellect and prowess to face the bigger students and the intellectuals in my school. At one point in my life I wondered how this young man got so much wisdom. The more I searched, the more it was revealed to me that this young man was God Himself who came to live like man. All these experiences helped me to surrender my life to Him and commit to serve Him.

So, while we appreciate all those who admire us and our work, we would like to remind all that we are just messengers. We are just regular people carrying out what we feel called to do. The one who matters is the Lord Jesus whom we serve in our daily lives and through IHDN. He is the one who called us into service and we are being obedient to Him. He is the one who deserves our full admiration and our full obedience. As we celebrate the Christmas Holidays, let us be reminded that He was born for our sake. He is God Himself, who once lived on planet earth just like you and I. Let us rise up and praise Him, with great admiration. He is the only One who matters. God bless you all.

IHDN Ghana Mission team visits the US

We hosted Mr. Mark Dedzoe, Acting Administrator, IHDN Mission Hospital Ghana and Mr. Cephas Agbelie, Treasurer, IHDN Ghana, from October 14 to December 7, 2009. The main focus of this visit was to present IHDN's work at the Global Missions Health Conference in Louisville, KY. They presented a report at the IHDN Board Meeting and to the body of Christ at Hope Church, Springfield. They also used this opportunity to tour various health care institutions in Central Illinois and learn about how health care is delivered in the US. They visited several friends and supporters and also visited farms to observe mechanized farming. They have since returned home safely. We thank all who helped make their trip a successful one.

Karen McCord Memorial Fund Supports IHDN

We received \$850 as donations in memory of Mrs. Karen McCord, who passed away this year. We also received a Public Service Announcement spot on the TV in her memory. We are very thankful for all who donated. May the Lord Bless you.

IHDN to establish a Radio station in Ghana

IHDN will be applying to the Ghana National Communication Authority for a license to operate an FM Radio station in Ghana. This station will be used for Health & Science Education, Christian outreach and promoting Community Development. Please pray alongside with us on this project, which is estimated to cost over \$30,000.

University of Iowa student studies hypertension in Ghana

Mr. Ben Henkle, a Masters in Public Health student from the University of Iowa, in Iowa City, conducted a research project to study the prevalence of hypertension, obesity and its relationship with socioeconomic factors including family history and poverty in Southeastern Ghana. Data collection was done on **269 subjects** selected from the following locations: IHDN Mission Hospital at Weta, Worgbato (a village, 3 miles from Agbozume), Agbozume Market, Ketu District Hospital, Aflao and the Sacred Heart Catholic Hospital in Abor. The tools used for this research were the Welch Allyn blood pressure monitor, an analogue weighing scale, height meter, and a 4 page questionnaire.

The major findings were:

- a) Only 56% of subjects were aware of their diagnosis of hypertension,
- b) Only 54% of these subjects were treated. Hypertension was controlled in only 22%.
- c) Subjects were not significantly overweight, with 77% having a BMI <30 and few reported being diabetic (3%) or smoking (3%)
- d) Approximately a third of the subjects reported family history of hypertension (35%),

IHDN will use this knowledge to increase the awareness of hypertension and its management.

IHDN represented at the Global Missions Health Conference, Louisville, KY

We attended the Global Missions Health Conference in Louisville, KY from November 12-14, 2009. The Global Missions Health Conference is held each year at Louisville's Southeast Christian Church. The aim is to inform, train, and equip health care professionals and students to use their medical skills to further God's kingdom while sharing the Gospel with those in need on both the international and domestic mission fields. We had several inquiries about IHDN's work in Ghana and interacted with several people involved in Christian Health Ministries.

IHDN Mission Hospital accredited by Ghana Hospital Board; National Health Insurance Approval awaited

The IHDN Mission Hospital recently received the long awaited accreditation from the Ghana Private Hospital and Maternity Board. With this, we are now eligible to participate in the National Health Insurance Scheme. We have submitted our application and had a hospital site inspection by a team from Accra. We are currently waiting for the certification from the Insurance Board.

IHDN Hospital runs a deficit pending insurance approval

Since its opening in June 2008, the IHDN Mission Hospital has operated in the red. Patients attending the hospital pay a small fee for their care, usually less than \$2. Monthly collections approximate \$3,200, while our expenses, mainly salaries, supplies and operating cost exceed almost \$5,000. Although 60-70 % of the population is now covered under the National Health Insurance Scheme in Ghana, we are not able to see these patients at the Hospital, let alone generate operating revenue. While this is not all bad, (because insurance bills are not paid promptly by the Scheme, taking not less than 3-4months), we need to be able to see all these patients. Please pray for quick processing of our documents. Please also pray that we would be able to have the funds to support the work pending the approval from the Insurance Scheme.

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



Pending major IHDN projects in Ghana

With the year almost ended, we look in to the future with great hope and joy. We anticipate God's continued blessings upon us. We have identified the following projects that we will be working on as the Lord blesses us and resources become available:

<i>Project</i>	<i>Expected Cost</i>
1. Complete construction of road to the hospital	\$15,000
2. Underground water tank & drainage gutters	4,500
3. Reclaiming of water logged land and retention pond	6,000
4. Parking Garage	1,000
5. Cabinets, shelves, chairs	1,500
6. Inpatient Wards – Male & Female	To be determined
7. Staff Accommodation	To be determined
8. Solar Panels	To be determined

17th Ghana Mission Trip planned for July 1-14, 2010

We are presently recruiting volunteers for our 17th Ghana Mission trip to be undertaken from July 1-14, 2010. The focus of this trip will be Medical, Surgical and Gynecological. We have some doctors interested in this trip. If you are interested, please contact us at ihdn@aol.com to learn more about opportunities.



IHDN 16th Mission team at O'Hare



Ben & Miriam collecting data in market



IHDN display Global Missions Health Conf



Jay, Mark, Cephas & Kyle at Mem Med Ctr



Ted & Robert building desks at Agbozume



School kids enjoying these new desks