

# IHDN News

DECEMBER 2007

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The year 2007 is almost over. We had a very busy year with two Missions trips to Ghana. We seize this opportunity to thank you all and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in advance.

We made lots of progress in the construction of the outpatient building for the IHDN Mission Hospital. The roof is up, and plastering and windows are nearly completed. This year 22 U.S. volunteers reached out to several thousand people in Ghana. In return, we were blessed more than we gave. Existing relationships were strengthened and new ones established. In this newsletter, we share the experience of two of our volunteers. We also share with you upcoming IHDN events.

We thank you for your partnership with us. We also thank God for all He has helped us accomplish this year. Please continue to support us in the coming year and the years to come as we serve Him. Let us remember that “whatever we do, whether in word or deed, do it in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father” Colossians 3:17.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Edem S. Agamah*

*President, IHDN*

## If \$3,000 Could Change Your Life Forever Would You Spend It?

**By Chad Pickering, Associate Pastor Hope Evangelical Free Church**

\$3,000. That’s about what it costs to take two people on a nice cruise. It is also about what it costs to travel with Dr. Edem Agamah to serve, and be served, in Ghana, West Africa. In June, 12 of us went. None of us will ever be the same.

The group was diverse. It consisted of Dr. Edem Agamah, Springfield oncologist, native to Ghana; his wife June; their 3 daughters Sarah, Aseye, and Miriam; me and my 14-year-old son Jake; Morgan the pre-med student; Dennis the architect and property manager; Mike the engineer; Susan the therapist; and Suzy the cardio-thoracic surgical nurse.

## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

### Ranking of Life Expectancy

- 1 Japan 82.3 yrs
- 20 United Kingdom 79 yrs
- 31 US 77.9 yrs
- 136 Haiti 59.5 yrs
- 137 Ghana 59 yrs**
- 177 Zambia 40.5 yrs

### GDP Per capita \$\$

- 1. Luxembourg 60,228
- 2. US - 41,890
- 11 United Kingdom -33,238
- 17 Japan 31,267
- 126. Ghana - 2480**
- 146 Haiti 1663
- 174 Malawi 667

Source: UN Dev Report

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## If \$3,000 Could Change Your Life Forever— Would You Spend It? (Continued )

Different people; different genders; different life stages; different personalities; different skills and talents. Nothing in common . . . except the desire to live for something bigger than ourselves. Nothing in common . . . except the willingness to say “God, do with me what You will, where You will, how You will.”

And so we all adjusted our lives, because to take 2½ weeks and go ANYWHERE is NO easy thing to do! Soon after arriving at the village, side by side with our new Ghanaian friends, we swung hammers, we inflated blood-pressure cuffs, we taught, we learned, we drilled, we exercised, we sawed, we repaired, we built, we chiseled, we sat in traffic, we toured a slave castle, we ate, we sang, we danced, we loved.

And now that our June trip has come and gone, we now share a connection that can’t be explained. We share a deep, deep level of satisfaction in knowing that we answered a call and said “Here I am Lord. Send me!” We share new, but deep-seated relationships with a handful of Ghanaians whom we long to see again. We share lenses through which we see our own lives and culture in a way that can be obtained only by leaving the bubble of our society; lenses that change how we view “things,” “stuff,” and time. Our lives and our view of life and living can never be the same. It is a little more whole. It is a little more real. It is new. It is transforming.

How can I capture our trip to Ghana? I can’t . . . but YOU can. How? GO! You can choose to not let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game. It isn’t about what you can do, but what God can do through and in you. Have you reached a point in your Spiritual life journey where you seem to have plateaued? Maybe it’s because you haven’t taken the next step of putting yourself in a situation where you are totally reliant on God, to be used by God. This is one of those big opportunities.

If you want to know about our trip to Ghana, we have for you a professionally assembled, 28-minute video that uses video footage, digital photos, interviews, and voice-overs. You can also visit [www.ihdn.org](http://www.ihdn.org) to read stories and view pictures. If you want to learn about all that Dr. Agamah and IHDN (the mission group he founded) are doing to serve and empower the Ghanaian people, you can visit the Web site or visit with Dr. Agamah. But if you want to take your transformation to the next level, and if you want to experience what it feels like to be immersed in something bigger than yourself, then consider serving in Ghana. Dr. Agamah has the ability of taking people who will accept the call to go and putting their gifts, talents, and abilities to the best use.

\$3,000. A cruise for two, or a trip to serve the least of these. I have never heard anyone tell me that their cruise was life-changing.

### **My Life-changing Trip to Ghana**

**By Morgan Diffenderfer—Pre med student, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL**

GHANA. Great, Hope, A life-changing experience, Never forgettable trip, A different way of life. This summarizes my trip to Ghana, West Africa in June 2007. It was a life-changing experience that I will treasure forever.

I had never been on a missions trip. I wasn’t sure how I could make this work, but God placed it on my heart every day, and I knew this was something He was calling me to do. Through this, God taught me trust and developed my faith to bring me closer to Him; this missions trip was a life-changing experience.

My “job” was to assist Dr. Agamah in the clinics. This was such an amazing experience for me because I was able to experience the clinics on the professional side. I had the opportunity to see medical conditions first-hand and assist with physical examinations.

## My Life changing trip Cont'd

I was able to use my pharmacy technician experience in their pharmacy. Ewe is the native language, so I worked with a translator to record the patient's symptoms for diagnosis. Over time I was able to pick out some of their symptoms when Dr. Agamah worked with the patients. Seeing all of the patients, learning a new language, and bonding with some of the locals made this part of the trip very memorable.

Don't worry; it wasn't all work and no play! Some fun activities included a trip to the beach, our nightly spoon game, and shopping at the market. In the evening we had time to recap and relax: this was a Great bonding time for all of us. We had a wide range of ages and bonded together like one big family.

I also had time for personal reflection. Traveling between villages, I learned some important things about Ghana and myself. The love for God is evident throughout Ghana, from bumper stickers to the shops. It was humbling to witness their love for God. Everywhere we went the people of Ghana lovingly welcomed us. We experienced A different way of life in Ghana. Families survive on less than \$1 a day and yet they were generous, loving, and truly caring people. It was during these trips that I absolutely fell in love with Ghana all around.

This medical missions trip was the greatest thing that has happened to me. I not only got to learn a new culture, but my life changed and my relationship with Christ grew enormously. God made me realize that it isn't all about material goods or what job you have—it is about loving and caring for everyone no matter how much time, money, or materials you do or don't have. I would encourage each person to just GO—go to Ghana and experience this amazing country and the amazing people that live there. This is one trip you don't want to miss out on.

God showed me 2 Chronicles 20:20 while in Ghana, and I have leaned on these words:

Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful. God Bless.

## Giving thanks to IHDN volunteers and supporters

By Mrs. June Agamah

Often, when God calls an individual or a couple to do mission work, the initial excitement is followed by consternation and feelings of inadequacy in fulfilling the call. Would the body of Christ support me/us? How would becoming missionaries affect the children? Would we be able to sustain the effort once we begin? Can we trust God to provide for and meet our needs?

In Acts 13:1-5, as the congregation were worshipping the Lord, the Holy Spirit said to them, "*Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them*" (13:2). Here is a two-fold call. There is a call to the church: "separate to me" and there is a call to Barnabas and Saul: "to which I have called them." Thus the church has a divine obligation to take the lead role in sending leaders from congregations to fulfill God's mandate to "go into all the world."

Twelve years ago, Dr. Agamah and I felt the call to do mission work in Ghana, West Africa. We made our first trip by faith in April 1996. Our experience was life changing. God opened our eyes to see the needs of the multitude people. During that first visit to Ghana, over 500 patients waited patiently under a mango tree for their turn to be seen by Dr. Agamah. Today, the Lord continues to show His faithfulness as IHDN embarks on the initial phases of building a 230-bed hospital to serve over 200,000 people in Ghana.

Most of our volunteers to Ghana were recruited from the Midwest, and especially from Hope Evangelical Church in Springfield, Illinois. We are very thankful to Hope Church and to all others, who have supported us financially and/or volunteered on a trip to Ghana. Your partnership has allowed us to reach across the Atlantic to Ghana. We also thank all the various organizations that have partnered with us on this journey. Our prayer is that through our efforts, we will grow and reach out to other poor areas of the world with the love of Christ. May God continue to bless you and your family as you partner with us.

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

**www.ihdn.org**

### **Two Mission trips to Ghana planned for 2008**

We are sponsoring two mission trips to Ghana in 2008. The first trip is from January 30 to February 13. Its focus will be construction. It will include teaching and operation of heavy equipment, Christian Family Life seminars, and computer science/desktop publishing training.

The second trip is June 10 to 30. The focus of this trip is to provide medical, surgical, and dental services. We are trusting God and praying that all will go well for us to commission the new outpatient building.

### **Urgent staff need for IHDN Mission Hospital in Ghana**

We are recruiting health-care workers to work at our mission Hospital in Ghana for a minimum of 3 months to 1 year at a time. This is an ideal position for someone who is getting closer to retirement or looking for new fulfillment in his or her work. The workers needed are doctors, dentists, nurses, laboratory technologists, radiographers, pharmacists, public health practitioners, engineers, computer scientists, administrators, and accountants. Please call us for details at (217) 525-2500 (daytime number) or visit our Web site, [ihdn@aol.com](mailto:ihdn@aol.com). If you know someone who might be interested, please let us know. Thanks



Students at Youth Forum



Future nursing students in class with Ms. Lobb



Mission team & Ghanaian volunteers



Scrubs made by villagers at Agbozume for US medical staff



Dennis & Mike discuss a point with Architect



Mike & Jake working the electric saw



Front view of outpatient clinic building currently under construction