

IHDN News

June 2001

*International
Health and
Development
Network
"Thanks for
making a
difference."*

IHDN TO HELP GHANA ESTABLISH A CANCER REGISTRY

IHDN is leading an effort to establish a cancer registry in Ghana. During the upcoming mission trip in July, Drs. Agamah and Imeokparia will be hosting a training workshop at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and help establish a computerized cancer registry. The need to establish the registry has been in the discussion phase for years, with interest expressed in the project by the Ministry of Health and WHO. IHDN seeks to help people help themselves in the name of God. When we started the Health and Development Institute in 1998, we built it around dedicated volunteers who are willing to teach people and transfer technology to Africa. Because Dr. Imeokparia has volunteered to help in Ghana, we are seizing the opportunity and directing her expertise to where it is most needed, hence this new initiative.

We are thankful for the opportunity to help in this area. A good cancer registry will document the burden of cancer and eventually help improve cancer care in Ghana. Rotary Foundation of Evanston, Illinois is covering the expenses of Dr. Imeokparia's portion of the trip. We thank the Rotarians for their support. We are raising funds to buy software and pay for supplies. Please pray that this effort will be sustained after we leave Ghana. Pray for wisdom and guidance as we teach. Pray that we will be able to raise \$2,000 to help pay for software and other supplies needed for the training.

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IHDN welcomes the interest and support of friends as we seek to make a difference in the developing world. Please make your tax deductible gift payable to IHDN. Thank you.

Message from the President

Dear Friends,

This year marks the fifth anniversary of IHDN as a medical mission organization. We would like to thank the Lord for all the great things he has done for us. In this issue of the newsletter, we take you back through our history and share some highlights with you. Some of you may be familiar with the details because of previous publications. Nevertheless, we feel we should recap stories and also thank all those who have prayed for us, volunteered and/or supported us. We will also give the opportunity to those who have been interested in IHDN but have not had the opportunity to get involved with our ministry.

As you can see, a lot has been accomplished but there is still quite a lot of work to be done. We are entering a new phase as a medical mission and a developmental organization. We will continue to strengthen and support existing programs and develop new projects. We will continue to recruit and train short-term mission volunteers to join us on mission trips. We will ask the Lord to open the doors for us as we develop new project sites.

This summer, we are going on our 5th mission trip to Ghana. Please review the details. Pray for the trip, donate generously to help us pay our bills and continue with our work. Please remember that no contribution is too small to be unappreciated or too big to be the sole source of our support. It is only God who fulfills all these needs through his people.

Have a nice summer and may God bless you,

Edem Agamah, M.D.

President, IHDN

FIFTH MISSION TRIP TO GHANA

We will be sponsoring our 5th Mission trip to Ghana with two teams, from July 7 to August 20, 2001.

Team A: July 7 to August 20

Remi Imeokparia, M.D. Ph.D., Associate Professor of Public Health, University of Illinois, Springfield.

Team B: July 10 to July 30

Edem Agamah, M.D., IHDN President, Hematologist/Oncologist, at Central Illinois Hematology Oncology Center, Springfield, Clinical Assistant Professor, SIU School of Medicine, Springfield, IL.

June Agamah, M.P.H. Community Health Volunteer, IHDN

Akpene Agamah

Aseye Agamah

Alikem Agamah

These volunteers will be working on the following projects while in Ghana:

1. Training doctors and researchers at a workshop to establish a Cancer Registry in Ghana (See cover story)
2. Donation of a computer to the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and Medical School to help establish a cancer registry
3. Donation of medical and dental supplies to the Ministry of Health, Ghana, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital and the University of Ghana Medical School
4. Christian Leadership & Discipleship Training and Marriage seminars at the project site,
Provision of Medical Care at the Family Medical Center, Agbozume

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING TO BE HELD IN GHANA

Our Health and Development Institute provide training in Christian Leadership and Discipleship in July. We will also hold marriage seminars. We will be focusing on the volunteers at the project site and members of the Health and Development clubs. We believe that training on "how to give away your faith" and imparting Christian values will help strengthen the Christian outreach work of IHDN at Agbozume. Please pray that God opens the hearts of the people to receive the truth.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR SANITATION & ROAD CONSTRUCTION (SRC)

We are planning to launch a resource mobilization campaign in Ghana this summer to help us with the Sanitation and Roads Construction program at the IHDN project site. The major road at Agbozume, leading to IHDN project site needs to be repaired and paved. Previously, villagers used garbage to fill potholes but with IHDN education this has stopped. We are promoting environmental health and proper sanitation. A good road to the Family Medical Center is one of the projects we have identified. Preliminary estimate of the project is \$43,000. The villagers are being asked to contribute their share and seek outside help from friends and family. We will appreciate contributions from our friends to make this project a reality. If completed, this road will change the quality of life of the people. It will reduce disease bearing dust particles from settling on food and other surfaces in nearby homes.

DONATED MEDICAL & DENTAL SUPPLIES SENT TO GHANA

On April 7, 2001, a dedicated and highly motivated group of volunteers came together to help us load a 40-foot container with donated medical and dental supplies, which were shipped to Ghana. Such was the outpouring of enthusiasm that it took us only two hours to transfer the goods from our storage area to the container. To say, that "many hands make light work" would be a bit of an understatement. We would like to acknowledge the sacrifice of those who volunteered to pack and catalogue supplies and load the container.

Boadu and Kwabena Adomako

Edem and June Agamah

Hilda Elie Ahiable

Jennifer Andoh

Charlie Brittin

Mark Danforth

Peter Embalabala

Don and Doreen Gramly

Irene and Bill Gropp

Peggy Hughes

Tom Hyatt

Lucy Jensen

Dyi and Verdian Kinney

Mark and Audrey Luebke

Marlene Marshall

Dan Phelps

Tim, Nancy, Mollie, Annie, and Luke Rice

Jerry Schneider

Jerry Strode

Erica Timmerman

John and Shirra Vanzwieten

A special thanks to Peter Embalabala, Tom Hyatt and Charlie Brittin for building sturdy wooden crates which were used to pack the dental chairs. We also thank all those who donated used clothing and supplies. May God bless you. We pray that the container arrives safely and that the goods, especially the medications and medical supplies, will reach the people in need without a long delay.

IHDN DIRECTOR VISITS AGBOZUME PROJECT SITE IN GHANA

Maxine Bradrick, RN, FNP, Secretary to IHDN Board, visited the Ghana project site in January 2001. Ms. Bradrick, retired from Ghana as the Health Officer in Charge of the State Department Clinic in Ghana. She spent 3 days visiting with Dr. Randy Sefenu and other village health workers. She met with the Chairman of the Local Health Committee, Mr. Godwin Horsu-Porbley. Maxine was very impressed by the level of enthusiasm of the people. She encouraged them to maintain that enthusiasm and work to help themselves. Thank God for a safe trip.

Editorial Board: Ms. Erica Timmerman (Issue Editor) Dr. Remi Imeokparia, Dr. Edem Agamah
Type setting: Ms. Gloria Rader

WILL YOU BE ENLISTED AS A MISSION VOLUNTEER?

We could use some help on the home front. If you have always dreamed of being a missionary but don't have the stomach for travel, do we have a job for you!

We are in need of volunteers to help us with IHDN administrative activities in Springfield. We have also started recruiting mission volunteers to be sent to Ghana in the summer of 2002. We also have opportunities for those who would like to stay for a minimum of three months. The skills needed are

Business and Management
Computer Science
Science, English and Math teachers
Nursing
Doctors & Dentists
Pharmacy
Medical Laboratory Technology
Ophthalmology
Carpentry & Construction
Medical & Nursing Student Electives

VACANCIES ON IHDN-USA BOARD

Dr. Richard Donlon, IHDN board member and President of Christ Community Medical Clinic, Memphis TN, has asked to be excused from IHDN board because of growing responsibilities. Mr. Skip Peshak is also not available to serve as a Board member. We would like to thank these dedicated men of God for helping us form IHDN. Their departure leaves us with two vacancies on IHDN Board. We are receiving nominations to be considered for board membership. Please contact us if you are interested or know of someone who might be interested.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF IHDN HISTORY

1996

- First Mission Trip to Ghana in April with 3 volunteers
- Health Fair Introduced at Agbozume, IHDN Project site in Ghana
- Immunization of Children and Blood Pressure screening launched
- "Jesus" Film in Ewe language shown to Agbozume's several thousand residents
- Campaign to stop using garbage to fill potholes in village roads launched
- IHDN Clinic Opens

1997

- Recruited volunteers across the US to train for mission trip to Ghana
- IHDN Clinic temporarily closes

1998

- Second Mission trip to Ghana with 15 volunteers
- Health and Development Institute started at Agbozume to provide training in Computer Science, Christian Leadership, Community Health and Development
- Donated medical supplies to Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Cardio-thoracic Center, Korle Bu, Ho Hospital, Dzodze Hospital and Aflao Hospital
- IHDN Clinic reopens and renamed Family Medical Center
- Dr. Randy Sefenu recruited as Medical Director of IHDN in Ghana.

1999

- Third Mission trip to Ghana with 12 volunteers
- Health and Development Institute expands to include Medical Laboratory training, Enterprise Development & Vacation Bible School.
- Donated medical supplies to Police Hospital and 37 Military Hospital
- IHDN Family Medical Center treated over 5,000 villagers at Agbozume

2000

- Fourth Mission trip to Ghana with 12 volunteers
- Sanitation and Road Construction program launched at Agbozume
- IHDN invited to present paper at Ghana Health Foundation Meeting, Washington, D.C.

2001

- Ms. Maxine Bradrick, Secretary to IHDN Board visits IHDN project site to encourage the people.



Main Road through Agbozume in 1996



Main Road through Agbozume in 2000 after IHDN Community Mobilization Efforts



Donation of Goods to Korle Bu Teaching Hospital 1998



Computer Science Training Laboratory 1998



IHDN Community Health Classroom 1996



Agbozume Health Fair 1998 Above - 1999 Right



Blood Pressure Screenings at 1999 Health Fair

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