

IHDN News

December 2000

Volume 4 Issue 1

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

We have just concluded another successful mission trip to Ghana. We would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Lord for blessing our efforts. We have been used to touch so many lives in Ghana. In return, we have also been blessed tremendously as we seek God's glory. So many people have reached out to help us out in various ways and we would like to thank them for their support.

We describe salient aspects of our trip in this issue of IHDN Newsletter. We trust that you will enjoy reading it. Once again, we cherish your feedback.

Sincerely,

Edem S. Agamah, IHDN President



Erica Timmerman Works at the Lab
Running the Cell Dyne Machine
See Article at Right

REPORT OF THE IHDN MISSION TRIPS TO GHANA

July 18 - August 21, 2000

In this first year of the new century, IHDN sponsored two teams to Ghana. The first team, comprised of two volunteers, left Chicago on July 18. The second team of 13 volunteers left Chicago on August 8. Both teams returned to the US on August 21, 2000. Transportation to London and then to Ghana was with British Airways. This report briefly describes the activities of the two mission teams in Ghana.

Team A: Ms. Erica Timmerman
Ms. Abina Wood

Team B: Dr. Edem Agamah
Mrs. June Agamah
Ms. Akpene Agamah
Ms. Aseye Agamah
Ms. Alikem Agamah
Mr. Tim Rice
Mrs. Nancy Rice
Ms. Mollie Rice
Ms. Annie Rice
Mr. Luke Rice
Dr. Jill Utley

The time we spent in Africa was short but very rewarding. We were all blessed by the trip and thank the Lord for giving us the opportunity to participate. We would like to thank the people he has used to bless us. We pray that He will continue to direct us in this work and that we will remain faithful to our calling to the glory of His name.

MEDICAL LABORATORY TRAINING CONTINUES

Erica and Abina carried with them the Cell Dyne 1500 Automatic Blood Cell Counter, which had been brought to the US in 1999 for repairs. An extended visit was necessary to insure that Laboratory Technology students at the Family Medical Center were confident in running, maintaining and performing minor repairs on the machine. They were also trained to read differential cell counts and malaria smears, perform basic urinalysis and screen for Schistosomiasis, draw blood from the arm and perform a finger stick, run manual hemoglobin and hematocrit counts and perform sickle cell screening. Five young men were trained to run the Cell Dyne and perform other laboratory testing. When we left, all trainees were capable of running the machine and performing the daily maintenance to keep it in good working order.

Abina gave lectures on malaria to help the students understand the pathology of the disease. She designed forms that are being used to report results and wrote a procedure manual used to train laboratory personnel to perform sickle cell screening. She also wrote a protocol for calculating Normal Complete Blood Count values for the village. She was also able to work with Dr. Sepenu at the Medical Center and helped in the Pharmacy.

IHDN

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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.

**TIM RICE EXPANDS
COMPUTER SCIENCE
TRAINING AT GHANA SITE**

Tim Rice returned to Ghana for the third year to expand the computer science training program with IHDN in Ghana. He took along his whole family. Luke, his son, assisted him in the training of students. After the Mission team left Ghana in 1999, one of Tim's former students, Mr. Atsu Agamah, taught several students in the period between mission trips. This year Atsu taught a class of approximately ten beginning students. His students learned basic computer skills such as word processing, DOS commands, and hardware concepts. Tim taught a more advanced class of six students. These students used Excel to create spreadsheets to track sales, inventories and expenses as if they were running a small business. Luke assisted both Atsu and Tim in the computer training by helping to show students how to implement the tasks they were assigned. Luke also showed the students how to do some of the more cool things on the computer like changing background screens, fonts and other fun things.



Computer Science Lab with Atsu Agamah Teaching Students

**DR. JILL UTLEY
GAINS
CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AT
IHDN FAMILY MEDICAL
CENTER**

Dr. Jill Utley, newly graduated from the University of Illinois Medical School, assisted Drs. Sepenu and Agamah in the evaluation and treatment of patients who came to the IHDN Family Medical Center in Ghana. She encountered several people with diseases that are common in the US, particularly diabetes and hypertension. She was also exposed to patients with diseases that one does not often see in this country such as night blindness due to vitamin A deficiency, malaria, ectopic pregnancy, and rabies. Jill felt that this mission experience was valuable and helped her realize why she had chosen medicine as her profession. She knows the experience will make her a better doctor because it helped her realize

Dr. Jill Utley, *continued...*

how important it is to perform a thorough History and Physical, particularly in the absence of sophisticated laboratory diagnostic procedures. She feels that being allowed to play even a small role in the Lord's work of healing people was both incredibly satisfying and humbling.

**NANCY RICE
HELPS WITH
INVENTORY MANAGEMENT**

Nancy Rice spent a large part of her time going through boxes of items, which had been previously shipped to Ghana. Her goal was to take a complete inventory of all drugs and supplies in the clinic and organize them in such a manner as to make them more readily accessible for use. This was a daunting task that few people would have been able to complete in such a short period of time. Nancy feels that God has given her a gift of organization so she readily faced the task and completed it with her sanity intact.

**TWO PLEASANT PLAINS
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
TEACH MATH AND ENGLISH
IN GHANA**

This year IHDN provided advanced English and Mathematics training to the top twenty students from high schools in the Agbozume-Klikor area. Sisters Mollie and Annie Rice taught these subjects using materials from their high school courses in the US.

Mollie and Annie were amazed at the abilities of these students to understand the concepts of higher math. They found that often the students could understand how to work problems, but they could not always apply the concepts to different situations. Knowing this, Mollie and Annie were able to adapt their teaching materials to work on application of mathematical concepts.

By the end of the training the students found their knowledge-base enriched and Mollie and Annie had a wonderful experience they will never forget.



**GHANAIAN AND
U.S. VOLUNTEERS
BROUGHT TOGETHER
IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

Each morning one member of the team held devotions after breakfast from a book Dr. Agamah brought called "The Leadership Secrets of Jesus". The clinic and housekeeping volunteers were invited to join us for this time of sharing Christ's teachings. We also participated in Church activities with the Agbozume Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Accra Chapel Trust, Korle Bu. The faith of the members of these churches was inspiring to us all.

at left:
Mollie Rice Teaches Math
to High School Students

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT (CHDW) TRAINING

Nine volunteers currently working at the IHDN Family Medical Center participated in a training program taught by Dr. Jill Utley, Nancy Rice, and Mrs. June Agamah. The goal of this training was to refine the teachings on such health concepts as hygiene, child development, nutrition, and mental health so that these health care workers could function as leaders in the Health and Development Clubs in the village. Lectures were given based on materials developed by Dr. Margie Williams, who has worked closely with the mission planners this year. Following the training sessions, an examination was given and the performance of each candidate assessed. Two of the volunteers, Mr. Ernest Aborchie and Ms. Josephine Agbekpornu, were recruited as full time employees of IHDN. Their jobs will include their daily clinic duties as well as oversight of the Community Health Clubs which focus on all aspects of healthy living and preventive care.



Community Health And Development Workers Being Trained by June Agamah, Dr. Jill Utley, and Nancy Rice

Rather than hosting a large health fair, as has been done in previous years, a scaled down version was held, using the Evangelical Presbyterian Church building. During the Fair a Sanitation and Roads Committee (SRC) was inaugurated. The aim of this committee is to mobilize the people of Agbozume-Klikor to pool their human and material resources and repair the major road and other roads in the immediate area. This road project will help improve the environmental sanitation and thus reduce disease. Six leaders in the



VILLAGERS MOBILIZED TO CLEAN THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND BUILD ROADS

village were recruited to serve on the committee. A groundbreaking ceremony was held and IHDN funded a road grater to smooth the road in front of the IHDN clinic as a first step. IHDN is seeking volunteers with knowledge of construction and donations of money to help implement this project.

IHDN HELPS KORLE BU TEACHING HOSPITAL & GHANA MEDICAL SCHOOL

Each year IHDN attempts to assist other medical facilities with surplus supplies and medication if possible. We were fortunate to acquire some chemotherapy drugs. We donated them to the Departments of Hematology & Urology at the University of Ghana Medical School in Accra. These drugs are not readily unavailable in Africa but are very much needed and appreciated. The drugs are for the treatment of Acute Myeloid Leukemia & Prostate cancer. Also included were medications helpful for those on chemotherapy, Anzemet, an anti-nausea drug and Prednisone, a steroid. These medications are being distributed free of charge to patients who may benefit from them.

On the 1999 mission trip we

IHDN Helps, *continued...*

donated supplies to the National Blood Transfusion Service at Korle Bu and were treated to a tour of the facility. We were very impressed with the facility. We had acquired some surplus Plasma transfer sets from Memorial Medical Center this

IHDN Helps, *continued...*

year and were happy to again support Korle Bu's fine Transfusion Service. We pray that in the future we will be able to continue to reach out to other medical facilities and build close relationships with them.

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA MEDICAL SCHOOL
Department of Microbiology

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Dr. P.O. No.
Korle Bu, Accra

Letter of Appreciation, 2000

To: **United Hospital**
"Providing Health & Wellbeing for the Community"
P.O. Box 1000
Accra, Ghana

Thank you for your kind donation of 1000ml of Plasma Transfer Sets to the Department of Microbiology, University of Ghana Medical School, Korle Bu, Accra, Ghana.

Yours faithfully,
Dr. P.O. No.
Korle Bu, Accra

For use by the donor only: Name of Donor, Date of Donation, Amount of Donation, etc.

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

1000ml of Plasma Transfer Sets

Received by: **Dr. P.O. No.**

Date: **2000**

Signature: *[Signature]*

WILL YOU BE ENLISTED AS A VOLUNTEER?

... a volunteer for Jesus, a soldier true. Others have enlisted, why not YOU?

* It was the general consensus that the year 2001 would be a year of planning, recuperating and regrouping before launching another trip to Ghana. There is a tremendous amount of strategic planning and many organizational issues to be addressed before embarking on a project of magnitude. For the first time this year we had two teams traveling to Ghana at different times. We were encouraged by the success of this venture and hope that we may be able to send more than one team on the next trip. At this time we have a wish list for people with the following skills:

Business and Management
Computer Science
Science, English and Math Teachers
Nursing
Dentistry
Pharmacy
Medical Technology
Ophthalmology
Construction
Doctors
Medical Students



Do you have a skill or talent that is not listed but would like to travel on a mission trip? Please contact us. We can always use another pair of hands and a good heart. We can also use your prayers that our efforts in Agbozume and the surrounding villages will be successful and in accordance to God's will.

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 will be loading a container of supplies for shipment to Ghana in mid-March. We have to sort, record and rebox EVERYTHING. We need the help of anyone who likes to organize and keep records, anyone with muscle power to lift boxes, and vans and drivers to help transport the boxes. If this job sounds like your calling, give us a call. We will be happy to supply pith helmets and speak to you in Ewe, the language of Agbozume, to make the experience more authentic.

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