

IHDN News

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Volume 3 Issue 1

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

LOOKING FORWARD

As we approach the close of the millennium, we are thankful to God for keeping us alive to celebrate the beginning of another century in human history. We are also reminded of the finite nature of our lives on this earth and God's plan for eternal life, through Christ.

At IHDN we have been privileged to partner with several individuals and organizations, who see beyond this earthly realm. We are very thankful for all those who have supported our medical mission ministry. We thank all those who have volunteered and served as short term missionaries to Ghana in this century.

We have achieved great success in our three-year old ministry. Our recent mission trip to Ghana in August 1999 is another successful chapter in our history. In this issue of IHDN News we describe our experiences. We also invite you to look forward with us into the next century as we develop new ventures. Our major objective is to remain obedient to the calling of the Lord in all that we do. We also invite you to continue to partner with us in prayer and as we make ourselves instruments of change in the world around us.

May God richly bless you and your family. Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Edem S. Agamah, IHDN President

IHDN Donates Medical Supplies to Two Ghanaian Hospitals

Two major hospitals in Ghana, the Police Hospital and the 37 Military Hospital were beneficiaries of several thousand dollars worth of medical supplies donated by IHDN during the recent mission trip to Ghana in August 1999. For the past two years, physicians and nurses from these two hospitals have provided assistance to the IHDN sponsored Health Fairs at the project site, Agbozume. These donations, which were very much appreciated by the administration of the two institutions, were made to encourage the IHDN volunteers in their medical service to the people of Ghana.

We thank all those who supported IHDN with the procurement and shipment of these supplies to Ghana.

New IHDN Board Member

Dr. Remi Imeokparia, Professor of Public Health at the University of Illinois, Springfield, has joined the IHDN-USA Board of Directors. She has designed and continues to manage

IHDN Web Page

Please visit our Web Page at www.ihdn.org and send feedback to Dr. Imeokparia.

Medical Laboratory Technician Training Begun at Agbozume

A medical laboratory training program has begun at the IHDN project site, Agbozume, Ghana. Two students from Agbozume, Mr. Wisdom Doyibor and Mr. Precious Attipoe were enrolled into this program. The training was designed and implemented by Ms. Erica Timmerman, a retired Springfield-based medical laboratory technologist. The first part of the training, which was implemented during our recent mission trip, included venipuncture (withdrawing of blood from a vein), preparing blood smears, malaria prep, white blood count differentials, hematocrit, urine microscopy and identification of Schistosomiasis ova in the urine.

The theoretical training will be ongoing with the students completing assignments through the e-mail and regular mail.

Erica plans to return to Agbozume to complete the training in the year 2000. IHDN is raising funds of over \$20,000 to help us procure equipment and supplies to furnish the laboratory. We would like to introduce new diagnostic services which include hemoglobin electrophoresis to detect sickle cell disease and testing for HIV. Please consider donating to support the laboratory project.

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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.

Computer Science Training Continues at IHDN Project Site in Ghana

As part of an on-going technology transfer program, the 1999 IHDN short-term mission team included Mr. Doug Dockter and Mr. Tim Rice, both computer scientists from Springfield, IL. Old computers sent to Ghana in 1998 were serviced and new Pentium machines were installed in the new computer science laboratory. Twenty students received a 2-week intensive training in DOS, Windows 98, Word Perfect, MS Office. Students were very enthusiastic about the training despite the fact that each day's training lasted over 10 hours. A Ghanaian IHDN Computer Science Team has been recruited to continue the training. Enrollment of new students and training have been delayed because of administrative difficulties.

On a long term basis, IHDN is seeking to recruit a computer scientist to spend at least 1 year as a mission volunteer in Ghana. Please pray that the Lord will direct us to the right person. Please contact us if you or someone you know is interested in learning more about this opportunity.

Marriage Enrichment Seminars Encourage Ghanaian Couples

Over 20 young adults attended marriage enrichment seminars conducted by Mrs. June Agamah & her husband, Dr. Edem Agamah during the recent mission trip to Ghana. Most of the participants, who were young adults, were very curious to learn about God's plans for marriage and relationships between husbands and wives. Some of the women who were unable to attend the seminars were very excited when they learned from the female participants that their husbands were exhorted to work closer with them. Husbands were exhorted to encourage their wives and affirm them as partners in their family lives.

Audiovisual materials from "Focus on the Family" and Dr. Tony Evans were utilized during the seminars.

Please pray for the Lord to strengthen marriages and that couples will grow and live for the Lord.



IHDN Computer Science Graduate Lands Job With International Organization

In 1998 when we started the computer science training at Agbozume, most people were skeptical about the project as a whole. However, this could not discourage Mr. Kwaku Dzramado from participating in our premier computer science training.

Dzramado, who graduated with a BA in Economics from the University of Ghana, had never held a mouse nor touched a pad. Yet, IHDN's program gave him the basics in computer science to enable him to obtain a job as a trucking coordinator with Maersk, Ghana Ltd, an international shipping Agency operating in Ghana.

The initial IHDN-sponsored training which was in DOS and Word Perfect, opened employment opportunities for him. His first job was at the prestigious, Ghanaian Statistical Social & Economic Research Institute, where he learned new packages including Excel, SPSS & SAS. When he was ready to move on, his computer skills gave him further advantage in finding this new job. He uses these skills daily and continues to receive occasional assistance from Mr. Tim Rice through the e-mail. Please praise God for using this Ministry to bless Dzramado and others.

Enterprise Development Program Kicks Off at Agbozume

Twenty young men and women, including the IHDN Community Health and Development workers, were trained on how to develop their own business enterprise. Most of the students had the desire to own their own business. The seminars which were conducted by Dr. Edem Agamah were designed to prepare them to write their own business plans. Some of the business ideas include poultry farming, Kente weaving, Batakari factory and rearing of rabbits and grasscutter (nutria).

To date, three of the students have had their business plans reviewed and approved for a micro-credit loan totaling \$1,310. The funds from this program were made available from private, non-IHDN sources. Full repayment is due by the end of 12 months.

Our prayer is that the students will show the way and demonstrate IHDN's principle of helping people help themselves in the name of Christ. We are seeking the help of people with business & management experience to join with us in developing this ministry.



Ghanaian Teenagers Discover America Through a Fellow Teen

Ms. Mollie Rice, a 15-year old sophomore from Pleasant Plains, Illinois and a member of the 1999 IHDN team had one of the greatest experiences of her life when she responded to numerous questions from the teenagers at Agbozume. The questions ranged from the recent High School shootings in America, to relationships of teenagers, including pre-marital sex, teenage pregnancy, homosexuality and racism. Mollie engaged these curious minds in discussing these issues and also shared the Christian perspective with these teenagers. We pray that those teenagers who have professed faith in Christ will remain committed and be the light



"Teenagers" *Continued ...*

and salt of the world around them. We also pray that their lives will be a living witness to the name they bear and more people will come to know the Lord.

Eleven New Community Health & Development Workers Trained

Eleven new students were trained to work as Community Health & Development Workers (CHDW). This training was conducted by Mr. Jerry Strode, a nurse at Doctors' Hospital, Springfield and Mr. Ben Strode, a paramedic at Carlinville Hospital Carlinville, Illinois. Among the subjects taught were Hypertension, Heart Failure, Diabetes Mellitus, Anemia, Environmental Hygiene, Diarrhea, Malaria and Malnutrition. The training also provided nursing skills to the level of nursing assistants. The goal is to reach the knowledge and expertise of an American LPN. These students have joined the original six CHDW and continue to work at the IHDN Family Medical Center. They receive ongoing training from Dr. Randy Sepenu.

Vacation Bible School for Agbozume Children



IHDN Children's Ministries hosted a Vacation Bible School which was attended by over 250 children from Agbozume. Mrs. June Agamah and Ms. Mollie Rice were joined by Mr. Caleb Mensah, a Ghanaian mission volunteer. The team taught Bible Stories, songs and conducted craft sessions. The "Veggie Tales" video series were used to provide instruction. The response from the children was very enthusiastic. IHDN will continue to sponsor an annual VBS to help win these children to the Lord. Please pray that these children will grow to love the Lord and live for Him.

Dr. Randy Sepenu Celebrates One Year as IHDN Medical Director in Ghana

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Randy Sepenu as he celebrated his first anniversary with IHDN. He manages the Family Medical Center in Agbozume and continues to train the Community Health and Development Workers (CHDW).

IHDN Team Member Spared In Near Fatal Accident

Nick Stojakovich and his wife, Gloria Rader, were part of the 1999 Mission Team. In May, Nick was a passenger in a Jeep that overturned. Though Nick's injuries were serious, God miraculously saved Nick from what appeared to be a fatal accident. A broken leg and head injuries prevented Nick and Gloria from travelling in August with the Ghana Team. Nick is recovering and they plan to be a part of the next Mission Trip in 2000.

We want to thank everyone who prayed for Nick's recovery and thank God for saving his life.

Agbozume Celebrates 3rd Community Health Fair

The Fair once again brought the people of Agbozume together to celebrate Health instead of death. Even though the clinical services were outpatient-based some of the patients were acutely ill, requiring referral to Aflao Hospital. There was a young lady who spent two days with a village medicine man. She had lower abdominal pain, which



"Health Fair" *continued...*

turned out to be ectopic pregnancy. She was in shock when she was brought to the fair grounds. Praise God she responded to our resuscitation and was kept alive till she reached Aflao where she received surgery.

**IHDN Financial Update
As Of October, 1999**

Total Revenue	\$ 34,314*
Total Expenses	<u>35,288</u>
Net Deficit	-\$ 974

*Includes \$1365 raised by Nick & Gloria Stojakovich who were unable to make the trip in 1999. See related article on page 3 about Nick's accident.

Upcoming Mission Trip Dates:

August 10-25, 2000

Minumum committment of two weeks.

Longer periods as desired.

Please contact us immediately if you are interested.

**Mission Team Members Share Ghanaian Experiences
with the People of Illinois**

Almost all the 1999 mission team members have had the opportunity to promote Ghana and IHDN ministries to the people of Central Illinois. Notable among them are Ben and Jerry Strode who have talked to Cuba Nazarene Church, Rotary Club of Carlinville, Virden Church of the Nazarene, Blackburn College, Town & Country Club, and Senior Citizens Group all of Carlinville.

Thank God for the opportunities to share our ministry. We pray that the Lord draws people to become part of the IHDN work.

**Medical Laboratory Fund
Goal \$20,000**

We would like to encourage interested individuals to donate towards our Laboratory Project Fund.

Opportunities to Serve

IHDN has mission ooportunities available for those interested in either short-term or long-term service. Need are computer scientists, nurses, community health workers, social workers, people with management, accounting, agricultural and construction skills, and those with discipleship training experience.

A mission trip can change your life forever. Give it a try today.