

IHDN News

October 1998

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

AGBOZUME COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM SPONSORED BY INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK July 18 to August 14, 1998

The second IHDN medical mission trip to Ghana could be described as a major success. A lot of people, both in Ghana and in the United States, made great sacrifices and assisted in the development and implementation of this program. Thank you all for your support: for the prayers, the encouragement, the helping hands, the donations of supplies, and the financial resources.

We developed the program on the premise that our efforts are to glorify God's name. We believe that the Lord's name has been glorified by our efforts and people's lives have been touched. Some of the members of our team have been blessed tremendously by this experience.

The nursing staff that conducted the training sessions had a tremendous experience teaching people in this rural African country where there are limited resources. The attentiveness and enthusiasm of the students in both the nursing class and the computer class were overwhelming. It was very rewarding to see how our team was blessed by sharing love and caring for the people.

It is very difficult to assess the full

impact of the second medical mission trip on the people of Agbozume and the surrounding areas. Nonetheless, it will be said that this is one of the biggest events in the lives of the people of that area. Both chiefs from Klikor and Agbozume were brought together to celebrate health. Also brought together were the different church groups in town. Some of them have had difficult relationships in the past few years.

The potential for this ministry to develop further is unlimited. The large number of people seeking health care in the area demonstrates the need for a sound medical institution to be established. The extent of the need remains to be determined. It is hoped that when the IHDN Family Medical Center is reopened, some of these needs will be met in the population. We are praying that this center will be developed as an elective site for medical students who would like to acquire experience in international health and tropical medicine.

The large number of students wanting to receive training in computer science, community health work and Christian leadership has demonstrated that most people want jobs. IHDN

needs to partner with other organizations to create job opportunities for the people.

The remainder of this newsletter will describe in detail each of the five aspects of the 1998 trip to Ghana.

1. Health and Development Institute:
 - Christian Leadership Training
 - Computer Science Training
 - Health Worker Training
2. Medical Institutions Support Project
3. Health Fair
4. IHDN Family Medical Center
5. Sight-Seeing

Although only fifteen people made the trip to Ghana, there were many many people involved in making it possible. There are not enough words to express our thankfulness and gratitude to everyone for their part. But we know that God will richly return to each of you what you have invested in helping with this work in Ghana. To all who participated in helping the team, we are pleased to report about our very successful medical mission trip.

IHDN

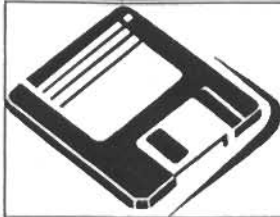
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IHDN welcomes the interest and support of friends as we seek to make a difference in the developing world. Please make your tax deductible gift payable to IHDN. Thank you.

HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



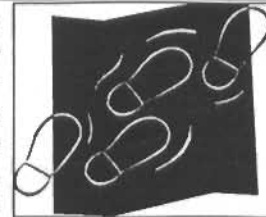
**COMPUTER
SCIENCE
TRAINING**

Tim Rice established a computer laboratory with twelve computers. There were over 150 people who signed up for



**COMMUNITY
HEALTH WORKER
TRAINING**

The Community Health Worker Training program is an effort to recruit volunteer health workers in the villages. 165 people signed up for the classes, with the number



**CHRISTIAN
LEADERSHIP
TRAINING**

Over seventy-five people attended the Christian Leadership Training classes. The basics of the Christian faith and how to

the computer classes. A qualifying exam was given covering math and English from which the twenty-five best candidates were selected for training. The students were split into two groups, morning and evening. The students were wonderful, enthusiastic, responsive, intelligent, respectful. They wanted to know how early Tim could start every morning and how late he could stay every night.

At the end of their training, the students were given a certificate of recognition for the completion of the course.

While there is still a long way to go, there is incredible potential for development not only of skills, but legitimate economic development. We are seeking what God will have us do next in this area and we are quite excited by the possibilities.

reduced to twenty-five as the training became more focused. Dr. David Pepperman, Vivienne Dawkins, Ela Jones, Harriet Steahly, Melvin Green and Carolyn Holmes taught the classes. They trained the students in basic tools for health evaluation such as how to take blood pressures, take temperatures, weight and height measurements, do blood glucose monitoring for diabetics, and teach women breast self-exams. There were five days of teaching basic health issues, hygiene and disease processes.

The goal is for these students to receive ongoing training when a physician is recruited. They will be the nucleus of health units that will be formed in the village. They will be able to monitor the practices of the villagers in ante-natal care, immunization compliance and environmental hygiene. They will also assist in future IHDN activities.

integrate them into the Ghanaian culture were taught by Dr. Edem Agamah and June Agamah, Janet Attiogbe, and Rev. Isaac Agyare. The topics covered included Christian values, love, sex, and marriage, sin, salvation, repentance, forgiveness, restoration, honesty, integrity, hard work, dependability, compassion and selflessness among others. The seminars were very popular. The people were very enthusiastic and asked good questions throughout the sessions.

The leadership of Accra Chapel Trust, Korle Bu, are continuing with monthly Christian Leadership Training seminars for the villagers.

MEDICAL INSTITUTION SUPPORT PROJECT

Medical supplies had previously been shipped to Ghana and were transported from the port to storage by Ghanaian volunteers until our team arrived. Donations were made to twelve institutions, organizations, or individuals. At Korle Bu Teaching Hospital a presentation was made in the front courtyard. Various department heads and nursing administration witnessed the presentation. The Ghana Broadcasting Network was on hand to cover the event on television and radio.

The team paid a working visit to Ho

Hospital. A large consignment of medical supplies were presented and received by the medical superintendent in charge. He made us aware that the hospital had run out of gloves and gauze the day before our arrival. Our package, which included gloves and pieces of sterile gauze, was a welcome gift that was obviously God-sent.

Visits were made to a few other hospitals and goods delivered. It was not possible to deliver to all twelve recipients so some came to Agbozume to receive their supplies.

Transportation was difficult and we learned from this experience that for medical institutions to receive donations in

the future, they will be required to provide logistic support and provide storage space and transportation. The local IHDN Board is working to identify resource people to help in this task.

The team met many Christians, both doctors and nurses, who really have servants' hearts. They were very proud of the work they are doing and their faces radiated with their love for Jesus. Some of the facilities and conditions were quite nice and others were simple, yet clean. They were thankful and grateful for all they had.

AGBOZUME HEALTH FAIR

A four-day Health Fair was held at Agbozume July 24 - July 27. The Fair was a composite program that included preaching and singing of Christian praise and worship songs. There were both medical and dental services provided during the Health Fair. Over 150 Ghanaian volunteers including fifteen doctors and several medical students assisted at the Fair. Three dentists were also mobilized from Accra to provide basic dental care to the villagers.

Also involved in the Health Fair was the Prayer and Evangelistic Team which was mobilized from Accra. Child Evangelism Fellowship and a puppet show team conducted evangelistic outreach for children during the Health Fair.



The "Jesus" film in the Ewe language was shown in five villages during the Health Fair. Over 4,800 people saw the "Jesus" film. About 2,800 people gave their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. In one village where 600 gave their lives to the Lord, there was no church. Subsequently, a new church is going to be planted. The

ongoing Christian Leadership Training is being developed to serve as a resource of mature Christian leaders to conduct follow-up classes for the new believers.

Over 1,400 people were treated medically during the four days of the Health Fair. The medications brought by the IHDN team were supplemented by medications from the IHDN clinic. Nancy Rice served as pharmacy manager and supervised the dispensing of the medications.

There were six cases of breast cancer which were identified in the people screened. These women were referred to either Accra or Ho Hospital. At the time of our departure we understood that none of these patients had reported to the hospitals for follow-up care.

The Health Fair was an awesome happening. God was in every aspect of this Fair. He is so good.

IHDN FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER

The Family Medical Center that was closed down about a year and a half ago because of lack of human resources was briefly re-opened during the Health Fair. A young physician, Dr. Ransford Sepenu, was interviewed and recruited to start working at the clinic on November 1, 1998. A registered nurse, an office clerk, and a dispensary technician will assist him initially.

RECREATION AND VISITS TO TOURIST SITES

Our team had a chance to observe God's creativity and design when they did a little sight-seeing.

The first pleasure trip was to Togo. Togo is a French-speaking country that is an eastern neighbor of Ghana. It was thought that the team would benefit from exposure to the French influence in Africa.

The team first stopped at the beach and played in the Atlantic Ocean and picked up sea shells from the sand and took pictures. For lunch, the team was taken to a German restaurant!

After lunch the team took a bus ride around Lome, the capital city. Because they had to return to cross the border by 6:00 p.m. there was no time for shopping in Togo.

While in Accra, the capital city of Ghana, the team visited the Accra Arts Center and spent time buying

African artifacts. There was time for only a short bus ride through the campus of the University of Ghana in Accra.

The team also took a trip to the Akosombo Dam on the Volta River. The damming of the Volta River created the largest man-made lake in the world. This dam



is the power source for all of Ghana. *Ei Nino* has robbed them of their needed water and the dam was running at one-third of its intended power output. This has resulted in a severe shortage and rationing of electricity in Ghana.

The last trip the team took was to the Cape Coast Slave Castle which is one of the slave castles on the west coast of Africa. This castle was built by the Dutch and was used in the slave trade to transport Africans to the Americas. The castle has been renovated and is a world historic site. It is a major tourist destination, especially for African-Americans. The team was guided through the various parts of the castle including the slave dungeon and the point of no return.

It was quite an experience to view this horrible piece of human history where Africans were taken from their homes and shipped to the Americas for slavery.



WANTED:

Men and Women of faith to pray for IHDN regularly - that God's glory would be shown to all - that we know and obey His will.

Volunteers to commit time to developing IHDN domestically.

Volunteers for our next Medical Mission Trip to Ghana in August 1999.

Individuals and Families willing to commit financial resources to further the work of IHDN.