

Helping People Help Themselves to the Glory of God

By Dr. Edem Agamah

In early July 2005 the leaders of the eight industrialized countries (G8) met in Scotland to discuss ways to help the poor, most of whom live in Africa. Just before the meeting an agreement was reached to forgive \$48 billion in debt owed by 18 poor countries to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

This meeting brought varied responses around the world. Some people protested the G8 countries' meeting, or held musical concerts to raise awareness of world poverty. But others welcomed the agreement and held out hope that their problems would end.

We want to take this opportunity to ask some fundamental questions on poverty. Why and how do some people and countries become so rich while others become very poor? Does the present approach by the G8 countries to reduce global poverty offer the best way to solve these problems? Have we done all we can humanly do to solve the problems? Are we ready to give up because the problems of the poor are too complex and previous funds have been mismanaged? Can the debt relief package for poor countries be sustained?

The prosperity of the U.S. compared to rest of the world results from several factors. They include, among others, the Christian faith and values of the founding fathers; abundant natural resources; and development of business practices and laws that emphasized making profit.

Profiting from any business or investment is not a bad thing. The Lord Jesus Christ discussed the role of risk taking and profits in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). The servant who took some risk and made 100% on 5 talents was commended, while the one who was afraid to take risk and made 0% was punished. (continued on page 2)



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- A UNICEF report shows half the world's children are devastated by poverty, conflict and AIDS
- Ghana's natural resources include: gold, diamonds and hydro-power
- Ghana is slightly smaller than Oregon
- Lake Volta in Ghana is the world's largest artificial lake

Helping People (continued)

Yet Jesus also warned against gaining all the material wealth in the world and losing one's soul (Matthew 16:26). This means it is not good to amass material wealth here on earth and miss out on heaven.

Being fallen human beings, it is very easy for us to notice what we can see, count, or feel and not look beyond that. That is why we need the grace of God to help us see beyond today. Christ expects us to return this blessing by seeking to know Him and live for Him.

Poverty in Africa can be explained partly by cultural barriers, business practices that de-emphasize profit, lack of access to world markets, poor rainfall patterns, human greed, and corrupt leadership. One thing that can truly be said is that despite being poor,

Africans are deeply religious with a great faith in the Almighty God. They look up to Him for material blessings that include good health, influencing rainfall patterns,



national security, and election outcomes.

At IHDN, we know that we cannot eliminate poverty; but we can make a difference in the lives of the

poor. This can be a complex and challenging undertaking. We believe we can help the plight of

the poor through education,

training, sending needed resources, teaching them about the kingdom of Christ, and teaching the Christian values on which the founding fathers built this country. Our approach is very simple: Focus on one person at a time, one village at a time, one city at a time, and one country at a time. This approach will empower the poor to find solutions to their own problems. It will also help bring glory to God's name.

Those of us who love the Lord should continue to show sensitivity to the plight of the poor. We should continue to advocate fair trade between the U.S. and poor countries. Businessmen, teachers, and farmers should step forward and transfer their knowledge and expertise, and invest in these poor countries. In the process they will be blessed as they share their faith. They will reap both earthly profits and kingdom rewards.

"Focus on one person at a time, one village at a time, one city at a time, and one country at a time."

Update on IHDN Clinic Building

We reported earlier about buying a plot of land for the IHDN Clinic in Ghana. Unfortunately, its size and shape would not have allowed future expansion of a clinic at that site. Therefore the architect recommended that we find a larger and more evenly shaped plot. We are pleased to report that such a plot has been donated to IHDN to enable us build the clinic. We thank God for His blessings. We pray that building plans will be completed and permits obtained to enable us to start work soon.



Personality Profile

Mr. Mark Dedzo, beneficiary of Health and Development Scholarship

I was born August 27, 1982 in a Christian home. I am the tenth child of my parents, who had three boys and eight girls. My father worked as a farm extension officer at the Afife rice irrigation project in the Volta Region until his retirement, and my mother traded.

I received my primary education starting at age three at Wisdom Children's School, Agbozume, and studied there from 1985 through to 1997. I then attended Somey Senior Secondary School at Agbozume and studied mathematics, economics, and business.

During my studies at the Secondary School I came into contact with IHDN in 1999. I was among four students selected by the school to get training in English and mathematics from IHDN volunteers.

The courses we took went a long way toward improve our skills in English and mathematics. After graduating from Secondary School in 2000, I worked on a farm for two years at Avalavi to support myself, but was not able to earn enough to pay my college fees. I also took classes organized by IHDN in Introduction to Microsoft Word,

Excel, and a general introduction to computer. This helped me tremendously when I entered the University.

In the year 2002 I was privileged to gain admission to the University of Ghana, Legon, to pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree in mathematics and economics. During my second year at the university I was confused about my future. At that crucial moment, I sought advice from Dr. Agamah. He



sat me down, explained things to me, and helped encourage me to place my trust in the Lord. After spending time

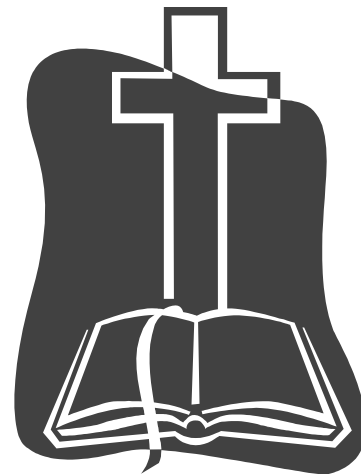
with him, it became clear that I should pursue a degree in economics and statistics. I have grown to enjoy these subjects, and now appreciate the tremendous career opportunities they make possible. Presently I am trusting God to open doors for me to get further training. I am leaning towards a career in actuarial science.

In February 2005 I was privileged again to be awarded the first Health and Development Scholarship of \$500. Before getting this scholarship I had great difficulty paying for my school fees, books, and meals. Now I can concentrate on my studies. I will forever be grateful for

the support given to me by IHDN. God being so good, I am able to maintain a B+ grade in my course work and look forward to reaching my full potential. I pray that the Lord Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, will increase my faith in Him, grant me strength to overcome temptations that may come my way, so I may live to His glory and serve Him throughout my life.

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Pope John's Secondary School Receives Computer From IHDN

IHDN recently donated a computer to the Pope John's Secondary School in Koforidua, Ghana. This is one of the leading high schools in the eastern region of Ghana. The school does not have resources to meet the technological needs of its students. The computer that IHDN donated has software and network capabilities. The school plans to establish a computer science laboratory.

Mr. Kwabena Adomako, an IHDN Technology Subcommittee member, is an old student of this high school. The Headmaster of the school, Mr. Ofori, made an appeal for help. We were fortunate to have this computer added to our last shipment to Ghana. The donation was made by the leadership of IHDN Ghana. We pray that the school makes good use of this computer.



Health Fair Organized by IHDN Ghana at Agbozume

A community Health Fair, planned and hosted by IHDN Ghana, was held at Agbozume on June 18-19 of this year. IHDN initiated the concept of Health Fairs at the village level in 1996 to celebrate health, as opposed to celebrations of death (funerals). During these fairs, villagers are screened and treated for

common diseases including hypertension, diabetes, malaria, and arthritis.

This is the first time Ghanaian volunteers were recruited from Accra to Agbozume without involvement of volunteers from the U.S. The medical team consisted of 8 medical students from

the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra; 6 nurses from the 37 Military Hospital in Accra; and 1 dispenser from IHDN in Agbozume. They attended to over 150 patients, and on Sunday they participated in a community church service. Patients with acute or severe illness were referred to Aflao Hospital.

Ninth Mission Trip to Ghana Planned For November 3-19

Dr. Agamah will lead a mission team to Ghana on November 3-19, 2005. The team of volunteers will continue our previous work and start new projects. We will also resume our Nursing Training program. Our goal is to work toward sustaining this training and obtain accreditation. We plan to host

seminars for farmers on how to improve their yields and reduce post-harvest losses. We will hold medical outreach clinics in various villages, and marriage and family life seminars. We will start work on construction of the planned clinic at Agbozume (see accompanying article).

The timing of the mission trip was changed to the fall to save about \$400 per person on airplane fares. Please pray with us as we plan for the trip. Pray for wisdom, guidance, and good help for us. Pray for receptive hearts to receive the word of God in the villages we visit.

Buried Treasure

By Rhonda Miller

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a young man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Matthew 13:44-46 (NIV)

When my brother and I were young, we used to go looking for buried treasure. We were sure there must be some in the cornfield across the road from our house. We even drew a map of the field and plotted how we would approach our quest. As I recall, the only thing we got out of our plan was a stern warning from the farmer to “leave his fields alone.” Of course, that only convinced us that there must be buried treasure there, or he wouldn’t care if we dug in the field. What we would have done to find that treasure!

I was once asked to present a sermon based on the Matthew 13:44-46. I thought back to those childhood days of trying to find treasure in the cornfield. We wanted that treasure more than anything. We had already earmarked the Sears Toy catalog to identify what we would buy with our treasure. Did I desire the kingdom of heaven with the same passion that I had for the items in that catalog? What would I be willing to give up to get the treasure?

The pearl is the only gem that does not require refining by man. Pearls are perfect when they come out of the shell. When Christ compares the kingdom of heaven to a pearl, he is creating a picture of perfection. What are you willing to give up to get a piece of the treasure?



Financial Update for 2005 (January 1 through June 15, 2005)

Total contributions	\$7,495
Expenses	\$5,558
Net income for this period	\$1,937

Audited reports for 2004 have been completed and submitted to the Illinois Attorney General. Please feel free to contact us if you would like a copy. We thank all who have been praying and supporting our work.

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Please Pray With Us



- The November Mission Trip to Ghana
- People who live in chronic poverty
- Spiritual, human, and financial resources for IHDN
- The clinic building
- People who are eager to learn more about the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ