

IHDN News

JUNE 2011

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

In this edition of the newsletter, we describe the activities of IHDN. You will find out that we have had a very busy first half of the year, and there appears to be no immediate end in sight. We have been blessed tremendously during the first half of the year, accomplishing a lot of projects in this short time. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lord for His blessings once more. We thank all of you who have been involved in making this happen. Several people have made great sacrifices both in the U.S. and in Ghana, and we recognize that. We pray that the Lord will continue to sustain our work for His glory, and that our service will not be in vain. Enjoy the rest of the year and God bless.

Sincerely

Dr. Edem S. Agamah

President, IHDN

IHDN continues road and other construction projects

In February 2011, we were able to purchase bitumen and chip-pings to complete the first coating of the main access road to the IHDN Mission hospital. We have postponed final completion till we have enough funds. Other projects that have been initiated are as follows: 1. Building of canteen and 2. staff apartments, and 3. construction of an 80-bed inpatient ward. The estimated cost of these projects is about \$1.3 million. We have spent about \$100,000 so far on this construction. Please pray with us as we seek the Lord's blessings in raising funds from the U.S. and in Ghana towards the project. Please consider joining us on this journey by donating in support of this work in Ghana. We welcome the donation of construction services by people with construction experience. We also accept donations of money, stocks, and mutual funds. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

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ECONOMIC DATA

GHANA

Pop: 23.8 million

Per capita income: \$1,320

Life expectancy: at birth m/f (years):
57/64

Total per capita expenditure on Health:
\$122

USA

Pop: 314.6 million

Per capita income: \$46,790

Life expectancy: at birth m/f (years):
76/81

Total per capita expenditure on Health:
\$7,410

Sources:

- World Health Organization 2011
- www.who.int/countries/en

IHDN Sponsors 18th Mission Trip to Ghana in the winter

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IHDN sponsored the 18th mission trip to Ghana from March 4-13, 2011. Dr. Edem and Sarah Agamah undertook this trip. The trip was originally scheduled for January but was postponed to March because of the death of Dr. Agamah's father-in-law on January 5th of this year.

The main goal of the trip was to encourage the staff of the IHDN Mission Hospital, provide them with resources from the U.S., and help them mobilize resources in Ghana to support the work of IHDN. Since the beginning of the year, payments from the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme have been spotty. As a result, there was great uncertainty in the payment of salaries, which were already low. The hospital needed between \$10,000 and 15,000 each month to pay salaries and other bills. Funds transferred to Ghana for construction are used to pay salaries. The hospital owed over \$20,000 to several pharmaceutical companies that supplied drugs and materials. The demand for our services continued to increase and over 70% of these patients now belong to the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). IHDN Mission Hospital is an approved medical care provider for patients with this insurance so we accept all patients, despite the fact that bills are not being paid by the NHIS on time. In addition to this, the hospital does not have any catering facility to provide meals for both patients and staff, which has created serious problems for all who come to this facility.

During this trip we were able to achieve the following: 1. Realization of the need to build a canteen for both staff and patients, 2. Fundraising among the citizens of the Agbozume-Klikor and Weta area, most of whom earn less than \$2 per day. 3. Purchase of cement and rebar (iron rods) 4. Groundbreaking for the 80-bed inpatient ward. 5. Meeting with the leaders of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church regarding our partnership with the church.

The fundraising ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, chiefs, and politicians, including the Deputy Volta Regional Minister, Lt. Col (Rtd.) Cyril Necku among other government leaders in the area. An approximate net total of \$500 was raised. This event helped raise awareness of the IHDN mission hospital in the community. There was also a demonstration of government/private/religious partnership during this event. We pray that we will be able to build on this and raise more funds in Ghana in the coming months.

Senior staff changes at the IHDN Mission Hospital

Dr. Wesly Ajavon, the present medical officer in charge of the IHDN Mission Hospital, is leaving us on July 15 to pursue other goals. We thank him for his service to IHDN. We wish him all the best in all his endeavors

Ms. Mary Ahiataku has joined the staff of the hospital. Until recently, she was the Director of Nursing (Matron) at the Abor Catholic Hospital and has extensive experience in Public Health. We welcome her into the IHDN family. We look forward to a fruitful relationship with her.

Upcoming Mission Trip to Ghana is the 19th trip by the group of volunteers

We are pleased to announce the 19th Mission trip to Ghana from June 19-July 28, 2011. The team of volunteers is made of the following:

Tgeam A: June 19-July 28, 2011

Mr. Benjamin Henkle, Medical Student: Hypertension Research & Outpatient Clinic

Ms. Sarah Henkle, Medical Student: Hypertension Research & Outpatient Clinic

Mr. Benjamin Agamah, Retired: Project Coordinator

Team B: July 13-28, 2011

Dr. Edem Agamah, Physician: Team Leader

Mrs. June Agamah, Homemaker: Logistics

Mrs. Irene Aamah, Retired: Logistics

Ms. Aseye Agamah, Student: Blood pressure screening & Youth Forum

Ms. Alikem Agamah, Student: Blood pressure screening & Youth Forum

Mr. Spencer Dunnington, Student: Blood pressure screening & Youth Forum

Ms. Emma Anderson, Student: Photojournalism & Youth Forum

Mrs. Kim Dunnington, Nurse: In-service in Critical Care Nursing & Nurses Christian Fellowship

Dr. Robert Bussing, Physician: Clinical Services

Please join us in praying for this trip. Pray for traveling mercies for us to and from Ghana. Pray for good health and God's presence every moment on this trip. Pray for the people we seek to reach in Ghana, that we will be effective in serving and that God's name will be glorified. Pray for the fund raising activities on this trip.

Two area churches continue support for IHDN

Two Central Illinois churches, Hope Evangelical Free Church, Springfield and First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Decatur, continue to support the work of IHDN. We have been blessed tremendously by the regular generous donations we have received in support the work of IHDN. With these funds we are able to buy supplies and support the IHDN mission hospital in Ghana. May the Lord bless all of you. May we continue to work together for His kingdom and His glory. We would be happy to share our work with any church group or organization interested in supporting our work in Ghana. We continue to thank all others including Memorial Medical Center, St. Johns Hospital, Mission Outreach, Midwest Mission Distribution Center for supporting the work in Ghana.

Ghana Ministry of Health donates motor bicycle to IHDN Mission Hospital

The Ketu-North District Directorate of the Ministry of Health has donated a motor bike to the IHDN mission Hospital. This bike will assist with our transportation needs and be used for travel in small villages and towns to advance the work of IHDN. There are only 2 hospitals in this district and IHDN Mission hospital is the second one, providing health care to over 60,000 people, most of them live on less than \$2 per day. We have not received any direct U.S. government funding. We have trusted the Lord and relied on the generosity of several people and organizations, whose donations are tax deductible. We therefore treasure any support that we receive, however little it may appear. We thank the Ministry of Health in Ghana for this donation.

IHDN hosts Third-year Surgery resident on electives in Ghana.

IHDN hosted Dr. Yolanda Chang, a third-year surgery resident from the University of Illinois' Peoria campus from April 10-29, 2011, in Ghana. Dr. Chang was originally scheduled for her electives elsewhere but this fell through. We were able to put together an educational experience for her with Dr. Randy Sepenu, first IHDN doctor, now at Sogakope Hospital, and the doctors at Abor Hospital. She had a very rich experience in these settings. She also visited the department of surgery at Korle Bu Teaching hospital. We thank all those who made this trip a great success for Dr. Chang. We are hoping to open up future surgery electives for the residents in the area.

Hypertension Research continues in Ghana

Mr. Benjamin Henkle, a first-year student at SIU School of Medicine, is returning to Agbozume/Weta to continue with the hypertension research that was initiated in 2009. This study is entitled "Cardiovascular Diseases in Southeastern Ghana: Prevalence & Risk Factor Analysis." This study has been approved by the Institutional Review Boards (IRB) in Ghana and the U.S. This is the third visit to Ghana by Mr. Henkle. It will be recalled that the results of the initial study were presented at the American Public Health Association meeting on Nov 9, 2010 in Denver. The present study will focus on individuals at their workplaces or other places of association and not attending clinic or hospital at the time of data collection. Similarly, the results from this study will also be submitted to medical journals for publication. Ben has recruited his sister, Sarah, who just completed the first year of medical school at Rush Medical College, Chicago. They will be spending about 6 weeks in Ghana and return to the US on July 28, 2011. Please visit <https://ihdnghanacvd.wordpress.com/>

In-service Training in Critical Care Nursing to be held in Ghana

Mrs. Kim Dunnington, who is a volunteer nurse from Springfield, will be leading an in-service training in critical care nursing for the nurses in Ghana during this mission trip. This is a continuation of our transfer of knowledge and technology to help our work. Topics that will be tackled include, but not limited, to management of shock, coma, burns, diabetic ketoacidosis, respiratory distress.

Financial Report

IHDN received total revenue of \$240,946 in 2010. Expenses totaled \$127,724. The balance was \$113,222 at the end of 2010. This balance has been used as seed money to purchase building materials to kick off the \$1.3 million construction projects mentioned above. We will continue to solicit for funds and construction volunteer support for these projects. We thank all who continue to support the work of IHDN. May the

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using the earthly healthcare
ministry of Jesus Christ as
an example.*

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Memorial Donations received by IHDN

IHDN received two memorial donations this year. The first was in memory of Mr. Howell Wood, Mrs. June Agamah's dad who passed away on January 5, 2011, in New York. The second was in memory of Mr. Charlie Brittin, who died on April 6, 2011. Over \$3561 was donated in memory of Charlie. He was a dear brother who tuned pianos for many people in the Springfield community for many years and ready to give off himself to serve and help others. He played the bass guitar in several bands including Hope Church worship band. Despite his illness, he supported the work of IHDN by building crates and helping with the shipment of supplies to Ghana. We thank all who donated. Your donations will be used to support a worthy cause in Ghana. We pray for God's strength and peace for all the loved ones left behind by these deaths.



Dr. Agamah presents at fund raising ceremony



Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Cyril Necku cuts sod for inpatient ward



Cross section of dignitaries at the ceremony



Villagers waiting to be registered for Insurance



Out patient building of IHDN Hospital, Weta



Motor Bike donated by Ministry of Health Ghana