

# SUMMARY

## GHANA MISSION TRIP REPORTS

### 19th Medical Mission Trip - Summer 2011

Dear friends,

We returned to the US safely on Thursday July 28, 2011, after an over 8-hour flight from London. There was a 2-hour flight delay, which was not helped by the 65 mph head winds on crossing the Atlantic. We thank God for safe travel and good health for all of us on this trip. We thank you for your interest and the support of our work in Ghana. This trip was very loaded with activities and the time went by so fast. It was difficult for me to send as many regular updates as I would have liked to. In any case I am pleased to submit this report.

#### **Blogging from Agbozume**

This is a first for the mission to Ghana. Ben & Sarah Henkle started a blog site to document their experience with IHDN and the trip to Ghana. We missed the opportunity to promote this site while we were in Ghana, but it is not too late to visit the site

(<https://ihdnghanacvd.wordpress.com>)

for more details on the trip. The compelling point was the ability to send live e-mails and pictures from Agbozume with a broadband wireless connection. I remember when, only 8 years ago, we used to pack ourselves to the nearest public phone booth about 12 miles away from Agbozume, just to make calls to the US. Things have changed a lot. I am amazed at the speed of technology transfer to poor villages in Ghana and other parts of the developing world.

**TRIP: JUNE 19 TO JULY 28, 2011**

**BLOGGING FROM AGBOZUME**

## 19th Medical Mission Trip - Summer 2011 [cont.]

### Characteristics of Mission Team and Activities

We sponsored two mission teams to Ghana as follows:

Team A: June 19-July 28

1. Mr. Benjamin Agamah—Logistics/Organizational Support
2. Mr. Benjamin Henkle—Hypertension research/Clinic/Inventory Support
3. Ms. Sarah Henkle—Hypertension research/Clinic/Inventory Support

Team B: July 13-July 28

4. Dr. Edem Agamah—Leader
5. Mrs. June Agamah—Logistics/Inventory Support
6. Mrs. Irene Agamah—Logistics
7. Ms. Aseye Agamah—Clinic/Medical Records/Pharmacy/Youth Forum/Inventory Support
8. Ms. Alikem Agamah—Clinic/Medical Records/Pharmacy/Youth Forum/Inventory Support
9. Mrs. Kim Dunnington—Clinic/Nurses Training/Nurses Christian Fellowship
10. Mr. Spencer Dunnington—Clinic/Medical Records/Pharmacy/Inventory Support
11. Ms Emma Anderson—Clinic/Medical Records/Pharmacy/Photography/Inventory Support
12. Dr. Robert Bussing—Clinic/Inventory Support

### Clinical Activities

The bulk of our time was spent at the IHDN Mission hospital at Weta-Adzadokpo. Dr. Ajavon, the previous permanent doctor, decided to leave to pursue other goals just before we arrived. We had to recruit temporary doctor, Dr. Derrick Amoateng, to step in while we look for a replacement permanent doctor. We attended to 509 patients in one week. Most (56%) were adult women, and 18% were children under 12 years. There were several exciting moments with emergencies and praises for lives saved in the process as follows:

- Malaria is still the most common diagnosis at the hospital.
- Asthmatic attack is a common problem, with some patients presenting in respiratory failure. We are thankful to God that one patient with a severe attack and respiratory failure and severe malaria survived. We had a power outage and had to use a car battery to power the machines being used to treat this patient.
- Three of our patients tested positive for HIV and were counseled and referred to Aflao Hospital for further management.
- We lost an 18-month-old child with malnutrition and dehydration.

**MALARIA IS STILL THE  
MOST COMMON DIAGNOSIS  
AT THE IHDN HOSPITAL**

## 19th Medical Mission Trip - Summer 2011 [cont.]

- The failure of the Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to pay bills submitted as far back as December 2010 has created severe financial pressure for the operations for the hospital. As a result the hospital owes over 30,000 Ghana Cedis to a pharmacy wholesaler and suppliers.
- There is a need for more staff at the hospital, including full-time nurses, administrators, and a computer scientist..
- The staff of the hospital needs training in deriving maximum operational efficiencies.
- Ben and Sarah initiated an inventory management program to streamline the management of supplies sent to Ghana. Almost every team member participated in this effort, including the creation of a database of all items in the hospital.
- There is more demand for inpatient facilities than are presently available at the hospital.

Construction work on the canteen and staff apartment has reached the roofing level. The foundation work for the inpatient ward has started.

### CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES CONTINUE



### Social/Non-clinical Activities

- Aseye and Alikem hosted a youth forum at the Agbozume Evangelical Presbyterian (EP) School.
- We attended church services with the EP Church to encourage and support their work.
- We made donations of medications to the Health Directorate of the EP Church at Ho.
- Shopping at Agbozume market is still a big hit for team members. The market appears chaotic from the outside but is more orderly, peaceful and organized once you get in. You can even bargain for cheap prices on items you want to buy.
- The opportunity to shop for African souvenirs at the Tetteh Quarshie roundabout is unique and not available at Agbozume. Most team members took advantage of this to make purchases for friends and families.
- Both Edem Tsyokplo and Patience Dzikunu continue to design and produce clothing for the mission team. One of our team members even had her wedding dress made in Ghana. It is cheaper than in the US and gives a job to someone.
- Rates paid on fixed deposits and money-market accounts exceed 12% as we found out on our visit to Databank. But it is not cheap to repatriate profits to the US.
- We visited Korle Bu Teaching Hospital to make donations to the Hematology and Hemodialysis units.
- Overall, the trip was a major success with a great team of volunteers. We thank all of you who sent and supported the volunteers.

We thank all who received us in Ghana and made our stay a big success. We thank our volunteers for giving away their vacation for His glory.

We welcome your comments and feedback. Till the next time.

Regards and God bless.

Dr. Edem Agamah

IHDN USA [www.ihdn.org]