

Living Hope



HORIZON INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL MISSION, INC.

2009 Edition

The Presidents Message



The year 2009 medical mission is indeed a year we have witnessed more miracles, growth and persistence in achieving our goals. As usual our difficult time comes in planning for the mission especially the financial support to carry out an international medical mission. In the face of world economic constrain HIMM was able to carry out effective mission mainly because of the people God has touched to support our mission.

We are gradually realizing our vision for the mission touching the soul and body of the people we reach. This year we further strengthened our relationship with the universities in Nigeria, churches and partnered with The Sycamore Church, Savannah Georgia in reaching the rural communities in Nigeria

A total of documented 1,890 patients were seen with different ailments such as major oral maxillary tumor, malaria, Diabetes, Hypertension and other wound care cases. Minor surgical procedures were carried out. We visited 4 local government in Imo State Nigeria namely Umuhie-Ngor Okpala Local Govt. Area, Eziudo-Mbaise local Govt. Area, Ahaba-Obi Orodo in Mbaitoli Local Govt. Area, Ihiagwa-Owerri west Local Govt.

Our dental dept which started in 2005 was strengthened this year by the efforts of Laura Armstrong. Many cases of periodontal diseases were seen. Some needed teeth cleaning which has not been done for years while some teeth were extracted. We also enjoyed the additional services of our new missionaries Dr Lafayette Burks, Mr. Gary Strickland and James Barnes.

We are grateful to Mercy Africa ship. The Mercy Ships is the largest nonprofit hospital ship in the world. Major cases of oral maxillary tumors referred by HIMM have been adequately treated for free by Mercy Ships organization. We are indebted to Takeda Pharmaceutical Industry whose contribution has helped us to screen diabetes and supply them with the necessary medication.

We are grateful to MAP international, AmeriCares and the American people whose donations and prayers have sustained this mission and enabled us to answer our call. Many of you have gone on this mission with us either physically or through your prayers and donations. May God bless you and may you not relent in doing good.

Special points of interest:

Sycamore and HIMM Partnership

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“I AM HEALED” Maria Igwilo

Mrs. Maria Igwilo is 61 yr old woman from Arondizuogu in Imo state-Nigeria. She lived with an usual tumor for 30 yrs. The tumor started as small growth and gradually covered her entire mouth. For years she has sort for help in Nigeria but no one could operate on her. she became frustrated but did not lose hope in what God can do fro His people. “I believe in miracles” said Mrs. Igwilo. Occasionally the tumor spontaneously bleeds leaving to her chronically anemic and tired. Socially the tumor has kept her withdrawn.

Her miracle began in December,2008 when she met Dr Bedford Umez- (Professor of Political science in USA). Dr. Umez while on vacation to his native country Nigeria met Mrs. M .Igwilo in a church worship service in Lagos. He was touched by what he saw and decided to seek for help for Mrs. Igwilo. Through Chief Teddy Dike the case of Mrs. Igwilo was brought to Dr. Kennedy Okere of HIMM. ‘I have seen many devastating oral tumors but that of Mrs. Igwilo is definitely exceptional” said Dr Okere.

Mrs. Igwilo’s case was presented to Mercy ship presently docked in Cotonue-Republic of Benin. Mrs. Igwilo went through a successful first stage surgery debulking the tumor. Funds raised by the committee set up for

Mrs. Igwilo helped to pay for miscellaneous expenses while she was in Cotonue. After the second reconstructive surgery Mrs. looked completely different.

Post op Mrs. Igwilo said ‘I am already healed, for His hands through the surgeons has healed me’ Mrs. Igwilo is indeed very grateful to all who contributed to save her life and give new hope.



“I HAVE SEEN MANY DEVASTATING ORAL TUMORS BUT THAT OF MRS. IGWILLO IS DEFINITELY EXCEPTIONAL”

Chisom – God is behind me



Chisom is a ten yr old boy from Mbaise who developed a maxillary tumor at the age of 3yr.The tumor has progressively grown and eventually taken over a major proportion of his face displacing his upper dentition. Chewing is a major problem. His parents Mr& Mrs.Linus lbe have tried their

best in Nigeria but could not succeed in getting him the appropriate treatment. We have people promise us that they will help us cure Chisom but no promise has been fulfilled” said Chisom’s mother. Thanks to Barrister Dom Chilaka (an indigene of Eziudo) who invited HIMM to Eziudo. Thanks also to HRM Eze Desmond Ogugua for hosting HIMM in his domain

He lived by the meaning of his lbo name Chisom meaning God is behind me. For God was indeed behind him when he met Dr Okere at the mission field in Eziudo Mbaise. Dr Okere contacted Mercy Ship where Chisom’s tumor was debulked . A new life began in him. He has returned back to school. His parents cannot easily forget the mission that gave their son a new life.



Sycamore and HIMM Partnership

At the beginning of the millennium HIMM launched her first medical mission to Nigeria. At that time two major issues were identified by the visionary founder and President Dr Kennedy Okere. Most people had spiritual and physical issue. Dr Okere spent part of his time praying for the sick. This was a great burden on him as he also needs to see their physical ailment. The need for assistance from ministers and counselors became eminent if we must serve our patients properly. Local Nigeria ministers were helpful at the beginning but could not fulfill the vision of long term help for the people.

The Sycamore Church, Savannah, Georgia is Dr Okere's local church in US. Sycamore church has supported the mission for 8yrs financially but has not been physically involved in the mission until this year. The evangelical group lead by the pastor Rev Dr. Michael Reynolds has made in a significant difference in the life of the people. Praying for patients and working with the local churches has enabled our medical team to see more patients.



HORIZON INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL MISSION, INC.



Horizon International Medical Mission (HIMM) was founded Dr. Kennedy Kelechi Okere who also serves as the president of the organization. The main purpose of the organization is to reach the medically and spiritually unreached people of Africa and the Caribbean. Dr. Okere grew up in Africa and lived in the Caribbean. While growing up he witnessed people in rural areas of these parts live in poor medical and living conditions without much hope for assistance. As Dr. Okere grew up, he continued to pray that one day God would raise a vessel after His heart that will lift the people out of their predicament. He had no idea that he was praying for himself.

Dr. Okere organized his first medical mission trip to Nigeria, West Africa in March 2000. At that time, he was a second year medical resident in Family Medicine at Memorial Health University Medical Center. He was able to recruit a local Physician, Dr. Emeka Anyamele, and local Nigerian Nurses. With the cooperation of the local Pastor of Ihiagwa Baptist Church, the community visited in Imo State, Nigeria, Dr Okere converted the community church into a make shift clinic. Drs. Okere and Anyamele saw 600 patients during the 5-day clinic.

HIMM has gone on six mission trips since 2006. During each trip, HIMM has had the opportunity to recruit nurses, church ministers, a dentist, a medical student, a pharmacist and doctors.

111 Lions Gate Road
Savannah, GA 31419
Phone: 912-308-8799

Email:
kennedy@himm.org
<http://www.himm.org>

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