

Living Hope



HORIZON INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL MISSION, INC.

2010 Edition

HAITI MISSION 2010

On January 12, 2010 the island of Haiti was devastated with earthquake killing more than 200,000 people and leaving many disabled, homeless and increased the number of orphans in the poorest nation in the western Hemisphere.

Different parts of the world including our dear nation United States responded to rescue people. Horizon International Medical Mission (HIMM) was not left behind. We responded as third tier team i.e. after the acute trauma.

HIMM in partnership with WJCL television and Sycamore Church started the organization of a fitting team that will serve the purpose of the Haitians. A 40 ft Container load of medical supplies, food, clothes were put together with the help of the people of Tybee and savannah. On February 28, 2010 twenty man



Dr. Ajibola repairing a major scalp laceration



HIMM 2010 Haiti Mission Team

team led by the visionary Founder and President Dr. Kennedy Okere left for Haiti. Most teams from US are composed of mainly 5-7 people purely in medicine or faith based but HIMM team is made of twenty people from diverse discipline- Medical doctors, nurses, pharmacists, Psychotherapist specializing in grief management, Pastor, Christian counselors and auxiliary workers with background in Engineering. Everyone in this team found a place to serve in

Special points of interest:

Sycamore and HIMM Partnership

Inside this issue:

Haiti Mission trip 2010	1
My concern for Haitians	3

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“MALARIA
AND
TYPHOID
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Dr. Sesay and other HIMM team attend to a patient

In one week the team attended to 800 patients. We were based at the Presbyterian Mission in Cabaret, however, we also attended to patients in Port Au Prince, and the rural communities of Fovo, and Betccy. The earthquake also touched these areas but not as bad as Port Au Prince. Infection was the main issue of which acute malaria and typhoid disease remain on top the list.

Skin diseases also were present. This is not surprising as public health issue was of main concern. Many did not have good water to shower, cook and drink. Many kids were found taking their shower in the gutter with filthy water and some in contaminated river which sewage is also dumped. We also repaired laceration injury, dressed wounds and Post- op follow up.

Our Psychotherapist Dr. Stanley Williams and Our Pastor Dr. Dusty Reynolds attended to 110 patients. Assisting those who have lost their beloved ones in the earthquake and restoring their hope again in the Lord. The rapid increase in teenage pregnancy amongst Haitians post earthquake calls for concern and initiation of a program that will help cut down teenage pregnancy in a country with high number of orphans. Dr Stanley intends to work further with 28 churches in Haiti to develop this program.



Dr. Kevin Streete Attending to a child with kyphosis

My concern for the Haitians

Many people have been dislodged from their homes by the earthquake. Make shift tents donated by Red cross, United Nation Organization and some built with sticks and chaffy water proof bags were found in Port Au Prince and scantily in the rural areas. Some of our patients had symptoms of tuberculosis and live in the enclosed environment such as described above. Airborne infections such as TB can easily spread and will be a major contributor of mortality and morbidity. It is rainy season, some of the tents are already been flooded and some ripped apart. Where is the new home for these victims of natural disaster? How can we combat the public health issue?

Water is a major problem especially in the suburbs where no attention is paid. Most world attention is focused in Port Au Prince but more people are suffering in the suburbs and dying of hunger. Wells will be helpful. Nonprofit organizations that really touch the grass root is what is needed now than ever. Although the media is no more in Haiti but the sufferings of the people is not away and will not be for the next few years.

In summary, Haiti is a major concern to the world. The problems are diverse ranging from health care, economic and socio political issues. The approach should be an integrated approach to achieve success. Public Health education and provision of clean water will enhance survival.

For pictures and video please visit our partners at www.thesycamorechurch.com

Kennedy Okere, MD
President & Founder HIMM.

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.

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