

Living Hope



HORIZON INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL MISSION, INC.

April 2011

11th Annual Medical Mission

The 11th annual medical mission of HIMM was indeed mission accomplished. We continue to maintain our mission goals of teaching, preaching and healing. HIMM visited two states in Nigeria in ten days . The states include Imo and Akwa Ibom states. The following local governments were visited Owerri west, Ngor Okpala, Mbaise in Imo state and Abang in Akwa Ibom.



HIMM 11-man team were able to treat 780 patients. Ailments such as malaria, arthritis, diabetes mellitus and hypertension were treated. Minor surgical procedures such as laceration repairs, wound debridement and dressing were done. Also steroid joint injection with occasional excess joint fluid extraction was carried out.

Many of the people in the rural population has the belief that wound, indeed sickness in general is due to evil caste on them by their enemy who often is there neighbor. For example a 60 yr old woman whom I saw 3yrs ago with complete intact upper extremities was seen this time with left upper extremity partial amputation. She said the wound inflated on her by

“wicked neighbor” continue to aggressively spread so that at the time she sought for medical help the infection had extended to her bone so that the doctors did not have a choice but to amputate it and save her life from overwhelming body infection.

Children Ministry

Under the leadership of HIMM director of mission. Leslie Okere and her 3 children Kelechi (10yrs) Chidumam (8yrs old) and Uchechi (6yrs old) we extended our health education and food sharing to the primary schools. Uchechi was surprised to see that there were kids without foot wear. She is moved with her

brothers that on return to US they want to start collecting shoes for the kids in Nigeria. They spent good time playing and making new friends. Now they understand how fortunate they are and owning a pair of shoe is not a right but a privilege.



Special points of interest:

11th Annual Medical Mission

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Touching the Soul

The Sycamore Church in Savannah, Georgia working in partnership with HIMM extended their good will by donating computers and books to Baptist High School, Ngor. Counseling session at the mission field was of great success. A good number of cases of undiagnosed depression and anxiety. Some that have psychiatric disorder were identified as “mad people” who are demon possessed as tagged by the

villagers. Often their relatives send them to white garment churches for all kinds of treatment which sometimes involves corporal punishment by the prophet hoping that schizophrenia could be wiped into remission.

While it is true that some cases have underlying spiritual content, some are mainly psychiatric disorder.

HIMM Honored Again

The people of Imerienwe who has been blessed with free medical mission for 3 yrs will find it difficult to forget the good deeds of Dr Okere and his team.

In 2005 the entire council of traditional rulers coronated Dr Okere as High chief Akajogwu (the hand that upholds medicine. This year HRH Eze Njoku honored Dr Okere as chief Nnamere eze 1 of Imerienwe (his father has made him King) and his wife as Lolo osodiyaeme (the queen that accompanies her husband to do great things).

Dr Okere was also awarded with the degree of Fellow by the Baptist Pastor School, Obinze- Nigeria. For his contribution to rural health development and education in Nigeria.



“DR OKERE WAS AWARDED WITH THE DEGREE OF FELLOW BY THE BAPTIST PASTOR SCHOOL”

Congenital Abnormalities



Certain congenital abnormalities are preventable by proper education and compliance. Such is the case of the 2 month old baby with neural tube defect. Mom did not take adequate folic acid while pregnant so baby developed inadequately formed neural tube.

There is another case of congenital cataract in a 2yr old baby girl. She is blind on the right eye which probably could have been

salvaged if mom presented the kid at the Window period of at least before 6 months of age. Prenatal education in rural communities cannot be overemphasized. HIMM has handled the cases of vitamin A deficiency in many communities.



April 2011

HIMM Open Doors for Internship

We have desire to expose medical interns to medicine in the tropical world. For some of our interns it is an opportunity to find out if they can become career missionaries.

In 2005 Chiaka Igweonu accompanied HIMM on medical mission as college intern. Four years later Dr Chiaka Igweonu became a resident physician in Internal medicine preparing to join HIMM on another mission.

Last year Zach Cohen, Justin Brown and Stephanie who are medical students at Mercer University School of Medicine accompanied HIMM to Haiti. Next month they will become resident physicians.

Zach also accompanied HIMM to Nigeria this year. "I know these trips to the third world will help me as a family physician" said Zach.



"HIMM CONTINUE TO
ENCOURAGE INTERNS TO JOIN
MEDICAL MISSION"

High school students are not left out in our training. Michael Bonifacio is a senior high school student who intends to become a pediatrician. Michael supported by his parents enjoyed the learning experience at Haiti rescue mission with HIMM. He ignored the stress in obtaining Nigeria visa and joined the team to Nigeria. There Michael was able to take blood pressure and blood sugar of patients. He also spent time playing with the children.

HIMM continue to encourage interns to join medical mission. They are trained by HIMM professionals to serve at different capacities in the mission field.





HORIZON INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL MISSION, INC.

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

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

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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<http://www.himm.org>

