

Living Hope



HORIZON INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL MISSION, INC.

2012 Edition

SECOND HOME MISSION VISIT TO MCRAE, GA

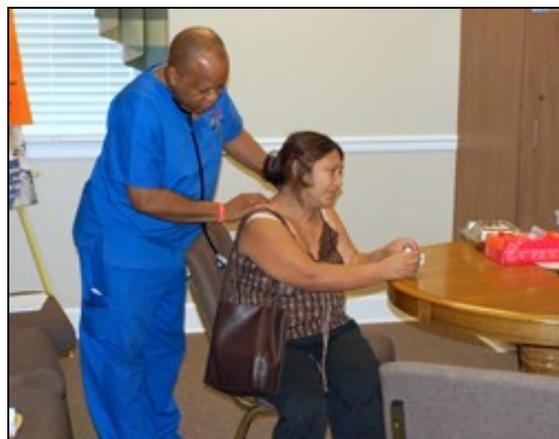
The number of uninsured in America continues to grow just as unemployment rate dictate the number of uninsured. In towns with emergency rooms the number of visits has increased. However, in rural America where some are not privileged to visit ER the suffering is worse. HIMM can hear the cry of the rural American population.



Medical Mission Team

On August 4, 2012 Horizon International Medical Mission (HIMM) returned to McRae, Georgia to provide primary medical care to the underserved and uninsured community.

They ministered to 64 individuals; mostly Hispanic women and children. The day clinic was held at the First Baptist Church of McRae. The 20 member volunteer team was headed by Dr. Kennedy Okere, President and Founder Horizon International Medical Mission Inc. and Vicky Worden, Nurse Practitioner, J.C. Lewis Health center and Shea Manigo, Pharmacist, Target Pharmacy. Spiritual Counseling also an element of HIMM ministry was



Dr. Kennedy Okere examining a patient

Special points of interest:

Second mission to McRae, GA

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provided by Rev Dr. Dusty Reynolds, founding pastor of The Sycamore Church in Savannah, GA , Rev Rick Smith and Pastor Alvin of the Telfair Baptist association. The team saw pediatric, teenage, adult and geriatric patients. Over half left with prescriptions. Many prescriptions were filled on site by HIMM at no cost to the patient. Medications were donated from the Savannah community. The types of medical conditions assessed were skeletal muscular pain, gastrological, chronic hypertension, and diabetes and well-baby checks. The providers treated what they could and referred others to specialists; moreover, the medical team of nurses provided much needed patient education and reassurance; the men in the community are suspicious of organized groups due to Georgia's unfriendly position towards immigrants. Spanish interpreters were invaluable in this effort.

What is HIMM and why McRae, GA?

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. In July 2011, Dr. Okere added a new dimension to HIMM by serving the Hispanic population in McRae, Georgia. Invited by First Baptist Church in McRae. McRae is a town in Telfair County, Georgia, United States. Based on the 2000 census, the town has a total population of 2,682. Between 1990 and 2000, the town experienced a population decrease of 10.8%, compared to the state growth during this period of 26.4%.

Dr. Okere organized HIMM's first medical mission trip to serve the people of the United States. A team of 35 volunteers traveled to McRae, GA. McRae's median income for a household is \$27,236, and the median income for a family is \$37,250. Males had a median income of \$29,055 versus \$20,321 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$15,911. About 16.4% of families and 19.3% of the population were below the poverty line, including 23.4% of those under age 18 and 25.2% of that age 65 or over. McRae has a Hispanic population which these numbers do not include. They have a large underserved Hispanic community. Many walked around with undiagnosed diabetes and hypertension. Major complaints are constant urination and headache respectively.

HIMM has gone on seven mission trips around the world since 2006. Experience has shown us that the medical need of rural America is not quite different from what we have seen in the developing countries where we have invested our time for the past 12yrs dealing with rural health care. During each trip, HIMM has been a light of hope to people in need. This was HIMM's second home mission. The need was great. Thanks to Georgia Volunteer Health care program for providing us the sovereign immunity protection while providing care to the uninsured.

For HIMM to help out more rural America communities, there is need for a mobile clinic. We will deeply appreciate donation towards this mobile clinic. Please consider joining the medical mission teams. We need to recruit nurses, church ministers, dentists, medical students, pharmacists and doctors. We are excited about going wherever there is a need for primary medical care. Call and join us. The experience is world-class.

**Respectfully submitted by Julia Pearce, RN.
Kennedy Okere,MD,FAAFP**

“THEY HAVE A
LARGE
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BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION-

The work of Dr. Diane Raleigh on Owerri Motherless Baby Home-Nigeria.

Good history will always serve as good foundation to build on. Some people leave legacy that help subsequent generation to grow. Some leave the comfort of life to become missionaries in a remote part of the world. It is only love for humanity that enabled them to lay down their life for mankind leaving their foot print in the sands of time.



Diane Raleigh with baby Chikwem and other mothers at the motherless baby home in 1963

Dr. Diane Raleigh is an unsung hero in missions to Africa. Dr. Raleigh is a clinical psychologist practicing in California. She is the living history of an orphanage home in Owerri, Nigeria-The Owerri Motherless Baby Home. In 2008, Horizon International Medical Missions heard the cry of the motherless baby home, donated food and supplied much needed medical care. Later that same year HIMM in collaboration with The Sycamore Church in Savannah sank borehole water and furnished their kitchen with gas cooker. We are building on the foundation Dr. Raleigh started. [See HIMM 2008 Newsletter](#). HIMM will continue to support other orphanage homes around the world



Owerri Motherless Baby Home in 1963

HIMM president Dr. Kennedy Okere had the honor to speak with Dr. Raleigh. In 1963 Dr. Raleigh was in Owerri as Peace Corp member, however, she went beyond the call of service. The American clinical psychologist and teacher share her story below as regards the genesis of Owerri motherless baby home.

“As one of the first 500 members of the Peace Corps worldwide, I was assigned to teach in Owerri, along with teachers from UNESCO. We were housed on an abandoned Shell Oil compound, cleared from the surrounding jungle. Owerri was a small town with only one tarmac road, and few cement brick structures.

Commerce was conducted from 200 tin-roofed shacks lining the tarmac and adjacent dirt alleys. One cow was brought into town each week to provide meat available for purchase. The town was the center of activity for the surrounding villages. Nigeria was at peace, and those in Owerri joined together in support of their community.



Dr Raleigh chatting with one of the workers at the motherless baby home

Besides teaching, I wanted to make a contribution to the community. In one of the few cement-block buildings, the Red Cross was operating a well-baby clinic. I volunteered to provide supplies and support and worked as an assistant. After several months, the Government decided to open a clinic in the hospital and asked us to close down. The day the clinic closed, a father handed me a baby suffering from malnutrition due to the death of her mother in childbirth. Chikwem was 3 months old and only weighed 5 ½ pounds. I took Chikwem into my home realizing the community had no resources for children whose mothers had died in childbirth. I decided to seek the agreement of the local chiefs and Red Cross to use the building as a

home for children like Chikwem. The concept of such a home for motherless babies was new, and there was much discussion among the local leaders before I had their support to begin.

I went to Port Harcourt begging for supplies. We were able to secure whitewash cribs, mattresses etc. Most important, Nestles, Inc agreed to supply powdered milk to the Home monthly. Funds were donated by the local community and the Red Cross, and nurses were employed. After a year, the Baby Home was filled to capacity. Upon return to the U.S. I obtained the support for the Home from the Christian Children's Fund. After supplying them with details on each child, the Fund supported the Clinic for many years. Now, 48 years later, I was thrilled to learn that the Owerri Motherless Baby Home is still in existence."

Only a strong foundation can stand when tested with fire. God has used Dr. Raleigh to build a strong foundation and that is why the Motherless baby home is still in existence. If you are interested in supporting this mission of HIMM please make check to HIMM or visit our donation button on our website.

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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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