

Living Hope



HORIZON INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL MISSION, INC.

2012 Special Edition

Nigeria Plane Crash Claims Prominent HIMM Supporter

The morning of June 3, 2012 opened with tears for many Nigerians around the world. The flight from Abuja to Lagos crashed in Lagos claiming all passengers on board and some other people on ground. A total of 163 people died and many injured. As families mourn, Horizon International Medical Mission (house hold name in free medical mission and rural health development in Imo State and Nigeria) is deeply affected. Our adviser and friend late Professor Celestine Onyemobi Elihe Onwuliri (AKA C.O.E) was in the plane crash.



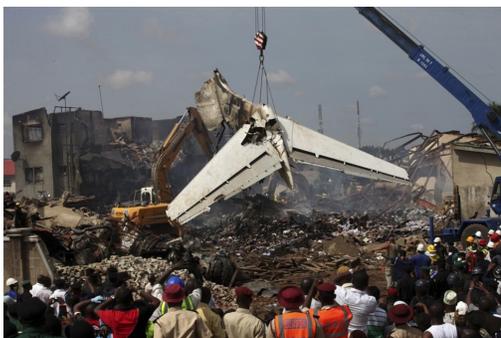
Prof Celestine Onwuliri and Dr. Kennedy Okere

Special points of interest:

Nigerian Plane Crashes

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Loss of Prof and friend 1



Living Hope

I have known Prof C.O.E Onwuliri for 28 years. He was a close friend, my teacher and a father figure. While as an undergraduate Zoology student at the university of Jos, Nigeria, Prof C.O.E Onwuliri and his wife Prof Viola Onwuliri (Present Honorable Minister for State 1- foreign affairs - Nigeria) were my teachers. Prof C.O.E Onwuliri was also my academic adviser and research project supervisor. His great advise and wisdom enabled me to attend medical school. On completion of my B.sc degree he advised me to attend medical school instead of accepting the full scholarship offered to me for PHD. He said to me “ Kennedy I think you will make a good physician for you have a compassionate heart”. He was right. Then as Dean of Post Graduate studies at University Jos, he gave me letter of recommendation to attend St George's university school of medicine. I know a good number of his students have similar testimony to share about him.



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Late Prof C.O.E Onwuliri hails from Umuokazi Amuzi Ahiara- Mbaise, Mbaise Local Government Area- Imo State. He is married with five children (2 physicians and 3 Engineers). He was a distinguished graduate of university of Nigeria Nssuka. A parasitologist with special interest in nematology .he has published numerous academic articles. He served in different public positions outside the academic environment. He held the position of commissioner for information , youth and culture(1997-1999) and also commissioner for Agriculture and natural resources in Imo State .On all occasions he had no part in corruption that beseech most public officers in Nigeria.

In 2007 and 2008 Horizon International Mission brought free medical mission to the surrounding villages of Ihiagwa, Eziobodo, Nekede and Obinze. The mission was held at Federal university of Technology, Owerri. Prof Onwuliri as Vice Chancellor of Federal University of Technology (FUTO) sensed the poor health condition of the people around him and decided to invite Dr. Kennedy Okere, MD and his HIMM team. “I am proud to say that some years ago Dr Okere was my student. Today I call him my son, a colleague, hero and a champion as we join hands to make this world a better place”, said Prof. C.O.E Onwuliri. Indeed he made the world a better place for many.

As Vice Chancellor of FUTO, he gave many people opportunity to obtain formal education, offered many jobs and led many to Christ. He gave FUTO a new look in infrastructural development. I was present during one of the morning devotions held in his office at FUTO which involved a good number of his staff. He was a God fearing leader. The wonderful work he did as Vice Chancellor cannot be easily forgotten by the Ihiagwa people and the people of Imo State.

Prof C.O.E Onwuliri passing on, reminds us that indeed life is like a vapor. It is brief. HIMM will miss his contributions and the people of Nigeria has lost an eminent scholar. Join HIMM in praying for the family that God will comfort them in times like this.

(<http://www.himm.org/images/HIMM2008Newsletter.pdf>)

High Chief Kennedy Okere, MD,FAAFP
Former Student and friend of Prof C.O.E Onwuliri
President and 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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