

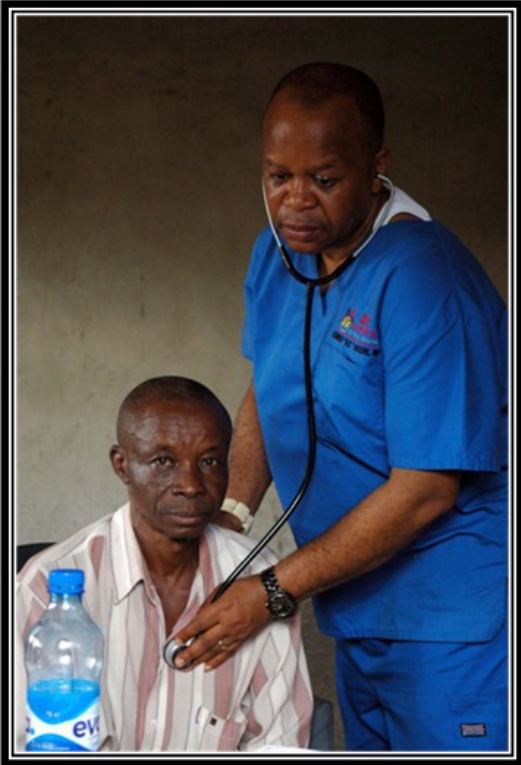
Living Hope



HORIZON INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL MISSION, INC.

April 2014

The President's Message Rebuilding the Bridge of Hope



Dr. Kennedy Okere examining a patient

and Eziam in Ngor Okpala LGA. The HIMM missionary team comprised of 15 missionaries from the United States and 10 local missionaries. HIMM enjoyed the partnership of Willy Esther Foundation, led by Chief Sir Prof A.D.W Acholonu, in delivering exceptional medical care to the people of Awaka. The mission team set up make-shift laboratories for testing for HIV and malaria, and for performing diabetic screening. We saw a total of 900+ documented patients over 5 business days and treated ailments such as malaria, hypertension and diabetes. We also performed minor surgical procedures on some patients.

HIMM believes in holistic medicine which is treating the entire body, the mind, emotions and spirit. Not only did we dispense medicine to our patients, but, our counselors kept busy praying for those who requested for prayers – usually after receiving medical care. We witnessed extra ordinary miracles.

Mission 2014 is HIMM's 14th annual medical mission Nigeria. Over this 14 year period, HIMM has provided free medical care to more than 12,000 documented patients in Nigeria; mainly to those living in the rural areas. We encounter different challenges while preparing for each mission trip and we make sacrifices; we know that for all our sacrifices, true rewards await us in heaven. Despite the challenges we encounter when preparing for each mission trip, we maintain our desire to continue to rekindle hope in the rural population of Africa and the Caribbean.

HIMM visited four towns in three local government areas (LGA) in Imo state. The towns visited were Ihiagwa and Obinze in Owerri West LGA, Awaka, in Owerri North LGA,

Special points of interest:

The President's
Message

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Living Hope

Government dignitaries including the Imo State Commissioner for Health, Dr Edward Onyemaechi Ihejirika, Honorable Obulimba Innocent Eke-representing Owerri West LGA in the house of assembly, the Transition Chairwoman and Chairman of Owerri West and North respectively, traditional rulers – Eze – of different towns, and other counselors were present in the medical mission opening ceremony.

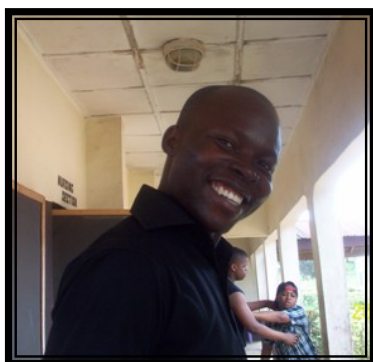
I encourage you to spend some time reading details of our mission. Our documentary video will be released in due course. I give special thanks to all who contributed to the success of this medical and evangelical mission. We are indebted to AmeriCares USA and MAP for donating medicine. We are grateful to News Agency of Nigeria for permitting journalist Chilee Agunana to cover our mission. I am indebted to my pastor Dr Michael Reynolds and members of my local church The Sycamore Church in Savannah, Georgia for their unfailing love and support for our mission.



Imo state commissioner for Health Dr Ihejirika, Prof A.D.W. Acholonu, Lolo Leslie Okere and gov't dignataries cut the ribbon to declare the mission open at Awaka

HIMM visit to Ezicama - Henry Chitom

“...DON'T ALLOW
THAT ZEAL AND
PASSION TO DIE
OUT”



Picture of Henry Chitom

Onuoha Henry Chitomike, founder of proposed **Divine Cornerstone Foundation** has passion to be a blessing to his people, the needy and less-privileged especially the young people. This passion has been in my heart for a long time though in my own little way, I have been doing the little I could do as a single individual especially in my community until I came in contact with Dr. Okere Kennedy, founder and president of Horizon International Medical Mission (HIMM) in the year 2011 who encouraged me after reading a mail I sent to him, he said “Henry, I have gone through your write up and your desire to help your people. That is great. Don't allow that zeal and passion to die out. God will open the way for you someday, but it requires persistence and prayers. Keep it up. Start in every little way you can”.

When he announced the HIMM Mission 2011 in Nigeria captioned “Arise & Walk”, I indicated interest to participate as a non-medical personnel after reading through some of the newsletters and testimonies of what our good Lord have used and still using the group (Horizon International Medical Mission) to do in the life of people in Africa and the Caribbean. It gave me joy and hope that there are still people of a sincere heart that are into the dream which I have been asking God “how” this shall become a



Prayer is the key to mission

April 2014

reality, just like Mary asked Angel Gabriel “how shall this be seeing that I know not a man” Luke 1 : 34. I also requested that HIMM should extend their service to my home town that year. Dr. Okere granted my request to participate in the 2011 Medical Mission but could not visit my community due to the lateness of my request. It was an awesome experience serving with HIMM in any capacity as non-medical personnel in 2011.

MISSION 2014 AT EZIAMA



Group picture of HIMM team and the medical workers from Grace hospital in Eziamá

When I got a mail from Dr. Kennedy Okere, founder and President of HIMM, announcing the next Medical Mission to Imo State, Nigeria, I did not hesitate sending him an informal request to visit my community (Eziamá, Ngor-Okpala in Imo State) for a free medical mission. With the propelling force, passion to be a blessing to my people, I prayerfully followed him up. Even when there was need for a Pharmacist, I saw it as an avenue to contribute to the Mission 2014, I made up my mind to get a pharmacist at all cost that will make the mission a success and God answered my prayers.

There was an unspeakable joy in my heart on 2nd October, 2013 the day I received a mail from Dr. Okere granting me a one day mission in my community. I was so happy that God has granted my heart desire not minding the cost of hosting the group.

The traditional ruler of my community HRH Eze Hyacinth I. Nwamadi (Nma 2 of Eziamá) also played an important role by releasing to me a formal letter of invitation to HIMM for a one day medical Mission in my community who also welcomed the Group in our traditional way on the 11th March, 2014 in his palace and out of excitement promised honoring Dr. Okere with a chieftaincy title when next they come.

**“ ...IN HIMM NOBODY IS
THE “BOSS”, EVERYONE IS A
SERVANT”**

My pastor, father, friend and mentor, Rev. Dr. A. U. Anyanwu and his family, Director of Grace Hospital Eziamá, supported me both in prayers and otherwise also by granting my request of using the Hospital premises for the mission. He did not just allow us use the premises but also gave us access to use all hospital facilities we wish to use for the program. The Grace Hospital staff piloted by the Medical Director, Dr. Chika Ogbonna did excellently well in both participation and organization.

My contact with Dr. Okere and HIMM at large has totally changed my perception about Christianity and life, unconditional love. I found out that it takes a man with the love of Christ to leave his comfort zone to an environment quite different from his to render a selfless and non-profitable service to a set of unknown individuals. In HIMM nobody is the “BOSS”, everyone is a servant.

MISSION 2014 AT EZIAMA — Continued



Dr Kennedy Okere receiving cola nut and drink from the HRH Eze Hycienth I Nwamadi (Nma 11 of Eziamana)

HIMM's visit to Eziamana created a sort of confidence to the host village that there is still somebody that has the people's interest at heart, just as one woman called me out and said "My son, Umuagwu Eziamana still have a son". The people were so pleased the way they were attended to by the nurses especially the caring touch of the Doctors and unique attention to their complaints. Many of the people that were sick but could not go to hospital due to cost of medications saw the coming of HIMM to the community as the visitation of angels.

One other distinguishing factor in HIMM is that they are not just humanitarian servants rather; they also carry the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, making disciples and many being healed without medications through the counseling section of the mission. This makes the mission different from any other medical mission.

Conclusively, HIMM's visit to Eziamana was a major breakthrough for me as a person. Seeing my people receiving medical treatment without their financial involvement which has been my dream gave me a great joy. Though it was challenging financially but it could not be measured with the joy and blessings attached to it because the bible says, he that gives to the poor lends to the Lord and I'm well convinced that God is the best pay-master.

The ability of the doctors to see more than 235 patients in one day free medical mission, to a great extent reduced the health/economic burden of parents/relations of the beneficiaries. Satisfaction is drawn from the fact that the lives of men, women and even children were saved through HIMM's visit to Eziamana, Ngor-Okpala in Imo State.

Divine Cornerstone Foundation has kicked off and will never go back. With HIMM's collaboration, other groups with similar passion and God being on our side, we shall achieve our vision. I cannot put all the prayers people of Eziamana have released to HIMM but in summary, the Eziamana people say "God must bless HIMM for her services as we expect you next time you come to Nigeria".

Kid's Corner - Chidumam Okere

I have been on three mission trips with my parents. In the past, since I was still little, I only followed my parents to one mission site in Ihiagwa and the rest of the time, I stayed with my mom at my grandmother's house in the village. In the past mission trips with my parents I visited the elementary schools and helped share out food to kids in Kindergarten. I also met my cousins, made some friends and played my favorite game, soccer, with them. Mission 2014 was my 3rd mission trip to Nigeria. This time my siblings, Kelechi and Uchechi, and I prayed that God and our parents will allow us do a little more during the mission trip. God answered our prayers; my dad let us travel to all the mission sites to help.



Chidumam and the elderly woman

My sister Uchechi helped my mom with registering the patients and taking care of little babies while my brother and I helped Mr. Jonathan Barnes with crowd control and directing the patients to the doctor or to the pharmacy.

While I was guiding patients, an elderly lady came up to me and told me to help guide her to the doctor because she couldn't see.

“...SHE IS BLIND AND WE DO NOT DO EYE SURGERY .”

So, I took her to see my dad. The woman told my dad that she needed glasses because she can't see. My father asked her if she was blind and she said yes. He told her that she does not need glasses because she is blind and we do not do eye surgery and the glasses he had were reading glasses. He also told me to lead the woman to the pharmacy so that she could get her medicine.

I was trying to lead her to the pharmacy, but she kept telling my dad that she needed glasses. The woman was so persistent that I began pleading with my dad and asked him, “Why don't we just have her try out some of the glasses here and pick the one she wants?” My dad gave me permission to help the woman select glasses. She picked up a really large pair of old glasses and tried it on. Then she looked at my daddy as he was moving his hands and working. The grandma started copying my dad's hand movements and describing what he was doing. My dad was amazed and asked her if she could see him. The woman responded that she could see my dad well. The woman was so excited that she walked out to the waiting room without my support and started rejoicing. In few minutes she made the other patients in the waiting are sing and praise God with her.



Uchechi, Chidumam and Kelechi

I am happy that grandma (as elderly women are called in Nigeria) can now see. I feel God used me to help her. That makes me proud.

Honorable Moments for HIMM



Trophy won at the annual competition presented by the students to Dr Okere

HIMM & Dr. K. Okere have been honored at different parts of the world where HIMM mission has touched the life of individuals. Dr Okere has been honored with chieftaincy titles, multiple plaques awards and certificates for his contributions to rural health development in Africa and the Caribbean and United States.

This year a house at Baptist Model Secondary School, Obinze, Owerri West, in Nigeria was named after him as Dr. Kennedy Okere's House. It was awesome to see the students offer a parade to present a trophy they won during their annual school inter-house sports competition to Dr Okere. I am deeply touched by this gesture and honor" said Dr. Okere.



Students of Dr Kennedy Okere House in a parade



Representatives of the Senior Citizens of Imo state present a plaque to HIMM President Dr. Okere

Also the senior citizens of Imo State represented by the Baptist Senior Citizens presented a plaque to HIMM for her sustainable free medical mission to the people of Imo State for 14 years.

HIMM will continue to do more and more. Touching the world with medicine and bringing hope to the hopeless.

We need your help



Ulceration on the face of 54 year old woman

This is a sad case of 54yr old woman who developed a small ulcer on the face 4 yrs ago. She thought the ulcer will go away without medical intervention.

Unfortunately the ulcer continued to grow eating deep into the inner layers of the skin and extending to the ear. At time of presentation to HIMM clinic the raw appearing ulceration has covered one side of the ear that has caused her unilateral hearing loss. This is highly suspicious of malignant tumor. She needs further work up and treatment to save her life. Can you help her?

A 24 yr old young man who had his external ear bitten off in a fight. He needs plastic surgery intervention to restore his external ear. He has been treated with antibiotic to deal with the infection. Can you help him?



24 year old man with half external ear

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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 multiple 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.

Were on the web!
<http://www.himm.org>

