

Report of Medical Mission to Amichi 2008

This second onsite medical mission to Amichi was conducted from August 9th to 20th, 2008, and took place at the Diocesan Hospital Amichi. The US volunteer team was led by Ukamaka Oruche (project manager), with Ody Oruche (Planning and logistics), Dr Sampson Ogbuchi (medical consultant), Laura Nichols, Clinical Nurse Specialist, and Will Johnston, a Master prepared social Worker. The home team was led by Dr Okwudiri Obiadazie (Medical director), and included his nursing staffs, support staffs, two medical doctors, two medical students and 13 student nurses from Nnamdi Azikiwe University.

The US team arrived in Nigeria on August 10th. We began set-up and provided few medical consultations on the 11th. The medical mission ran from August 12th to the 14th. We served 802 patients, 2/3rd of who were women (see table 1). We were happy to serve many men as well. Most prevalent diagnoses were hypertension, diabetes, ulcer, and arthritis. Others included malaria and asthma.

We transported enough medications (i.e. two types of hypoglycemic medicines to treat diabetes, five types of anti-hypertensive medicines to treat high blood pressure, and various pain medications). Each medicine will serve 500 patients per month for 6 months. During the 3 1/2 - day medical mission, we served 802 patients. The patients came from 23 towns (see table 1). The hospital had enough medication left to continue to run its established ½ day Wednesday clinic. The amount of medications left will serve approximately 50 patients per week for about 10-12 months.

A vital component of each encounter was patient education about the medical diagnoses, medications, nutrition, and other lifestyle or behavioural management skills. Patients were also instructed on what to do regarding follow-up clinic visits to monitor their responses to medications. The testimonies of the patients who regularly attended the free Wednesday clinics in the last 2 years are overwhelmingly positive.

The mission will not be possible without the unwavering and unconditional support of the Mercy Foundation, the Nnewi Anglican Diocese, Oil Serv Limited, Mrs Amaka Molokwu, and the prayers and financial support of our families and friends.

Ukamaka Oruche

Table 1

Hometown	Females	Males	Total	% of Total
Amichi	356	131	487	60.72
Nnewi	111	37	148	18.45
Azigbo	22	5	27	3.37
Utuh	20	4	24	2.99
Ekwulumili	18	5	23	2.87
Osumenyi	13	6	19	2.37
Ezinifite	6	3	9	1.12
Unubi	7	2	9	1.12
Ebenator	5	2	7	0.87
Osumuoghu	4	2	6	0.75
Akwaihedi	2	2	4	0.50
Onitsha	4	0	4	0.50
Oraifite	3	1	4	0.50
Ozubulu	2	2	4	0.50
Igbo Ukwu	2	1	3	0.37
Agulu	2	0	2	0.25
Ukpor	1	1	2	0.25
Aguluzigbo	1	0	1	0.12
Awka Etiti	1	0	1	0.12
Ichi	1	0	1	0.12
Nnobi	1	0	1	0.12
Okija	1	0	1	0.12
Okoh	1	0	1	0.12
Sub Total	584	204	788	98.25
Enugu State	9	2	11	1.37
Abia State	2	0	2	0.25
Imo State	1	0	1	0.12
Total	596	206	802	100.00