

Indian homeopathic doctors in Ghana November 2009

Feedback and thanks to all those who generously supported this trip

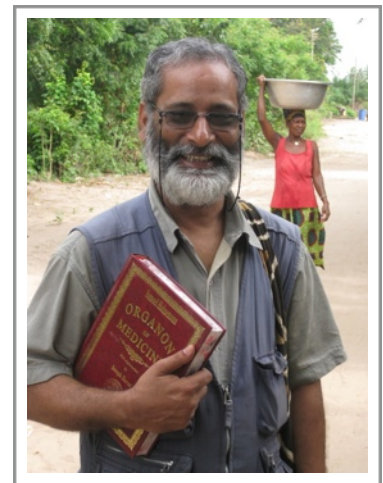
In October 2009, Ghana Homeopathy Project, working together with the help of £1,000



Participants at the Accra training programme

raised from individual donors plus a £1,000 donation from Sheaf Trust, was able to fund a training programme in Ghana. Two experienced Indian homeopathic doctors, Dr Kalyan Bhattacharyea and Dr Kalishankar Bhattacharyea, had volunteered to go to Ghana for 1 month to train Ghanaian homeopaths and work alongside the Ghanians in a village called Mafi Seva, where only minimal health care is usually available. The Indians had been impressed with the Ghanians commitment to homeopathy, when GHP (again supported by funds from Sheaf Trust) were able to pay for the airfare for our project apprentice homeopath Emperor to study on a 2 week clinical training programme in India.

Overall, this was an incredibly successful trip. We began with a 10 day training programme in Accra, attended by 18 students. We then travelled to a village area where GHP student Pastor John has a small clinic. Once there we saw 50 new patients, working from dawn to dusk. Our trainee homeopaths Emperor and Pastor John acted as translators and so were able to learn from the clinical setting. The village tour continued for three more days, ending up in Mafi Seva clinic, where Emperor is based. We treated approximately one hundred clients during these days. Next we travelled north to Kumasi, Ghana's second largest city, where GHP have another clinic and work together with our Ghana partner Bonsu Boaten, who has trained as a homeopath in UK. 16 people attended a 4 day training programme there.



Dr Kalyan Bhattacharyea at Pastor John's village

The Indians were accompanied by GHP UK co-ordinator

Linda Shannon and volunteer

Richard Pitt. Richard has 25 years experience in practice and gave up his job as Director of the Pacific Academy, California to spend a sabbatical in Ghana



Richard with Pastor John and Emperor

This high profile trip, with the Indians, together with Richard staying for longer and the specific skills Richard brings to the project was met by a great response from the Ghanaian side and I really felt we were working together and that the project is becoming more mature generally.

We all attended government level meetings with TAMD



Students in Accra

(Traditional and Alternative Medicine Directorate) to discuss how we could further the development of homeopathy as a profession in Ghana. GHP was invited to continue working with the department to develop educational programmes. Richard is very experienced in curriculum design and had been invited to continue working with Mr Akekpo, the Chief Registrar at TAMD. As a result of this latest trip we are now working on a 1 year training programme in homeopathy which will be accredited within Ghana.

The Indians were able to talk about the Indian situation where homeopathy is fully supported by government and indeed many homeopaths are government employees. They were wonderful ambassadors for homeopathy!

As a result of these meetings, Mr Akekpo offered, as Chief registrar, to sign the certificates of all those who attended our courses, and to work together more closely in the future. This was very well received by the students as, for the first time, homeopathic training programmes held in Ghana will be recognised within the country - another big step forward for the development of the profession

Mr Akekpo came to speak to the students. These are his words:

“We are hopeful that subsequent programmes will be fully patronised, as chief registrar in Ghana for alternative medicine it is my duty to encourage training. We want to concentrate on training programmes at local level. We want Ghana to get the best of talent and skills. It is in this connection that I have to appreciate this programme



Mr Akekpo talks to the class

We will have a memorandum of understanding between my office that on a yearly basis such programmes will be organised for new people, and for those already in trade, attending for continuing professional development.

Next year we will start planning early partly in Accra and partly in Kumasi. Please inform all other colleagues to take advantage of the next opportunity. In connection with this programme it is the reserve of the secretariat to develop a road map for the way forward for the development of alternative medicine of this country. I am encouraging the organisers to give a certificate signed by representative of office - a collaboration between Ghana and their country.”

We then began our tour of the villages, heading to Pastor John's clinic first. Here are some impressions from Linda Shannon:



Man diagnosed with TB

‘A remote village area close to the Togo border. Pastor John,

our student, wants to start a clinic there. We arrived and I expected to spend the night in a mud hut, but he led us to a comfortable newly built house owned but not yet occupied, by one of his parishioners. After a good sleep our merry band of homeopaths, Drs. Kalyan and Kalishankar, Isabelle, Richard, Emperor, Pastor John and I, walked to the big half built church where we would hold the first clinic in this area. The patients were already arriving in their brightly colored clothes prepared to wait all day to be seen by the doctors. We worked until 9 p.m., and saw 50 new patients. Dr Kalishankar explained the pathologies, and we couldn't have had a better learning experience in clinical diagnosis and the Indian's prescribing and case taking methods.



Emperor translates for Dr Kalishankar

One elderly man came who had been diagnosed with TB but had not continued his medication for the correct amount of time. One side of his chest had completely collapsed. As Dr Kalishankar had recently retired from his post as WHO TB Control Officer for West Bengal, he was able to give excellent advice alongside the homeopathic prescriptions.



Waiting for treatment

Each patient paid a small sum of 4 Ghana cedis, as we want to make Pastor John's clinic sustainable in the future. All were new patients, many with severe chronic illnesses, and Richard will return to follow these cases.

We then travelled on to Mafi Seva village. In Mafi Seva we work in partnership with the charity AMURT Ghana who, working together with local people, have constructed a reservoir and filtration system providing clean water to 25 villages.

Other AMURT programmes include a primary health care centre, midwifery clinic, community health education programmes,

sexual health counseling, and a pathology lab.

As usual, patients came for treatment from all around. The steady flow of patients began about 7 am and continued on into the night. Because word had spread about the Indians' visit we were especially busy. One baby came with bronchopneumonia and had been prescribed a very strong antibiotic, Metronizadol, Paramol and a cough suppressant. These had been taken for a week with no effect and the baby was getting worse with a high fever and constant coughing. The Indian's gave Aconite 1M every 30 min. The baby fell asleep after the first dose and the next day was a bit better, waking 2-3 am with the cough so Kali Carb LM1 was given. The next day he was even better with more loose mucous in chest so Ant Tart LM1, next day after further improvement Hep Sulph was prescribed as the anti-psoric to finish the case!



Reservoir at Mafi Seva water project

One other interesting case that the Indian doctors took

was a young man with bloody stools, with looked like ulcerative colitis, as apposed to dysentery as it had become quite chronic, and the main symptom was bloody stools after drinking and eating. Trombidium helped this client very quickly as the symptoms cleared up right away and have not returned.

It was satisfying to see the progress Emperor has made in his knowledge and confidence as a result of his experience with the two visiting Indian homeopaths.”

Richard then accompanied the Indian doctor's to Kumasi for a 4 day course attended by 16 people

As the end of the trip approached we all felt that much had been achieved towards the vision of the Ghana Homeopathy Project: to work together with local people, supporting the development of homeopathy in Ghana so that it will be available on an ongoing basis to as many as possible, including the poorest communities.



Sharing across continents -
Dr Kalishankar with Emperor



Baby with broncho-pneumonia

We would like to extend our thanks to all who gave so generously to make this trip possible.

To find out more about the Ghana Homeopathy Project and our partners see

www.ghanahomeopathy.org

www.amurt.net/programs/africa/ghana

www.homeopathswithoutborders-na.org

SHEAF Trust:

www.dynamic-technologies.co.uk/SHEAF/index.html



Children at village clinic