

## Open Letter from the President. Motec Life – UK. 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007.

Dear member and friend,

I am happy to announce that with the exception of four members who are carrying out mopping-up operations in Ghana, the Motec travelling Team of 22 has returned to the UK. Overall, a new dimension to our charity has been added to our work in Ghana aimed at providing lasting and effective medical care in that part of the world. I am grateful to you all especially the travelling group and self sponsored individuals for the sacrifices during this October visit and the successful alignment of new members to the course of our selfless objectives. Our maiden lecture has been a success and we are already planning the next one to include an international faculty. We are grateful to the entire staff of our host hospitals: St Joseph's of Koforidua, Pramso St Michael's, Holy Family-Nkawkaw, and Sefwi-Asafo. I am thrilled by the excellent reception and co-operation of the Ministry of Health of Ghana and the support from my Emeritus Professors in Ghana.

Without diminishing the contribution of all members to Motec work in October, I have received the backing of our local representatives in Ghana and the Vice President in announcing the Winners of the 'Special Volunteers': for the Koforidua site Mr Aprajit Bhalla; for Nkawkaw - Dr Wilbert Spaans; for Asafo -Mr Raymond Ofori; for Pramso - Mr Simon Derby; Audio-visual work - Mr David Lewis; Determination in adverse situations-Mrs Sarah Wright: Meetings with The Hierachy in Ghana - Mrs Gladys Ofori-Atta; and for holding the Presidency in the UK during our working trip to Ghana- Mr Kofi Amu Darko. Congratulations. We are all winners.

Some friends offered to help Motec in Ghana but the working programme and exhaustion of members would not make it possible for us to enjoy the offers away from our work stations. Our apologies to any individual or group of individuals who may have felt left out in our social programmes. We hope to bridge all gaps in future.

With respect to our October working programme, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all our friends notably the following collaborators (and sorry if I forget to mention the names of any of our best friends and the list seem unending): Daasebre Prof. Oti Boateng and Nananom of the New Juaben Paramount State of Ghana; Dr. E. K. Hiadzi and the Lister Hospital-Accra; Mr Annan Arkyin Cato - Ghana High Commissioner -London; Dita, Ursula, Heward -Mills and all others of The International Spouses Association of Ghana; The Christian Council of Ghana, Dr E.K. Sory - Director General of Health and The Ministry of Health of Ghana, Mr Ralph Welcker and Mr David Appiah of The International Organisation for Migration, Mr Gordon Wetherrel -The British High Commissioner to Ghana; Professor Paul K Nyame- Rector of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Ghana; Most Rev. Dominic Andoh-The Emeritus Catholic Archbishop of Accra, The British Council, The National Catholic Health Service, Most Reverend C. Palmar Buckle-Catholic Archbishop of Accra, Rt. Reverend Afrifah-Agyekum-Catholic Bishop of Koforidua; Host hospital drivers; and The Kelly Family of Hertfordshire

Others are: Dr E. Osei and Holdbrook - Smith of the Department of Orthopaedics-Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra; Dr Nkrumah Mills, Medical Director- Akosombo VRA Hospital; Dr W. Addo- Medical Director Koforidua St Joseph's Hospital, Dr S. K Amuzu - Medical Director-Holy Family Hospital, Dr Charity Sarpong, Medical Director, Tema General Hospital; Mr K. Amoateng, Administrator Pramso St Michael's Hospital, Bros Johannes, George, Gelasius and Fr. John Opong of the Hospitallier Order of St John of God; Mr Kobby and Mr Philip Forson of the Ofori-Atta Foundation of Ghana, Mr Robert Welsh of Corin UK; Mr Dalton Boot of the World Orthopaedic Concern, Mr Sherif Safori of Johnson and Johnson- Accra, Mr Asad Nazim of Asad Construction-Accra, Mrs Florence Benson - Accra, Professor Koram of Noguchi Research Institute, Prof. Yao Tettey of the Department of Pathology-Korle Bu Teaching Hospital; Mr Korsah (Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedics), Dr Quansah -Trauma Surgeon - Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi; Mrs Estelle Appiah of the Attorney General's Office in Ghana, Adelita and Veronica of the British High Commission; Dr Edith Clarke -Occupational Health-Ghana, The Tayton Family,- Wales UK, Holy Spirit Sisters, Dr Justice Seth Twum(retired Supreme Court Judge, Accra); The General Public; Host GTV Breakfast Show; the Press- Ghana and many other distinguished Dignitaries.

As you may be aware, our main objectives for the October visit are in line with our constitution and the call by the World Health Organisation to improve the minimum of orthopaedic trauma care across the world. The journey will be long **and tortuous, but we will get there.**

For me personally, The Motec Fiscal year of October 2006-October 2007 has been a very momentous one. Growing the seeds of hope for our organisation and people has given me the opportunity to self examine my conscience. It has raised questions about the meaning of life to myself and about my relationship with people with whom I share this beautiful planet. I have concluded that my life should bring some meaning to others particularly the underprivileged people with emphasis on the people of Ghana, and the sub-Saharan Africa in general through the promotion of good health and I am glad that many have identified themselves with this noble course.

Many, particularly Motec members and patients, have encouraged me. I started the implementation of my thoughts / ideas in my own hospital (West Hertfordshire NHS Trust) in England. In no time, through patients, I have been rewarded by the Mayor of Dacorum Council on the New Years Honours List for 2006. My Hospital Trust has given me a tap on the shoulder as the employee of the Trust for the month of February, 2007. As if that was not enough, I have been short listed among three for the award of the employee of the year for 2007 across the five hospital sites of the West Herts NHS Trust, England.

Fellow members and friends, my message is intended to highlight not only the difficulties of sacrifices, but the fulfilling graces and honour that is bestowed upon us for the good things we do in life. I am encouraging you to **'give and give'** as I said in Accra on the 16th of October. A famous man once said 'you must do your work so well that the unborn, the living and the dead can do no better'. I also believe that the Almighty does not measure our sacrifices and donations to charity by how much we give, but also by how much we keep to ourselves'. Let us continue **to cheerfully** -not grudgingly, **strive** for the best for humanity and our hearts will receive infinite joy that money could never buy.

**On this note, I feel humbled, yet deeply proud and honoured beyond measure for the recognition giving to our sacrifices in the UK and our work in Africa by Her Majesty - Queen Elizabeth 11. (Details will emerge). When I receive the award, I will quietly call on you all for three cheers. Happy cheers for Motec, hope, honour, sincerity, dedication and our supporters, the people of Great Britain and Ghana. I shed tears in disbelief of the news from the Master of the Household, Buckingham Palace, London.**

**Our hope for improved health in sub-Saharan Africa has just began.  
The challenge is huge but we know that David fought Goliath and....  
Long live Motec and Great Britain.  
Long live Ghana.**

Thank you and God Bless!

Yours sincerely,

Paul Ofori-Atta MB., ChB. FRCS  
President. Motec Life UK