

# LESTER A WRIGHT, MD

7805 S Merrill Ave · Chicago, IL 60649 773-842-3354

[sanutepra@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sanutepra@sbcglobal.net)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lester-wright-85802a88/>

**Association for Cultivation and Education  
Rebuild Africa - AAS  
Washington, DC**

## **Subject: Medical mission to Ghana**

Greetings. My name is Dr. Lester A Wright. I am a retired internist who spent 35 years in practice. Thirty-one of those years was spent working in the Cook County Health & Hospitals System in Chicago at the old Cook County Hospital as well as Provident Hospital of Cook County. The remainder was spent working as a locum tenens physician, mainly in rural and small-town hospitals in Minnesota and Illinois. In addition, I worked at a Chicago based HMO and two private hospitals in the inner city: Bethany Hospital and Holy Cross Hospital.

In 2007 I accompanied the Association for Cultivation and Education/Rebuild Africa AAS on a medical mission lead by Ur Aua Hehimetu Ra Enkamit, to the Nkonya region of Ghana. There I had the opportunity to see patients in what turned out to be a very long but interesting and enlightening day.

Prior to construction of the current facility, the clinic at that time was a smaller, wood frame structure. Upon my arrival there at approximately 9 am, I was quite surprised to see a long line stretching as far as the eye could see. I was subsequently informed that the line began forming at 4am, as word had gotten out the day before that an American doctor would be there the next day to see patients.

As the workday progressed, a pattern in medical diagnoses began to emerge. Most of the patients were middle aged and older. A sizable percentage of them had markedly elevated blood pressure. Among the younger patients (mainly children), a great many had worms, which I believe was due to the use of contaminated water from a nearby pond which was being used for food preparation. Finally, many patients of all ages were suffering from malaria which I assumed was endemic to the area. As the hours went by and the sun began to set, I was unable to continue seeing patients because the clinic had no lighting, and it was obviously impossible for me to work in the dark. Unfortunately, even with the long hours I had worked that day (approximately 11 hours straight) there were many patients I was not able to see.

This experience opened my eyes to the ongoing crisis of health care in Africa, especially in the villages and rural areas. Currently in the Nkonya region of Ghana, the authorities are on the verge of taking another step forward to alleviate the problem. The requested medical equipment will go a long way toward improving the quality of care for the people who live in the region.