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**IF I COULD INVENT SOMETHING NEW**

The world is a dangerous and insecure place to live in. It is filled with a lot of terrible happenings like natural disasters, pandemics, criminal activities and many more.

According to research, as at 2024, over 1,629,624 (one million six hundred and twenty-nine thousand six hundred and twenty-four) people died around the world due to natural disasters, 2,144,122 (two million one hundred and forty-four thousand one hundred and twenty-two) from crime related activities and over 33, 424,898 (thirty-three million four hundred and twenty-four thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight) people died as a result of pandemics and dangerous diseases.

If I could invent something new, I would like to invent a cure for one of the diseases – Cancer. Firstly, what is cancer? Cancer is a disease in which abnormal cells divide uncontrollably and destroy the body tissues. There are different types of cancer and some of them are; breast cancer, prostate cancer, basal cell cancer (a type of skin cancer), lung cancer, colon cancer, leukaemia (a cancer of blood forming tissues) and many more.

The commonest type of cancer is the breast cancer. It can affect both males and females but commonly occurs in females especially middle aged and older women, recording a total number of 670,000 (six hundred and seventy thousand) deaths in the world as at 2022. Some types of breast cancer include; inflammatory breast cancer, metastatic breast cancer, angiosarcoma, Paget’s disease of the breast et cetera. The most dangerous is the metastatic breast cancer. This type spreads from where it started to other organs and tissues distant from the original tumour site.

Some causes of breast cancer are; increasing age, family history, inheritance of the gene for breast cancer- referred to as BRCA (also of different types), exposure to female hormones (natural or administered), starting your period before the age of 12.

Symptoms of breast cancer may include but not limited to, swelling of all or part of the breast (even if no lump is felt), skin dimpling of the breast, nipple retraction, nipple discharge (other than breast milk), breast skin that is red, dry, flaking or thickened.

If I could invent something new, it would be a cure for breast cancer. I would like to develop a drug that can delete or destroy the gene that causes breast cancer which is present in individuals who inherit the gene. This is necessary because immediately a person is screened and found to have the breast cancer gene, the drug I invent can be administered to the person so that he or she does not develop breast cancer. I would also modify the drug in such a way that it is also safe for use in young children, especially children born to those parents with the gene or who have had established disease.

The invention of this drug can subsequently help eradicate breast cancer in our society and the world at large.