

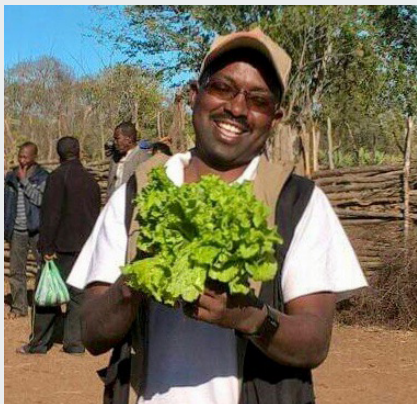


Global Health Ministries Newsletter

Because all people should have access to a healthy life.

Photo, Large water reservoir tower under construction, Vetsibelo, Madagascar, Nov 2022

Partners in HOPE



It's Advent, and days are dark. Yet even in that darkness, hope lights our way as we wait, anticipating the promise of Christmas. Hope in the Bible is more than wishful thinking. As Christians, our hope is anchored in the conviction that

God is with us, a conviction shared by our partners. Such waiting is not passive. Advent Hope is the birthplace of Christian service, of sacrificial love, and even a zeal for justice. At Global Health Ministries we celebrate the privilege we have to partner in hope – receiving and sharing hope with partners around the globe.

This Advent, we reflect on stories of our partners who, even while they struggle, still stand strong in their acts of service. They give us hope that calls us beyond ourselves. Two Facebook posts just last week from a partner in Southern Madagascar, Elia Soja, inspire me to that kind of hope. The

~ continued page 2

*May the God of Hope
fill you with all joy and peace
in believing,
so that you may
abound in hope
by the power
of the Holy Spirit.*

~ Romans 15:13



~ continued from page 1



Nuwayina Briska training Village Health Workers in Nigeria

first post shared a photo of a despairing mother holding a child who is not much more than skin and bones. The mother said, “Please share this picture.” Elia leads a Lutheran clinic in a region that for the past five years has suffered the longest drought in its history. He stands in a world of desperation but also hope. In the same week he shared a photo of himself holding up a head of lettuce, a sign of hope thanks to a well recently renovated through partnership with GHM. In his context, where malnutrition is crippling his neighbors, Elia clings to hope that God will provide ... and continues to work hard to bring that provision.

Hope in that region looks like wells being restored and created. Hope looks like the agriculture that comes from those wells, allowing barren land to be cultivated. Hope looks like the healthcare being offered by Elia and his staff. Hope looks like all the volunteer health workers teaching healthy practices ... all in the name of Christ.

Even as we wait, God inspires the faithful to bring hope through ordinary acts of justice and kindness.



Ignited by hope, a new village welcomes the expanding VHW program

God is also working through Nuwayina Briska, who grew up the eldest child in a Nigerian family. She looked after her siblings and a passion grew in her for mentoring and caring for others. Today, her care-giving and teaching skills have made her a dynamic trainer of trainers, using her knowledge to help mobilize Village Health Workers (VHWs) to care for their neighbors in her native country of Nigeria. Over 60,000 people in remote villages have the hope of healthier lives because of this network of VHWs empowered by a team of Lutheran health trainers and supported by GHM. Together they have faced attacks by Boko Haram, inter-tribal tensions and sabotage, but united and empowered by faith, the hope they share is contagious and powerful.

This Advent and Christmas season, I pray you find hope in God’s unfailing love and faithfulness. May God bless you with acts of kindness – both shared and received – from wherever this finds you to countries around the globe.

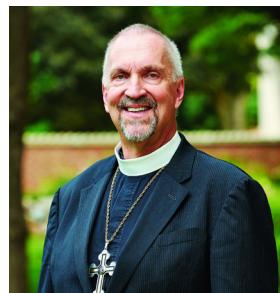
Rev. Doug Cox, Executive Director

On-Boarding

Many thanks to Dr. Simon Aroga, Ngaoundere Hospital, Cameroon, who is stepping down after serving two consecutive terms on GHM’s Board of Directors - we’re grateful for your service at Ngaoundere, and to GHM! In January, the Board will welcome two new Board members, both of whom bring rich experience to their three-year terms.



Gina Raderalazaso, MD, MPH, has worked in various health care settings in Madagascar since 2010. She is currently a Public Health Specialist for Catholic Relief Services, overseeing their COVID vaccination program throughout the island.



David Zellmer, MDiv, is a former two-term Bishop for the ELCA South Dakota Synod (2007-2019), companion synod to the Lutheran Church in Cameroon and in Nicaragua. He is currently serving as interim pastor at First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD.

GHAP: Global Hope Acceleration Partners?

Recognizing the increasing challenges faced by our partners around the world, GHAP leadership is exploring how to evolve GHAP to best meet their needs. "GHAP 3.0" aims to:

- strengthen GHAP's connection with health professionals interested in applying their experience and insight to make a difference in the world,
- advance GHAP as a desired collaborator with global health leaders and supporting partners, and
- continue to provide increasingly valuable assistance – and HOPE – to the health leaders of our country partners.

Despite contending with too-few resources and frequent gaps in critical infrastructure, our partners' steadfast commitment to providing health for all inspires hope in us. Hope hinges on trust that the future can be better, and our partners are embracing future-focused approaches, including digital opportunities.

Digital empowerment is a common thread running through many current GHAP projects, and is helping us shape GHAP 3.0 on behalf of our country partners. In Tanzania, Community Health Workers are using mobile devices to enhance data collection and measurement, training and communi-

cation. In Madagascar, digitization of patient records is a current topic, and hand-held ultrasound tools delivered as an app on a tablet are empowering earlier and non-invasive diagnosis, even in remote settings. Digital tools are impacting connections and relationships for GHAP and our partners, including enhancing conferencing opportunities and allowing for better coordination with global health organizations such as GAVI.

In the new year, you may notice some subtle signs of GHAP's continuing evolution, as we, too, remain future-focused. An exciting development will be a digital (social media) approach to communicating with health leaders, e.g., a GHAP website to complement GHM's existing website, and exploring digital funding sources, expanding our fundraising capacity.

And, you may notice a subtle name change! Those who know us call us "GHAP" and know that we partner to close the "Health for All" gap. Like many organizations (GAVI, MSF, 3M) our GHAP 3.0 evolution will include dropping the use of the spelled-out version in favor of "GHAP" and a tagline of "Partnering for Health for All."

Thanks to continued support of GHAP from YOU, GHAP + You = **WE** are accelerating hope around the world!

Rob Thames, FACHE, FHFMA, Dir. of GHAP



Some enthusiastic doctors began using GHM-sent hand-held ultrasounds even before formal training.



New surgical lights at Dodoma Christian Medical Centre

An Urgent Request

Not long ago, GHM received an urgent request from Tanzania Health Partnership on behalf of Dodoma Christian Medical Centre (DCMC). The surgical lights in their OR weren't working, and couldn't be repaired. Could GHM help?

Staff explored purchasing new lights from local vendors, but the cost was high, and the lights were backordered. DCMC couldn't wait - without working surgical lights, the OR simply couldn't operate. Patients were being turned away, the hospital losing revenue with every lost patient. GHM's shipping team rallied and we were able to quickly source new LED dual-head, ceiling-mounted surgical lights and send them via air cargo to Tanzania. It took just 16 days for the lights to travel from GHM's warehouse to Dodoma, where they were received by staff on a Saturday and installed the very next day.

From 40' sea containers to Suitcase Ministry to the occasional urgent, air-freight delivery, GHM stands ready to respond to the needs of our partners overseas. Praise God for these relationships and the opportunity to strengthen their capacity to bring hope and healing to their communities!

Scott Lien, Dir. of Operations

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

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From the Heart

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ~ Luke 12:34



We invite you to leave a legacy. Becoming a GHM Legacy Partner is one of the most powerful actions you can take to **give the gift of health for all.**

A legacy commitment is an investment in sustainable work that will **directly impact** some of the world's most vulnerable populations and **transform the future** for generations to come.

Contact GHM's office for more info.

Contact us at:

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

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NextGen Hope!



Dr. Solofo is one of four young SALFA doctors participating in a program designed to raise up the next generation of SALFA surgeons. SALFA, the Lutheran health system in Madagascar, has aligned these apprentice surgeons with "master surgeons" at SALFA hospitals where they are able to learn from experienced, highly trained mentors, and practice the specialised surgical skills that are not often taught in Madagascar. Some surgeries, such as vesicovaginal fistulas,

require very specific training and more precise skill. SALFA's apprentice doctors are continuing their general surgery studies in a two-year Diploma in Surgery program at the University of Antananarivo, even as they rotate through participating SALFA hospitals to develop and hone those specialised skills. GHM, the ELCA and SALFA have partnered to provide the financial support needed to make this very important program possible. There is hope for the future in the passing of this baton, as SALFA's master surgeons near retirement age and their apprentices - the Next Generation of SALFA surgeons - commit to continue working in SALFA facilities after graduation.