



Global Health Ministries

# Newsletter

Because all people should have access to a healthy life.

*Photo taken in Nigeria, 2019.*

## Strong, Nimble and Steadfast



In northeast Nigeria, Emmanuel, a young Christian boy, noticed something odd. Whenever his friend's family needed a doctor they went out of their way to go to the Lutheran hospital. Since his friend was Muslim and he lived across the street from a government hospital, it seemed a little

odd. One day Emmanuel asked him why. The answer was simple. "At the Lutheran hospital you pray first, so you treat with God. But at the government hospital they don't pray. They treat only with their brains." Today, Emmanuel has grown up and serves as the CEO of Lutheran Health Services in Nigeria...and this value for prayer still dominates the system.

One thing has changed over the years, and that has been a shift in the focus from maintaining Christian hospitals and clinics to prioritizing the role of local communities in preventing sickness and managing their own health.

*~ continued page 2*

*GHM has provided for PPE to protect healthworkers in 13 countries, including Nigeria and her close neighbors Chad, Cameroon and the Central African Republic.*



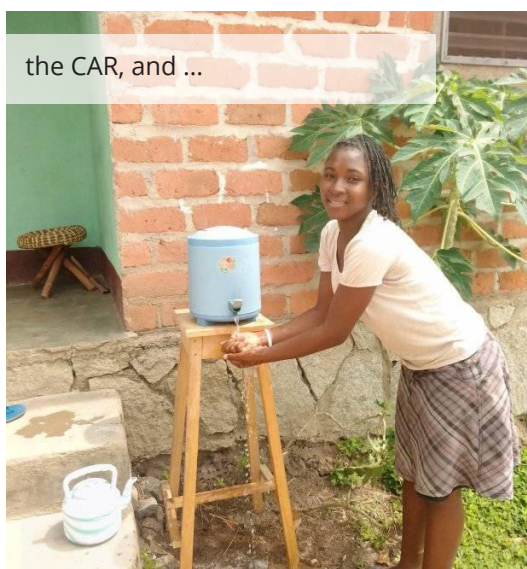
*Eric Doufene shared thanks from Chad after receiving PPE from GHM.*

*“ It was a joy for the staff because they were actually exposed to this pandemic without protective materials. ”*

~ continued from page 1



Hand-washing stations at Demsa Hospital, Nigeria, and ...



the CAR, and ...



a village in Nigeria

Global Health Ministries (GHM) has worked for over a decade with the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) to help them achieve this powerful shift. As COVID-19 hit this year, nothing was more vital than this approach of educating and mobilizing communities.

The LCCN met this pandemic with a **strong** network of leaders, from the Medical Director to Village Health Workers and over a thousand women educators. As news of COVID-19 spread, the LCCN went into action, training village health workers that serve over 30,000 people in remote villages. Next, the LCCN's national assembly (a church with over 2.5 million members) featured presentations by LCCN's medical director, sanitation professionals and women's leaders - all sharing practical ways to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

This network, mobilizing local leaders to implement health education, resulted in a strong health promotion system, **nimble** enough to respond rapidly to a pandemic. The LCCN remains **steadfast** in leading this powerful church community, which has an impact far beyond its members.

**"Strong, Nimble and Steadfast."** These three words also describe GHM's vision for the footprints we want to leave after navigating through the rest of 2020 and the next chapter of COVID-19. During these unpredictable times we are resolved to keep GHM strong as a resource for our partners around the world with dedicated staff, volunteers, donors and growing partnerships.

With this newsletter it is my privilege to announce that Dr. Len Akland and James and Butch Foster have combined to match up to \$130,000 for any gifts dedicated to COVID-19! This is an enormous opportunity to make GHM a strong partner in the midst of unprecedented challenges across the globe. Will you consider a gift to GHM's COVID-19 Response Fund, today? With this match, every \$1 you donate will be turned into \$2! This is a tremendous opportunity to double your impact. Please simply complete the enclosed contribution envelope, designating your gift for COVID-19, and return it in the mail, or give online at [ghm.org](http://ghm.org).

Our Executive Committee is also rolling up their sleeves for this plan, and inviting subject and country experts to advise them as we meet monthly to keep GHM nimble to respond to changing needs around COVID-19. Finally, this pandemic is only part of the story. GHM remains steadfast to long-term partnerships, helping the hands that heal in multifaceted ways throughout the most turbulent times.

Thank you for keeping GHM "Strong, Nimble and Steadfast," for the sake of so many! You are an essential part bringing resources and faith communities together in 14 nations to improve health for all people in the name of Christ. To God be the glory.

*Rev. Doug Cox, Executive Director*

# CELEBRATING SHIPPING



In March, just as the impact of COVID-19 was starting to be felt around the world, an important piece of medical equipment arrived in northern India for Parkijuli Christian Hospital. And that is when the Indian government

declared a “lock-down” across the country. The crate had arrived, but could not be delivered. That changed last month, when the equipment was delivered, installed, and quickly put to use at Parkajuli for laparoscopic surgery. The hospital has offered laparoscopy “camps” for more than 15 years, with visiting surgeons who bring their own equipment because Parkijuli couldn’t provide what they needed. Emergencies, of course, can’t be scheduled, so some patients suffered.

The capacity to perform laparoscopic surgery is good for both the patient and the hospital. The laparoscope’s tiny video camera feeds images to a

screen so the surgeon can literally see inside the patient’s body during an operation. Outcomes are better, and patients recover more quickly because incisions are small. For the hospital, laparoscopic surgery is a source of revenue, and the hospital can provide services to more people because patient stays are shorter.

Hospitals like Parkijuli are still treating trauma victims, delivering babies, performing emergency appendectomies. GHM’s Shipping Ministry is more important than ever, helping build our partners’ capacity to deliver quality healthcare, with steadfast support.

*Kim Dickey, Dir. of Communications*



## LEGACY PARTNERS

Legacy Partners are a community of people who have made a legacy commitment to Global Health Ministries, an investment that will have an impact for years to come. Including GHM in your estate plans is one of the most powerful actions you can take to help give the gift of health to all.

When you make or revise your will or trust, or review your life insurance contracts or retirement funds, please consider naming Global Health Ministries among your beneficiaries. The use of the following language will ensure that your gift is directed appropriately:

*I bequeath \_\_\_ % or \$ \_\_\_ of my estate (or fund) to Global Health Ministries, located at 7831 Hickory St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432, EIN #363532234.*

If you’ve already included GHM in your estate plans, you’re already a Legacy Partner! Please let us know - we’d love to officially welcome you to this special community of givers. For more information, please contact Ceallaigh Anderson Smart, Director of Philanthropy, at [csmart@ghm.org](mailto:csmart@ghm.org) or 763-586-9590. Thank you for considering this very meaningful way to make a difference!

“ *It is not the most intellectual of the species that survives; it is not the strongest ... the species that survives is the one that is able best to adapt and adjust to the changing environment in which it finds itself.*

*~ Charles Darwin, On the Origin of Species*

## GHAP BE NIMBLE

*What are we learning from COVID-19?* This question is not only a day in the life of GHAP, it is the theme of our first virtual GHM Annual Conference. Helping our partners adapt well in a timely manner during a pandemic requires GHAP to be nimble. Aligned with GHM’s mission, strengthening leadership is fundamental to GHAP’s role.

Just when our partners need our help most, we are not able to be with them in person. But the challenge of communicating, listening, and coaching remotely actually has a silver lining: partner self-empowerment can be enhanced. GHAP consultants support our partners with greater digital leverage than before. In the U.S., we get irritated when our internet connection is interrupted – can you imagine? But our first world problem is *at worst* a temporary inconvenience, not the chronic state it is *at best* for

our partners (if they have internet access at all). While we take such information access for granted, our partners suffer from a much higher risk of mis-, dis-, or no information. Clearly this is a problem any time, but when trying to navigate an uncharted pandemic, it is life-threatening. GHAP’s regular COVID-19 email series with our partners is but one adaptation to help.

At GHM’s October Conference, online this year, we considered how GHM and our partners are adapting. We were delighted to hear from industry experts such as George Halvorson, former CEO of Kaiser Permanente, Michael Osterholm, an internationally-recognized expert on infectious disease, and Dr. Tom Frieden, former Director of the CDC. You can catch the conversation on our website, [ghm.org](http://ghm.org).

*Rob Thames, FACHE, FHFMA, Dir. of GHAP*

## GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

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## HANDS-ON PROJECTS

Yes, please! Newborn and Hospice Kits, Rolled Bandages, baby blankets, quilts - all are still needed by our partners overseas. We know many groups have not been able to gather to assemble these in the same ways they have in the past. Some have asked if we're even still accepting these at our warehouse - we are! Please do what you can, safely, and know that whatever you do will be gratefully received overseas.

Contact us at:  
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office@ghm.org

## Mrs. Elbina, Nigeria



Elbina is a Village Health Worker in Nigeria. She has gained so much respect with her skills as a midwife that a government clinic outside of her village sent for her when a woman went into labor. It was Elbina who delivered the baby and taught the clinic worker. The clinic paid Elbina for this service. Elbina is so

empowered by all the skills she's learned as a Village Health Worker that she said, "This work I do, not only for others, but it helps my family." Elbina is pictured in this group of VHWs in Nigeria - she's the one standing in front, with the proud smile.