



Because all people should have access to a healthy life.

Photo: a remote corner of southwest Madagascar, approaching Ejeda

Global Health Ministries

Newsletter

In the Nooks & Crannies



Naomi and her unborn child were both in crisis as she rushed to the closest government hospital in Monrovia, Liberia. But she

faced two major barriers: Naomi had very little money; and the hospital staff had an even smaller amount of hope for her baby to survive. She was refused care. This is where a network of Lutheran and affiliated healthcare facilities fill a critical gap.

One of those affiliated health centers, Peace Clinic, welcomed Naomi, without even asking about her ability to pay. An urgent C-section was offered, followed by several days of ICU care for her newborn. Both Naomi and her baby survived.

This commitment, to care for the poor and to be present in the most remote

~ continued page 2

....they would have us remember the poor, which very thing I was eager to do.

~ Galatians 2:10

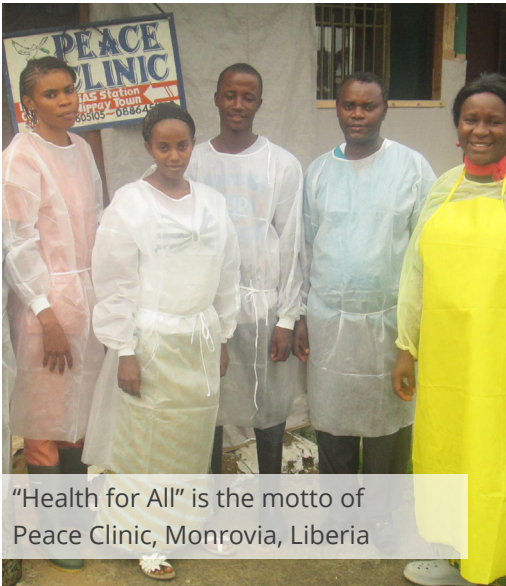


On a global basis, you are at the very tip of what I would call the leading edge of humanitarian activity ... when you're able to organize communities ... that's important. You really are critical.

*~ Dr. Michael Osterholm
Director, Center for Infectious Disease
Research and Policy,
University of Minnesota*



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“Health for All” is the motto of Peace Clinic, Monrovia, Liberia

areas, is what distinguishes the Lutheran and affiliated clinics with which GHM partners. Dr. Sibley, the Medical Director of Phebe Hospital in Liberia, expressed this commitment succinctly as he said, “we’re not going to turn anybody back because they don’t have money ... This hospital was built on those fundamental Christian principles ... to provide help for all regardless of religion, regardless of color, regardless of nationality, regardless of your social economic status, we are to provide help for anybody that comes.”

Of course, Lutheran health services can’t offer coverage for the population of entire countries. Instead, we might say our Lutheran partners fill in the gaps, reaching into the “nooks and crannies” where our partners serve some of the most remote and vulnerable populations, including people like Naomi who would not be served otherwise.



The GHM-equipped lab at Ngaoubela empowers diagnostics in Cameroon

In Cameroon, Ngaoubela Protestant Hospital serves a very remote population, but also fills another gap. In partnership with GHM and an Austrian mission, Ngaoubela has created the best cancer diagnostic services available in all of northern Cameroon. Within a matter of 1-2 days, biopsy samples can be transferred digitally to Austria for full analysis, with full diagnostics returned and available to guide treatment on-location in Ngaoubela Hospital. Before this became available, people living in the nooks and crannies of northern Cameroon had to wait an unimaginably long time for test results - every day feels like an eternity as you wait for results, and treatment delays can have devastating consequences.

In terms of public health, again GHM partners with Lutheran health systems to reach into the most difficult to reach locations, through empowerment, training and coordination of community health workers. Read how GHAP’s approach can complement what’s happening through larger organizations, including Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance (see Rob’s GHAP article on page 3).



Village Health Workers entering a rural village in Wakka, Nigeria

From a public health perspective, the nooks and crannies approach makes a significant contribution to reaching health for all, in concert with governments and multiple other private efforts. In fact, it’s in the nooks and crannies of remote populations that there are not only very few services but disproportionately high numbers of children with a history of zero vaccinations. The Church is there, part of these communities, and trusted to improve health for all. This is a critically important role for public health.

As our partners bring vaccines, promote healthy lifestyles, and offer curative services to remote communities in the name of Christ, hundreds of thousands of individual lives are saved or improved every year.

In 2022, as GHM celebrates our 35th anniversary, it’s a good time to remember that reaching into these nooks and crannies through our partners is our mission. From spiritual witness to physical healing, and even contributing to public health, the impact is felt for generations. Together we celebrate 35 years of impact even as we strive to fulfill our mission in the nooks and crannies for another 35 years.

Rev. Doug Cox, Executive Director

Filling the Gaps, From Global to GHAP

In late July, on my return from working with our Tanzanian partners, I visited with Gavi leaders in Geneva. How can a small NGO like ours relate to and help a large global concern like Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance? Like the troops on the large allied ships in WWII, Gavi needs help getting from ship to shore, i.e., that last mile of health access.

Gavi is particularly interested in identifying and accessing people who have not received any vaccination, i.e., “zero dose children” (ZDC). Reaching and serving people for basic preventive education, behavior change and services is a chronic challenge in various pockets of many low-resource countries. These are areas “beyond the grid” of transportation, communication, data collection and basic services for sustainable health, including services typically provided by government. The governments of “fragile states,” or states with high Fragile State Index (FSI) ratings, are rarely able to provide these services for their entire population, especially for those on the margins. Most of GHM’s partners are in countries with very high FSI ratings, in the 90s or above.

Considering where Gavi should focus resources for more effective vaccination coverage and related prevention efforts, we discussed the option of a “nooks and crannies” health distribution system strategy. To complement the top-down, broad scale and large organization approach

informed by UNICEF and WHO data, a more focused but high percentage ZDC approach is available. This targeted approach leverages the longstanding local relationships and trust capital established by smaller NGOs like GHM that specialize in these areas. This can significantly increase the identification, and reduce the number, of ZDC, thus increasing the percentage of people vaccinated.

Community health work supported by GHAP – and you – in Nigeria, Tanzania, Madagascar and El Salvador benefits when global organizations and resources align to meet the needs of people in the “nooks and crannies” of our world.



Thabani Maphosa, Managing Director, Country Programmes, Gavi, and Rob in Gavi’s Geneva headquarters

Rob Thames, FACHE, FHFMA, Dir. of GHAP

Thank You



 Thank you just didn't seem adequate! Our Legacy Partner Lunch in September was an opportunity to say THANK YOU to friends who have made the choice to include GHM in their estate plans. What a blessing, not just for GHM but for our partners now and into the future! To learn more about how you can leave a legacy through GHM, contact Ceallaigh Anderson Smart, GHM’s Director of Philanthropy, at csmart@ghm.org, or 763-586-9590.

5,606 Beautiful Boxes!



5,606! That’s how many boxes of medical supplies and equipment GHM has sent to Zimbabwe in 2022. Hundreds of those boxes were packed by volunteers from Kris Lindahl Real Estate, whose Twin Cities staff and agents sorted donations, pulled inventory, packed and sealed boxes and helped load this year’s second Zimbabwe container. We loved their BE GENEROUS t-shirts! The *many* volunteers who make this work possible inspire us - you’re how those boxes get shipped! When this container reaches Bulawayo, contents will be distributed to 4 Lutheran hospitals, 3 community health programs and a clinic, all serving hard-to-reach rural areas. Gloves, sutures, wheel chairs, crutches are in short supply across the country, according to Mr. Dube, General Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe. GHM shipments of these items and more, he said, motivate staff and have allowed them to operate “almost normally” despite Zimbabwe’s severe shortages. Praise God!

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 2022 Fall Symposium

GHM's Fall Symposium is October 15th in Minneapolis!

Visit www.ghm.org/ghm-events to learn more or to register. Recordings of the workshops will be available on our website that week.

Contact us at:

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES
 7831 Hickory Street NE
 Minneapolis, MN 55432
 763.586.9590
office@ghm.org



Elisha

Small for his age, Elisha Robert Siria is a 15-year-old Maasai boy in rural Tanzania. As a toddler, he could walk. And as a young boy, just starting school, he not only walked but he ran, like small boys everywhere. But by the time he was 8, Elisha could no longer walk, and no one understood why. For 7 years he was unable to leave his bed. Praying for a miracle, his mother finally found help at Orkesumet Lutheran Hospital, where Dr. Yusufu diagnosed tuberculosis of the spine. After months of treatment and against all odds, Elisha walked! Benefitting from physical therapy, he's gaining weight, building muscle and returning to school. Elisha is a miracle-boy. According to WHO, one child dies of TB somewhere in the world every 2 minutes, even though TB is curable and preventable. Many, WHO points out, are in Africa, where there is an epidemic of children with TB, many of them undiagnosed. Many, like Elisha, live "off the grid" in the nooks and crannies of their low-resource countries.