

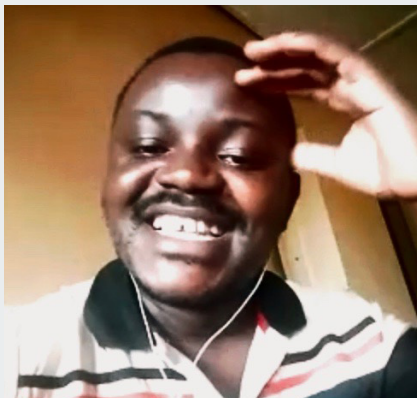


Because all people should have access to a healthy life.  
*Photo, Curran Lutheran Hospital campus, Liberia*

Global Health Ministries

# Newsletter

## Here I Am



Around the world God is stirring people's hearts to serve their neighbors.

"I made the hard decision to leave my family behind," Dr. Amani shared. It was his way of saying,

"Here I am, Lord, use me." Today, he leads a mission hospital called Curran, serving a population of 260,000 people in Liberia. "Despite the many challenges I face in this area, I have felt God's love the whole time." As 2023 began, Dr. Amani called a friend at GHM, Scott Lien, GHM's Director of Operations, to share needs and joys he is facing. Recounting a recent moment in his operating room, Dr. Amani marveled, saying that everywhere he looked, from the mask on his face, to his gloves, surgical table, scalpel, and more ... in every direction he saw gifts from GHM that make it possible for him to follow his call from God to serve the people here.

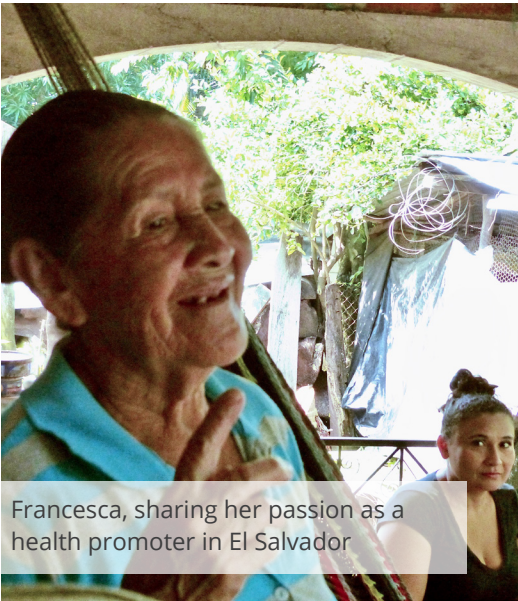
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And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

*~Isaiah 6:8*

~ continued from page 1



Francesca, sharing her passion as a health promoter in El Salvador

A continent away, Francesca witnessed her neighbors in El Salvador suffering from health problems. She wanted to help, but already she was an elderly woman and had never even learned to read. Could God use her to bring healing and health? Francesca's pastor, knowing her heart, thought so. With training as a health promoter, funded by GHM, she discovered the importance of pain killers, clean water, and traditional medicines when someone has a fever. "I felt wonderful," Francesca glowed, "when I saw a man who was completely flat in bed with fever ... then 9 days later he got up and was feeling better!" Her passion to help others is perhaps her greatest joy, besides teaching younger women to be health promoters. Today, about 250 health promoters are supported by GHM in El Salvador and each one is an example of Christ's followers raising their hand to say, "Here I am, Lord, work through me."

On the east coast of Africa, Tanzanian doctors, nurses, and a large medical staff struggle to accept that many patients are too poor to pay for any treatment or medications. The staff see their work as more than a job, and more than charity ... this is their way of saying, "Here I am, Lord, use me." Every morning, they gather for prayer before reporting for their duties in the hospital and sometimes they dedicate their offerings to pay for the poorest patients. It's a sort of "Charity Fund," but meager. This is another way GHM partners, to offer funds to this Charity Fund, distributed through a social worker and overseen by the administrator of Selian Lutheran Hospital. Even as these funds are shared, GHM's consulting arm, GHAP, has partnered with an expert team of volunteer healthcare administrators, business and other health professionals to offer ideas and counsel which Selian has used to diligently turn around their operations, dramatically reduce their debt, and pay staff salaries on time each month.



Compassionate staff at Selian Lutheran Hospital, Tanzania

Together, you are participating in everyday miracles ... partnering with people across the globe whose hearts have been stirred to say, "Here I am, use me." Your financial gifts, hands-on projects, medical supplies, time and professional skills are all vital parts of how God is working to bring health through followers of Christ who together with you, say "Here I am, use me today." Thank you.

*Rev. Doug Cox, Executive Director*

Nominations due March 15th! Apply online.  
[ghm.org](http://ghm.org)

## GHM Everyday Miracles 2023 Service Award

This honor is given to an individual who works with one of GHM's international partners and demonstrated exemplary leadership or service in the last year.

Winner will be announced on May 5th at our annual Gala!

## Who Will it Be?

Every year, many people look forward to Time magazine's *Person of the Year* issue recognizing people in a variety of fields that have made a significant mark in the past year. We know that GHM's partners around the world are doing significant, inspiring things that are making a mark in their communities. We want to recognize them! You're invited to nominate someone who works with one of GHM's partners - a doctor, nurse, midwife, a nursing student, a volunteer community health worker, a health system leader - for GHM's first **Everyday Miracles Service Award**. More information and the nomination form are available on our website at [ghm.org](http://ghm.org). Please submit your nominations online by March 15th. The winner will be announced at GHM's Gala on May 5th.

# GHAP is Who? Where?

GHAP is blessed to connect and partner with and through many amazing professionals at all stages of their careers and in all locations.

My daughter got married last June in Texas and her college friend Katie was in her wedding. Seven months later, this picture was taken of Tanzanian administrators with Katie in Ilula, Tanzania (January 2023).



Katie Haugen, MPH, works at the MN Department of Health and agreed to help me plan and facilitate the Healthcare Leader breakout sessions as part of the annual Ilula Conference. GHM supports this conference for health leadership teams from Tanzania hospitals; it is organized by health professionals through St. Paul NGO Shoulder to Shoulder

(Bega Kwa Bega in Swahili). Over 135 participated this year, after a 2-year COVID-19 hiatus. Katie collaborated with Dr. Amon Marti (GHAP partner leader for Selian Lutheran Hospital) to work in teams with Tanzanian administrators on how to engage communities to improve health via community health worker (CHW) initiatives. In Katie's words:

*"Everyone in the breakout session seemed to be super interested and engaged, and there was a lot of great participation and discussion ... groups took their projects very seriously and worked hard on them. They even voluntarily stayed late the first day to finish their group projects to be ready to present the next morning, even though I told them I could give them more work time the next day! When it came time to present the next day all the groups did a great job, and each group had a lot of great questions and feedback and discussion from the rest of the breakout session group."*

*"It was a pleasure working with Dr. Amon and everyone at this conference. I am grateful for the opportunity to present, greatly enjoyed the experience, and would do it again."*

Thank you for supporting the Ilula Conference and professionals like Katie who volunteer their time and talent through GHAP to help strengthen health system leadership capacity in our partner countries.

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

## The Work of Your Hands



Thank you to all the individuals, congregations and groups who make GHM **Newborn Kits!** Thanks to you, GHM has sent more than 330,000 Newborn Kits to partner health centers over the last 35 years. 330,000

families touched by the work of your hands - wow!

In Madagascar, Emilienne, a Community Health Nurse, uses these kits to encourage women to visit her clinic for prenatal care, and return for immunizations and well baby checks. Women who don't have clothes for their baby are often too shy to return. That's why the newborn t-shirts we're currently low on are so helpful! These kits are an important outreach tool for health workers like Emilienne. In fact, she says when she runs out of the kits, her numbers show that fewer women come to the clinic. Your gifts matter!

*Learn more about GHM service projects at [ghm.org/service-projects](http://ghm.org/service-projects)*

## Holy Fingerprints!

In 2022, GHM's Shipping Ministry sent **33,630 boxes** full of **\$4.4 million** worth of life-giving medical equipment and supplies to waiting partners. Holy fingerprints ... that's a lot! Almost **190** health centers and nursing schools (the most ever!) in 6 partner countries benefitted from these shipments. **THANK YOU** to GHM volunteers - you made this possible. The equipment is important and the numbers impressive, but your impact goes deeper.

A doctor at one of GHM's partner hospitals recently shared that when he first arrived at his post, he was a "little depressed." He looked around and thought "how can I ever do my work here?" He was trying to work with equipment that was 50 years old, if it worked at all - frustrating! And surgery was scary, with equipment that could fail. That doctor is not alone - colleagues at other mission hospitals have expressed the same trepidation. At GHM, with your help, we get to say "here I am, let me help you with that!" Attracting and retaining skilled doctors and nurses can be a challenge for our partner health systems. These health professionals choose to step away from easier opportunities, and say yes to the call to work in these difficult places. Our gifts of equipment and supplies help them make the choice to stay. Thank you for supporting GHM Shipping!

*Scott Lien, Dir. of Operations*

**GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES**

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*We're celebrating the work of  
 GHM and our global partners ...*

**EVERYDAY  
 MIRACLES  
 GALA**

**FRIDAY, MAY 5TH, 6 PM**

*Midland Hills Country Club  
 Roseville, Minnesota*

**TICKETS AT GHM.ORG**



**FEATURING  
 RECORDING ARTIST  
 SARA GROVES**

**GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES**

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**Meet Domoina**

Domoina is eighteen years old and pregnant with her first child. She's excited! More excited than worried she says, because she's young and healthy, and her mother-in-law and "auntie" bring her to the clinic every week. It takes her an hour to walk from her village to Farihimena, and she's happy there's a clinic there. It would take her five hours, one way, to walk to another health center - too far, and dark on the way back. She probably wouldn't even go. Domoina's "auntie," who feels like family even if they aren't related, is a midwife from a neighboring village who receives training

at the clinic and volunteers to encourage people to take care of their health, and use the clinic. It's a small, simple health center, but Emilienne, the clinic's Community Health Nurse, can provide many services including prenatal care for women like Domoina - checking blood pressure, providing nutrition counseling, monitoring her pregnancy. When Domoina's baby arrives, she or he will be a tiny miracle, like every baby. GHM's support for training of community health workers and clinics like Farihimena helps make those miracles happen, every day.