



Global Health Ministries

Newsletter

Because all people should have access to a healthy life.

Photo, Kitumbeine, Tanzania, September, 2023

Thankful



The OR at Selian Lutheran Hospital, on the outskirts of Arusha, Tanzania, performed more than 2,000 surgeries in 2022.

In September, 2023, I (Pastor Doug) traveled to visit our partners in Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), and Tanzania. This was a chance to renew important relationships for Global Health Ministries (GHM).

In Cameroon, three hospitals celebrate the digital x-rays and other equipment and supplies that keep their hospitals viable thanks to our partnership. In the CAR, our most underserved and impoverished partner country, faithful shipments from GHM and subsidies for the operating budgets of Bohong Health Centre and Emmanuel in Gallo continue to be reasons they give thanks to God and to you! I traveled with new leadership from both countries to hospitals and outlying communities to discern their impact. Even at random stops in remote villages we discovered families who depended on healthcare they had received at our partner Lutheran hospitals. In these remote locations, I heard stories of loving service, freely

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“The church mission is to help people and the poor community all around us, and Global Health Ministries has been with us all this time.”

~ Dr. Amon Marti, Hospital Director

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Visiting with displaced families from the CAR across the border in Cameroon - this family's home place is in Gallo, near Emmanuel Health Ctr

given to those who couldn't pay.

In Tanzania I also saw firsthand the impact of a powerful "turn-around" story of one long-time partner of GHM. Nearly 25 years ago, Selian Lutheran Hospital was born as part of a dream to serve the Maasai and Arusha communities in Tanzania. Collaborators and supporters were united by the leadership of Dr. Nan-gawe, Dr. Mark Jacobson, and missionary Rev. Dave Simonson to launch this as a mission hospital, officially registered in 1998.

Yet, the 2000s brought enormous challenges. Much of the population around Selian is too poor to pay for services. The hospital's reason-for-being is to serve the poor, but without enough revenue from fees to cover their costs, Selian struggled. By 2017, the hospital had become a shadow of itself, with enormous debt, unsanitary bathrooms and staff unpaid for months at a time.

Solutions are neither simple nor quick, but your partnership with GHM has made it possible to offer faithful and strategic, multi-faceted support to help this mission hospital fulfill its calling.

GHM's consulting arm helped the Tanzanian team identify areas that needed improvement. GHM grants for hospital renovations, from updating the medical ward, as well as constructing and furnishing a new lab building, have profoundly improved the possibilities for quality patient care and the hospital's ability to attract paying patients. "I don't think even in the Arusha region there is another laboratory that is equipped like ours!" marvelled Allen Peter Ngurumwa, the Hospital Administrator.



Lab tech Ester is grateful for the critical supplies and updated equipment in Selian's new lab - a blessing for diagnostics.

The majority of medical equipment at Selian has come from GHM which has increased Selian's capacity to navigate this turnaround. Six years ago, 60% of Selian's budget came from foreign donors. Today, that has almost reversed, with 60% of the budget from local income, plus staff salaries are all paid on time - a huge boost to staff morale.

Selian staff's personal commitment to the hospital's mission is inspiring, and impactful. Exuding joy, RN Noela Richard shared, "When you see the staff here, they are so happy. Even if they are here late, they are happy." In fact, staff regularly donate clothes and soap for children in Selian's care program for HIV-positive children, and every Friday morning at worship there is an offering collected to support fees for the poorest patients.



Noela is a registered nurse in Selian's OR, and has been called "the best FISTULA nurse in the world!"

Partnerships like this one with Selian Hospital, that empower health for all in Jesus' name, are what you make possible through GHM. We give thanks for you this season, for your partnership in this ministry.

Rev. Doug Cox, Executive Director

The Autoclave Key



If you're a health professional, "autoclave" is likely in your vocabulary, but for many of us it's an odd word. What's an autoclave? And why does it matter? The word itself comes from the Greek word "auto," meaning "self," and a Latin word meaning "key."

Together they mean "self locking." An autoclave is a "self-locking" sterilizer, relying on pressurized steam at high temperatures to kill microbes that cause disease. This critical piece of equipment looks, and operates, like a large pressure cooker.



The autoclave at Garoua Boulai Hospital

Many of GHM's partners rely on autoclaves that date back to the 1960s. Over time, seals begin to fail, the equipment no longer locks properly and parts for needed repairs are no longer available.

Garoua Boulai Hospital in Cameroon has their own version of an autoclave that requires propane and takes an hour for sterilization, delaying access to surgical instruments and other needed items until the process is complete. A large

pressure-cooker style autoclave costs \$12,500 but speeds up the process, enabling more surgeries and avoiding the added expense for propane. Hospitals like Garoua Boulai operate better if they have multiple autoclaves that allow them to keep going when one is in use, or not working.

Sterilization is critical for the safety of patients and staff at smaller rural clinics, too. They also benefit when they have more than one of these important pieces of equipment. At rural clinics, the sterilizers are typically desktop size, and cost just \$1,200. Anica, a Community Health Nurse at Ambohimahazo Clinic in Madagascar, explained that if they had a second sterilizer they could handle more deliveries, improving the patient experience as well as the clinic's revenue potential. Today, they typically wait for the sterilizer to complete its process before helping the next woman in labor. And babies, of course, sometimes can't wait!



Autoclaves are key pieces of equipment for GHM's partners. Your gifts for GHM Shipping help us meet this critical need - thank you!

Diabetes Education



We're thankful for the work of GHM intern Katie Berkompas, who developed a training manual to help Salvadoran Health Promoters educate about diabetes and behaviors that can prevent or mitigate the consequences of this chronic disease. The prevalence of diabetes has been growing rapidly, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Katie created this resource at the request of our partner and many copies will be on their way to El Salvador in November in the hands of Tim and Sandy Iverson! Katie's creative use of culturally-appropriate graphics helped make the ideas accessible for everyone, even those who are illiterate.

Newborn Kits



During a September visit to GHM, Bishop Padmore from the Lutheran Church in Liberia commented on the importance of GHM Newborn Kits for Phebe Hospital, where he served as chaplain before being elected Bishop. For more than a decade Bishop Padmore personally distributed Newborn Kits to women at Phebe - women who came "without even a piece of cloth to wrap their children in." He encouraged us to continue this ministry, because "every child that is born into this world needs tender care."

GHM has sent 5,505 Newborn Kits to waiting partners so far this year. That's 5,505 women and even more babies wrapped in love through the work of your hands - thank you! These gifts are sent to GHM partners who use them to encourage women to visit their local hospital or clinic for prenatal care and assisted delivery, directly impacting high maternal and infant mortality rates. Once that connection is made, mom is encouraged to return for postnatal care, vaccinations for all her family and other health interventions. GHM sends these kits to partners around the world, from Liberia to Tanzania (where they were recently spotted in Selian Hospital's NICU!). As Bishop Padmore says, "This is one of the ways we minister as the Church, through you!"

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

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2023 Fall Symposium

GHM's Fall Symposium is
 October 28th
 in Minneapolis!

Visit www.ghm.org/ghm-events
 to learn more or to register.
 A recording of the Symposium
 will be available on our
 website the next week.

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Meet Nema

Nema is a new mom, having delivered her baby at the Kitumbeine Clinic in Tanzania just 3 weeks before she returned to the clinic, seeking the help of Kitumbeine's staff. She was experiencing trouble nursing her newborn and was concerned her child wasn't getting enough to eat. In fact, Nema

wasn't getting enough to eat. August, when Nema's baby was born, marks the end of a 5-month dry season in this part of Tanzania, and the landscape becomes brown and barren. The Maasai's cows grow lean and give less milk and many Maasai experience "seasonal malnourishment." Nema's situation is not unusual for a Maasai woman who gives birth in late summer. Dr. Jackson's exam confirmed Nema was malnourished and experiencing vitamin deficiency. He was able to provide her with vitamin supplements and protein supplements, critical not only for Nema's health but for the health of her newborn. She's grateful to Kitumbeine Clinic and Dr. Jackson, whose training was supported with a scholarship from GHM!