



GLOBAL HEALTH

Newsletter of Global Health Ministries

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GHM to launch HIV/AIDS Initiative

The HIV/AIDS pandemic throughout the developing world is a crisis and tragedy of almost unimaginable proportions. For Christians, it also represents a challenge and opportunity that calls for a significant and urgent response. For many of us, the pandemic is distant from our personal experience and therefore easy to leave unconsidered. It can be uncomfortable and even painful to face, and since no cure is currently available, we may be tempted to back away from involvement. Jesus, however, in his parable of the good Samaritan, left no room for us to decide "who is our neighbor," but rather to "be a neighbor" to those in need. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are suffering and dying. The compassion and grace of Christ call us to action.

With our mission of "continuing the healing ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ by enhancing the health care programs of Lutheran churches in the developing world," Global Health Ministries has a special role to play in developing and implementing a response to the pandemic with our worldwide network of partner church health care providers. At its April meeting, the GHM board approved a three year initiative to support Lutheran churches in their efforts to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS and to care for those affected.

Today, we are called to proclaim the Gospel of God's love and grace through Jesus' healing ministry in the face of a disease not unlike leprosy in Jesus' day. We aspire to respond in a way that is significant for an organization of our size, while recognizing that whatever we do will be dwarfed by the enormity of the problems and expenses involved. We propose to seek \$250,000 per year, \$50,000 of which we invite you, our traditional donors, to contribute, and \$200,000 from corporate, government and foundation grants. While projects will not be limited to Africa, the initiative will support these commitments made in May, 2002, by the African Lutheran

bishops at the Pan Africa Consultation on HIV/AIDS in Nairobi, Kenya:

1. Congregations will be healing communities of care, support and advocacy for all people living and dying with and affected by HIV/AIDS, putting an end to stigma and discrimination, and involving persons living with AIDS in program planning and implementation;
2. The church will speak and teach openly about sexuality and HIV/AIDS, its causes and prevention, and encourage voluntary testing;
3. Training in care and counseling will aim to better address controversial issues;
4. Orphans, child-headed families and women widowed by AIDS will be given priority;
5. The church will advocate for accessible, affordable anti-retrovirals and drugs to treat opportunistic infections, and will make available the infrastructure and resources of the Church to provide medical support and treatment;
6. The church will seek out and work with other partners ecumenically and with NGO's and governments in the response to HIV/AIDS.

The Ilerio hospital, school, office complex in Kenya now has "more water than we need" after completion of a project partially funded by GHM. Shown here, a casing is put around the new borehole. The surplus water will be made available to the community.

Conference to respond to AIDS epidemic

The Christian response to the AIDS epidemic will be a primary focus at GHM's annual health care conference, to be held October 11 at Normandale Lutheran Church, Edina, MN. Keynote Dr. Ruth Purtilo will launch the day's program with a consideration of "Our Response as Neighbors." Dr. Purtilo, from Creighton University, will also be available for conversation later. Under the theme, "Committed to Care: Responding to AIDS and Other Challenges," the day's activities will include several breakout sessions. These will include uplifting stories of hope and compassion, suggestions for advocacy with government entities, and developments in combating HIV/AIDS.

Music leaders will be representatives from Lutheran Youth Encounter, who will also report on their tour experiences in Africa. New developments in Lutheran World Federation and ELCA "Stand with Africa" programs to address AIDS will be shared.

An orientation session on GHM for persons attending for the first time will precede the day's sessions.

The conference will run from 8:30 to 3:30. Normandale is located on Highway 100 in the West metro area. Pre-registration is encouraged. Use the blank included with this mailing.





Direct Lines

from the
Director

With this issue of "Global Health" we wanted to give you more detail about the exciting initiatives we will undertake as we implement a Strategic Plan approved by our board of directors. The word "strategic" emphasizes that we have charted a renewed course of action after taking into account those things that both help and hinder us in faithfully advancing our mission. In making our plans, we have learned that to continue the healing ministry of Jesus by supporting Lutheran health care programs overseas, there are some challenges to overcome, and important opportunities to embrace.

Our relationships with U.S. and overseas church partners provide the foundation for understanding and responding well to the support needs of health care programs. In the beginning, Global Health Ministries relied heavily upon reports and recommendations from Lutheran medical missionaries abroad. Today, the trend shows a decreasing number of such missionaries. Leadership is being assumed by citizens of each country. This change compels us to strengthen our direct working relationships with local leadership, as we will be doing, for example, in our June visits with SALFA leaders in Madagascar. But we also plan to build new collaborations with companion church programs. This growing phenomenon between American and overseas Lutheran churches is creating a rich network of new and vibrant missional relationships. Our president, Mark Huber, writes in this issue about the promise these hold for our future.

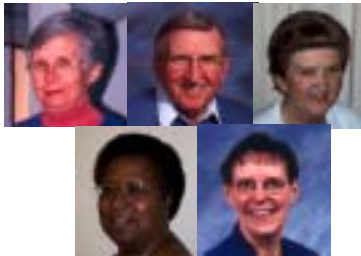
This week we have completed plans for adding two volunteer work crew days to our warehouse and shipping program. We need to stretch to keep up with requests for medical supplies and equipment from a growing number of health care missions around the world. It's not hard to see the day coming when we will reach the limits of our present facility to stage additional shipments. It's also easy to see that demand will continue to increase. Because GHM enjoys enthusiastic support from numerous centers around the nation—

many organized in companion church relationships—one strategic option to our dilemma is to explore establishing satellite offices. Marge Jamieson writes about this approach to engage the faith and talents of people at the local level in global health mission.

Finally, when I returned from the Pan Africa Consultation on HIV/AIDS last year, I carried back a heavy burden. I felt called to respond; as a brother to suffering millions who are members with me in the Body of Christ, and as a leader of an organization dedicated to support health care providers overwhelmed in serving those afflicted by this dread disease. The Global Health Ministries' HIV/AIDS Initiative is our commitment to action, and our call to Lutherans in this country to respond in a way that matches the urgency and scale of the challenge. Delegates to the assemblies of the South Central Wisconsin and South Dakota Synods, ELCA, have heard the call and recently sent us more than 1500 AIDS hospice kits. We are appealing now for financial contributions of \$50,000 from traditional donors and \$200,000 from corporate and foundation sources to finance expanded programs developed by our overseas Church partners. I ask for your prayers and support so that we might not pass by on the other side, but be found faithful in being a neighbor, like the Good Samaritan, in response to the needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rev. Tim Iverson

Six members added to board



Six new members have been added to the GHM Board of directors. They are: **Constance Beck**, St. Paul, former missionary and editor.

Clayton Engelstad, Mentor, MN, retired grain farmer.

Bea Haagenon, Minneapolis, nurse and former missionary.

Wilhelmina Holder, Plymouth, MN, public health physician.

Dorothy Tenney, Minneapolis, nurse on staff at Fairview Hospital.

James Thomas, New York City, pastor, (not pictured).

Lynn Butler, North Oaks, MN, has begun her duties as volunteer treasurer, succeeding A. Herbert Monson.

Twin Cities to host South African HIV Choir

28.5 million people in sub Saharan Africa infected with HIV/AIDS and approximately 165,000 more people infected each month are statistics difficult to relate to on a human scale. But when South Africa's HIV+ Sinikithemba Choir performs in the U.S. in July, they'll be putting a human face on the African AIDS pandemic and giving voice to hope.

The Twin Cities will have the rare opportunity to host the choir on Monday evening, July 14. The 7 p.m. concert will be held at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Avenue, St. Paul. Admittance is free and a freewill offering will be taken benefiting the HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs of Church World Service and Open Arms of Minnesota, a Twin Cities based program which prepares and delivers meals to people living with HIV/AIDS. Global Health Ministries is helping sponsor this event. For more information contact Perri Graham or Deb Braun at (888) 297-2767.

News flash!

Received an e-mail advising us of the arrival of the tractor and supplies (in perfect condition) at Ejeda Hospital, Madagascar, on June 7.

New ways to give to GHM

Contributions to GHM can now be made through gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, as well as through wills and insurance policies. These gifts enable one to give greater amounts while, at the same time, providing income for life.

For example, a *Charitable Gift Annuity* gives you a fixed percentage payment for the rest of your life, and when the annuity matures your gift to Global Health Ministry will make a difference in Christian health care for generations to come. Bill Elmstrom is our gift planner to assist in making such arrangements. He may be contacted at 651/245-5126 or elmstrom@info-link.net or through the GHM office. All inquiries are confidential.

Attention

all donors of in-kind gifts

We wish to thank and acknowledge each gift that is sent to us. Please mark the outside of the boxes with the full name and address that you wish to receive the receipt. Do not place inside of boxes.

THANK YOU

Companion church relationships: GHM Rx for the future

Global Health Ministries is pro-actively building for the future, drawing on what has been tried and true from our past, while creatively discerning the best way through what is changing and new. In the midst of new opportunities and challenges before us, GHM will remain faithful to its time-honored, Christ-centered, mission and values. We are a Lutheran, non-profit, medical service organization that thrives through the good efforts of teams of volunteer/philanthropists who serve according to the example and to the glory of Jesus.

Christ's work was founded within a fabric of person-to-person and community-to-community relationships. In recent years, a new form of relationship called *accompaniment* has developed between Lutheran churches in the U.S. and counterparts overseas. Church members and leaders visit each other, tell their stories, worship and pray, and grow together in Christ. When health care professionals are part of these visitation teams, projects in support of the church's healing ministry often develop. The leadership of GHM is committed to partnering with these companion church relationships.

Today the medical care delivery system is going through a tremendous change and learning curve. This is a time of increasingly barrier-free communications, dissemination of knowledge and travel. Concerns about containing the cost of health care and the importance of excellence in planning and management dominate the news. These changes are occurring here at home and within our overseas Lutheran medical missions' communities as well. In both locations, external social, economic and spiritual developments are motivating leaders to creatively re-design and adopt new approaches, methods and guidelines to remain effective. The challenge ahead is much bigger than can possibly be accomplished by working alone. Christ depends on us, but through new relationships he also provides the means to serve him to his glory. GHM plans to be a pro-active partner with the companion church program as a model in which the best gifts of all are combined to build up the Body of Christ.

In some ways, though the number of long-term medical missionaries has declined, the future for our mission has never been brighter.

Mark Huber, GHM President



A volunteer fork lift operator eases boxes into a 40 ft container being sent to Liberia. This shipment, the fourth they have sent, was prepared and shipped by First Lutheran Church and other congregations in the Cedar Rapids, IA, area.

Board proposes satellite offices

The issue of whether or not Global Health Ministries should establish an office presence elsewhere in the United States has been before us for many years. We regularly receive offers of supplies and equipment when a hospital or clinic closes in another region, and sometimes miss the opportunity for lack of a local representative. People call us from other states asking for help in arranging their own shipments to companion church health care programs. Concentrations of GHM supporters in other parts of the country could grow stronger with locally-based activities.

GHM's Strategic Planning Committee has studied the issue and recommended this goal, approved by the board at its April meeting: to establish Global Health Ministry Satellites throughout the USA, starting with regions and progressing to state sites, to further the vision and mission of GHM.

In pursuing this goal, GHM will collaborate with individuals and groups across the USA to explore the development of satellite offices where local supporters will organize to:

1. Pray for the church's health care missionaries and those they serve;
2. Communicate to groups and congregations the opportunities and needs in other countries;
3. Generate contributions for the work of GHM by building a donor/support pool;
4. Recruit personnel— especially volunteer expertise;

5. Participate in efforts to fund approved health care projects;
6. Gather and ship donated medical supplies and equipment to Lutheran missions throughout the world.

GHM faces growing needs and opportunities to "help the hands that heal" around the world. We are excited about the potential of satellite offices to engage the faith and talents of more people at the local level to make a tangible difference in global health mission. Your comments and participation are invited. Our plan for the future is to:

1. Design a "vision" plan for GHM satellite sites to be created throughout the USA, with particular attention to those who have indicated interest;
2. Establish criteria for GHM satellites;
3. Write guidelines to be used by GHM staff and board members to guide a new group in forming a GHM Satellite;
4. Provide consultation and accountability standards;
5. Use staff expertise to write a manual for GHM satellites to use for shipping consumables and equipment;
6. Determine costs to GHM generated by consultation, travel, etc. to the satellites and budget accordingly.

Marge Jamieson

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What is Global Health Ministries? GHM provides a gift of life -- physical and spiritual -- through Lutheran health care work across the world by providing project financial support, locating and shipping urgently needed medical supplies, recruiting health care personnel, and funding the training of national health care givers.

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GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

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Hospice, midwife kits provide vital supplies in many places



The need for hospice and midwife kits has struck a responsive chord among GHM supporters. In many places health workers lack even basic necessities for their work. Here a worker cares for a hospice patient at Selian Hospice in Tanzania.



Bishop and Mrs. George Carlson of the ELCA's South-Central Wisconsin Synod display one of the 1,318 kits collected at their assembly. \$200 was also collected for shipping costs. Members from several congregations brought them to the GHM warehouse.

In South Dakota the ELCA assembly gathered and delivered more than 400 such kits. GHM is sending these kits to areas as requested.