



# GLOBAL HEALTH

Newsletter of Global Health Ministries

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January - February 2004

## 12 containers go overseas in 2003

Twelve containers have been shipped by GHM during 2003, going to six countries. Five were 40-foot, the others 20-foot. Estimated value of the shipments is \$805,642. Cost of the container and shipping overseas and within the countries amounted to \$102,384. Containers went to Tanzania (6), Cameroon (2), and one each to Bangladesh, Liberia, Madagascar and Papua New Guinea. One shipment to Liberia was canceled because of the war in that country and an additional one to Tanzania was canceled because of a lack of funds.

## Madagascar supporters hear new challenges

GHM supporters gathered at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, to hear and visit with Lanto Rabenasolo, who has worked for 16 years as an administrator for SALFA, the Health Department of the Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC). Lanto described the positive changes occurring in Madagascar since President Ravalomanana came into power. The new president is a devout Christian and is determined to confront the corruption and mismanagement that previously existed in the government. He also gave a brief overview of SALFA and the challenges it is facing. One of them is finding solid leadership for the organization as Dr. Stan and Kathy Quanbeck retire and return to the U.S. after 30 plus years of service. There is a need to find a new medical/technical director to guide the health program of the MLC. The GHM Board wrote a letter to the ELCA Division for Global Mission encouraging their support for this position. Lanto and many other Malagasy colleagues are providing competent and invaluable health care services along with proclaiming the good news of Christ throughout the island. May God give us wisdom as we continue to provide essential support to the work they do on our behalf.

## New projects for Madagascar, Tanzania

A new vehicle for the Ejeda Hospital in Madagascar has been approved as a project for GHM. It will serve multiple purposes including: serving as an ambulance; providing access to the hospital's four outlying primary health centers; transporting people and supplies from Toliary, the nearest large city; overseeing famine relief and well digging projects, and integrating with evangelism work in isolated areas. The current vehicle is out of service because it needs major repairs. Another vehicle can be used only in local emergencies as it cannot pass police inspection.

The Ejeda Hospital serves an area containing 100,000 people. It has been struggling to carry on because of its isolated location and the economic conditions in the country. Cost of the project is \$25,000.

Another new project is to aid the newly established Dodoma Christian Medical Center in Tanzania (see last issue of newsletter). Funds are needed to conduct a community health survey in each of the six areas where dispensaries now exist. One of the main purposes of the new center is to support these dispensa-

ries. The survey will identify the most pressing needs and give direction to the center as it begins its work. \$9,300 is requested for this project.

Dr. and Mrs. Wally McKenzie have gone to Madagascar to provide training to SALFA dentists. They brought with them \$15,000 worth of materials with which to make repairs and expand its dental work. This includes devices to enable dentists to drill in teeth. They will also train people to maintain the equipment. Dr. Paul Larson had gone earlier this year to train a surgeon at Ambohibao Hospital. Up to \$7,000 has been approved for both projects.

We are happy to report that only \$2,350 is needed to match a GHM challenge grant of \$10,000 to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and its members to enable extensive repairs to proceed at the Karunalaya Hospital in India. The hospital facilities are in urgent need of renovation including the roof, supports and walls, and flooring. Only temporary repairs have been made in recent years. Roads and provision for drainage also need work done.

## A thank you devotion in Papua New Guinea





### From the Director

*"Now to the One who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to God be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever, Amen" Ephesians 3: 20-21*

This passage has been on my mind lately as we count our blessings at the close of another calendar year of ministry, and look ahead to a new year of challenges and opportunities. I thought that we had set our vision high at the beginning of the year, but compared with God's vision for us, it seems that our own can often be small and timid. It makes you wonder what God is thinking.

It seemed a stretch to nearly double our planned shipments of medical supplies and equipment this year (God bless our warehouse volunteer crews for their dedication in rising to the challenge), but in preparing plans for the coming year, new requests from around the world would make it easy to double that number again! Should we go for it? How? What could God be thinking?

Thank goodness our Satellite Office committee has begun to meet, under the leadership of Dr. Ed Spenny. During the next ten months, they will establish criteria for selecting a U.S. pilot city or two where a GHM satellite office might be located, and guidelines for how such satellites can best advance the mission of Global Health Ministries in, for example, developing volunteer leaders, operating a shipping program, or doing education and fund development. The committee is proceeding with caution, but also with excitement over the fact that our growth is causing a need for such planning. It's all a bit scary, but I have a feeling that God has already been thinking ahead of us how it will all work out, to His glory!

It was unprecedented for us to adopt an HIV/AIDS Initiative this April, and commit to raising \$250,000 each year for the next three years to assist our partner Lutheran Churches in proclaiming the Gospel of God's grace for those afflicted with this disease. But, in truth, the mission that God has given us to "continue the healing ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ" left us little choice, not only that we do something, but something significant, and to be leaders in calling others to join us in attempting to stem the spread of this disease and to care for those affected.

We are one link in a chain that connects us with an extensive network of professional, faith-motivated, health

care providers throughout those parts of the world where this disease is rampant and where they are already doing battle. They need and deserve our support, and having heard of our commitment, requests are already coming in. Soon, the HIV/AIDS Initiative committee, chaired by Wilhelmina Holder, will begin meeting to request and review proposals from our partners, and to make plans for raising funds from corporate and foundation sources. Thanks to the creative dedication of Dr. Joe Norquist, our new video, "We Can Give Hope," has been well-received around the country. Contributions to the Initiative have been encouraging, and as huge as the challenge is for us, I know that "God, who by the power at work within us, is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think;" so we proceed in this ministry with courage and faith.

It seems something miraculous to me—and yet a delightful insight, perhaps, into the mind of God—that the challenging goals with which we began the year for funds to enhance health care programs of Lutheran Churches in the developing world will be met, if not surpassed, by Christmas. Resources for this mission come largely from people of faith like you, loyal individuals and congregations who believe in our mission, together with supporters from clinics, hospitals and medical supply companies who donate supplies and equipment, and trust that they will be put to good use. Because of you, the gifts of hope and healing are offered to many. Special equipment, such as ultrasounds, enable our partners to offer their patients high-quality, life-saving, revenue-generating services that strengthen their sustainability and standing in their communities. Additional capacity-building grants have made possible professional training in management, technical services and health care skills, facility renovation and construction, important initiatives to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria, and critical subsidies that assure continued service to the poor.

We are a relatively small organization, but together, we have done more than we could ever ask or think! What was God thinking when he sent his only Son to this world? Dear friends, of all things that God was thinking on Christmas, I am certain that one of them was you, that through you, through the power of Christ at work within you, many others might come to believe in the gracious love of God and have hope for a better life. Merry Christmas, and thank you for all you have done and will do to make this ministry possible, to the glory of God!

Rev. Tim Iverson

### New resources available

GHM provides a variety of resources to aid you in explaining the work we do and giving ideas of how to participate. The newest addition to this list is the short video, "We can give hope," intended to motivate giving to the GHM program of combating HIV/AIDS

Some items are especially useful in working with children. These include a "caring coins cube" in which children or



others can collect coins to be given to various projects. The bednet project, to provide protection to sleeping families from malaria-spreading mosquitoes, is one such activity. Safe water projects are another.

Materials are also available for making midwife or hospice kits and even a game to teach about missions. A complete list of resources are available on request from the GHM office.

### GHM is on charities list

Global Health Ministries has met the highest standards for management and accountability of the Charities Review Council in St. Paul. The standards include how information is made available to the public, how decisions are made, and fund raising practices. At least 70% of annual expenses must be for program activities (for GHM, it's more than 93%!) GHM is now included in a list of charities meeting these standards, which is distributed semi-annually. It is the only such rating service in the U.S.

### 'It opened my eyes'

"It opened my eyes," says high school senior Jonathan Kratz of his trip to Tanzania with other members of Incarnation Lutheran Church in Shoreview, MN.

Seeing how little the people had compared to America, Jonathan was energized to do something about it when he got home. He and his friends collected and distributed used clothing. He also solicited medical equipment from a hospital where he volunteers.

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## Carrying on in Liberia



Every room in Phebe Hospital looks like this: furniture stolen or broken, floors covered with files and records.

Staff members from Phebe have been providing health care at Salala, working out of tents such as this.

Latest reports from Liberia indicate that the staff of Phebe Hospital are continuing to provide services at a location at Salala, closer to Monrovia. They are working out of tents but are repairing a nearby building to house their services. There is ongoing destruction at Phebe

Hospital. Only the walls are left. All supplies have been destroyed. Everything will have to be replaced, probably including wiring and plumbing, before the ministry can resume there.

### Volunteer webmaster needed

A dynamic and creative person is needed to maintain and update the GHM website: [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org). Interested person should have a personal computer (preferably Macintosh), internet connection (preferably broadband), and experience using HTML editors such as Dreamweaver MX, FrontPage, etc. Please call the GHM office for details.

Todd Wallinger of Colorado Springs, CO, who has been doing this important work, is no longer able to continue.

### The joy of giving

I remember being told by my parents that it is better to give than to receive. That didn't make sense to me. But I've changed my mind. Recently I spent a few hours on a Saturday morning helping to load a 40-foot shipping container bound for Selian Hospital in Tanzania. What I gave was a bit of Saturday morning sleep-in and the energy it takes to lift boxes and crates of medical supplies and midwife kits that will be a Godsend to people in Africa. What I received was a renewal of body and spirit. That far exceeds the energy and effort that I expended. I worked with about a dozen people, ranging from 14 to 60 years of age. All worked tirelessly and joyfully at whatever was needed. There was a pleasant banter with lots of words of encouragement. I was especially impressed with a couple of teenage boys. The younger boy was rather small and quiet, yet energetic and persistent. He quickly gained our respect and admiration. The other young man had been using his free time to work in his high school and a hospital to gather donated supplies. I'm thankful for their witness to me.

Next time you pray with the congregation: "We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us," think of how you might offer yourself and your time in a serving activity. I am sure you will find new joy in your witness.

Tim Johnson  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Coon Rapids, MN

### PLEASE PRAY WITH US

**During January** - Pray that the people of Liberia may have lasting peace and that ministries in that country may resume.

**During February** - Ask God's blessing on Dr. John and Joann Toso, and the new health center at Dodoma, Tanzania.



Many hands are needed every month to load the containers GHM sends overseas.



# GLOBAL HEALTH

Jan - Feb 2004

*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.*

email: ghmoffice@cs.com • Internet: <http://www.ghm.org>  
763/586-9590 • 763/586-9591 (FAX)

## GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

7831 Hickory Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55432-2500

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