



GLOBAL HEALTH

Newsletter of Global Health Ministries

Vol. 17 No. 4

July - August 2004

8 projects approved

The GHM board has approved 8 new projects. They are as follows:

Ethiopia: Women's Ministry HIV/AIDS Awareness (project 18-16). The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus is training women to reach 100,000 people and combat the spread of AIDS and discrimination. Goal: \$ 19,294

Liberia: Phebe surgical instruments (46-19). Before the war, Phebe Hospital was renowned as a surgical center. Now surgeons are returning to rebuild these critically needed services. Goal: \$ 6,749

Madagascar: Dental equipment and supplies (48-53). A GHM-sponsored study by a short-term mission dentist recommended new measures to prevent AIDS infection and equipment to renew the church's dental program. Goal: \$20,000

Nigeria: Adamawa training and development (57-14). The church's evangelism efforts in predominantly Muslim Northeastern Nigeria will provide four wells for local villages and train two nurse midwives. Goal: \$ 7,400

Tanzania: Maasai dispensaries continuing education (79-39). Serving a remote region, ELCA missionary Dr. Steve Friberg proposes a training program to upgrade skills and insure continuity of medical staff. Goal: \$ 11,000

Tanzania: Respiratory care project (79-40). The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania will provide staff training and purchase equipment to improve care for patients with respiratory distress. Goal: \$ 13,125

Tanzania: Maasai dispensaries (79-41). Solar power lighting and refrigeration units need to be replaced in seven remote dispensaries. Goal: \$ 4,480

Tanzania: Mto Wa Mbo maternity ward (79-42). First unit of the Maasai dispensary system where maternal child health care is provided to more than 10,000 people. Goal: \$ 20,000

Conference to stress sharing gifts

"Serving with Our Gifts" will be the theme of the annual twin city global health conference, to be held on Saturday, October 9, at Incarnation Lutheran Church, North Oaks (St. Paul), MN.

The program will include breakout sessions that will focus on particular areas of service:

- Short term service: how to prepare; what to expect
- Serving in our companion synod program
- Serving through gathering and sending equipment

- Serving on youth teams
- Serving in Madagascar following up the ministry of Dr. Stan and Kathy Quanbeck (who will be present for conversation).

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Anthony Gittins, whose theme is "Serving at the margins."

There will be an orientation session for persons attending the conference for the first time, to tell about the ministries of Global Health Ministries.

Goehle added to staff

Dr. Ruth Goehle, who has served in Cameroon and Liberia and as a member of the GHM board of directors, is now a temporary part time member of the GHM staff. Her responsibilities will include working with ELCA synods in their companion relationships; long range planning, including establishment of satellites; supervising organization of supplies and equipment; and promoting short term volunteers.

Four added to board

Four new members were added to the GHM board of directors this year. They are:

- Dr. Randolph Hurley, St. Paul. He is on the staff at Regions Hospital, teaches at the U. of MN medical school and is leading the Ilula project in Tanzania (see last issue).
- Dr. Paul Matson, Mankato, MN. He is a partner in the Orthopedic and Fracture Clinic. He and his wife have served in Cameroon and Kenya.



Randy Hurley

Paul Matson

Ann Rabie

Karen Plager

• Ann Rabie, St. Paul, served as a nurse in Hlabisa, South Africa. She has earned certificates in nurse midwifery and public health.

• Karen Plager, Flagstaff, AZ, DNSc, RNC, FNP. She is a family nurse practitioner and faculty member at the Northern Arizona Dept. of Nursing. She has served in Nepal and India.

Completing their terms of service on the board are Dr. Norman Olson, Dr. Robert Mandsager and Jeannette Kpissay.

From the Director

An Invitation to Become a Satellite

As our Satellite Committee adjourned last week, I could sense the excitement among its members. After months of hard work, they are now prepared to formally invite candidates to submit proposals to become a satellite office of Global Health Ministries.

Behind this invitation is joy and wonder over how God has blessed and guided the growth of this ministry to bring us to this point. And there is also a feeling that you might experience as you wait for someone you love to open what you believe is for them the perfect gift. We sincerely want others to experience the same joy and blessings that we have known in the mission of continuing the healing ministry of Jesus Christ through supporting Lutheran health care programs in the developing world. We are now looking for a group of Christians who feel called to serve in this mission!

It has become clear that the growth in identified needs and opportunities for support of overseas Lutheran health care is pushing us to the limits of our capacity to respond. We continue to explore and find ways to increase what we do locally in Minneapolis, but we believe the time has also come to expand and intensify our mission in other regions of the coun-

try; but where? The committee has logically looked to those areas of the country where Lutherans are concentrated, and where there is indication that leadership and facilities stand ready for service. But most importantly, the committee is hoping to find people who share our passion for the mission of GHM.

Soon, invitation letters and guidelines packets will go out to those who have already expressed an interest in serving as a satellite. If you would also like to inquire about establishing a satellite in your own community, let us know. *To get you started in thinking about this, you should know that a satellite is defined as a group that embraces and desires to lift up the mission of Global Health Ministries in their region; forms around the core function of donor education and solicitation of financial and material support for GHM; and may also assume one or more of the additional functions of special interest group development and support, collecting medical supplies and equipment, and shipping of supplies and equipment to overseas Lutheran health care partners.*

We hope to hear from you, and invite your prayers as we open an exciting new chapter in this ministry of witness to the grace of God in Christ to bring healing to the world God loves. Rev. Tim Iverson

Storms devastate Madagascar



A series of severe cyclones which struck northern Madagascar earlier this year almost completely destroyed rice fields, killed 29 people and made 44,000 homeless.

The heavy rains left a thick layer of sand on fields, making them useless for growing anything and destroyed the irrigation infrastructure. Many people are still in need of food.

At the same time continued drought in southern Madagascar has left additional thousands of people without adequate food. The United Nations has appealed for funds to feed more than 300,000 people in need.

From the B-line mailbox



IN THIS ISSUE we start a new feature dealing with questions often asked. Bea Haagenson is a board member and chair of the publicity committee.

Question

Is it true that all midwife kits are checked by GHM volunteers?

Answer

Yes, the warehouse volunteers check or spot check the kits for:

- Size and quality of towel.

Towels that are too small or excessively worn are replaced.

Hint: New or very gently used regular size bath towels are appropriate. (About 24" x 38")

- Size of hat.

Hats that are too small or too large are replaced.

Hint: The circumference of a newborn's head is about 14".

Suggestion: Purchase a 5-6" diameter styrofoam ball at a craft store and use it as a guide for the hat size. If the hat fits the ball, it will fit the baby's head. A pattern for knitted or sewn hats is available from GHM.

- Safety wrapped and clean razor blade.

Rusty razor blades are found when they are packed next to the soap and gloves. The moisture from the soap (and some gloves) causes the blade to rust in a short time.

Hint: Pack the razor blade and cord ties in a small plastic bag.

Submit questions for the **B-line** to GHM, attention Bea Haagenson.

UN considers Liberia Needs

Board member Dr. Wilhelmina Holder represented GHM at a United Nations conference for reconstruction in Liberia. Government and UN leaders discussed the needs in that country and pledged financial support for rebuilding. The situation at Phebe Hospital was among the topics of discussion.

Activity in Tanzania



Nurses help to unload a container at Nkoaranga Lutheran Hospital, in Moshi, Tanzania, which arrived there in March.



Bishop Laiser of the Arusha Diocese in Tanzania presided at a ground breaking for the Selian Hospital Arusha expansion.

Synod collects midwife kits

The South Central Wisconsin Synod (ELCA) set a new record this year, bringing more than 1,900 midwife and hospice kits to their assembly. They were trucked to the GHM warehouse. Last year the synod collected 1,318 kits.

Eagle scout collects kits

Peter Hansen of Salem (SD) Lutheran Church will receive his Eagle scout award this summer after completing his project of collecting and packing 88 hospice kits for GHM. They will be sent to Ngaoundere, Cameroon.



He got the idea for the project after helping to pack containers. Members of his troop and of several churches contributed to the project.

Peter is the third Eagle scout to achieve this award by working for GHM projects.

'We need to buy a heart'

A small boy was attracted by a display of stained glass hearts, being used to publicize a project in Faith Lutheran Church, Clive, IA, to fund construction of wells in Nigeria. "What are all these hearts for?" he asked. He was told they were being sold to provide money for people who couldn't turn on a faucet to get water, but had to dig a well, which was their only source of water. The boy turned to his mother and said, "I think we need to buy a heart." His mother said she had no money along, but the boy said, "I do." He pulled two pennies out of his pocket and presented them saying, "These will shine up, you know." He was excited to be able to help.

The congregation provided funds for two wells this year and resolved to do more in the future.

5 containers shipped

By the end of May, GHM had shipped five containers to overseas health facilities.

Two 40 foot and one 20 foot containers have gone to Tanzania, Kilimanjaro Medical Center, Iambi Hospital and the Tanzanian church education center, the latter largely computers.

Additional containers were sent to Papua New Guinea and Bangladesh. Total weight of the shipments was about 95,000 pounds valued at \$60,000.

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Nursing students get practice

Students at the nursing school in Madagascar, supported by GHM, are assigned on rotation to Clinique St. Luc and other health care facilities. Mr. Tiana was the first student assigned. He was a blessing to patients and staff alike and often led morning devotions. It was difficult to tell him goodbye when his term ended. But the next month the Lord sent another blessing in the person of Mr. Tantely. He showed up at morning worship and began working with the same willing spirit. Weekend afternoons Tantely would return to assist the lone clinic nurse on duty, just as Tiana had done. The next student was a woman. It didn't take long to realize that Miss Nety was a young woman who had a calling to serve the Lord as a nurse.

These are among the students completing their study on July 17. GHM provided scholarships for the 3-year course. Remember them in prayer as they complete their studies and begin to serve.

Patricia Bentsen

Used according to its purpose

We would like to show our gratitude for the donation from Global Health Ministries. We were this way able to purchase urgently needed drugs. For months we were unable to obtain these drugs through area medical stores. This posed a real threat to our surgical work, putting especially women with obstetrical complications at danger. During our next trip to Lae, we will be purchasing more essential drugs, so the money will all be used according to its purpose.

Etep Rural Hospital
Papua New Guinea



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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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Another tractor for Africa



The remains of the old tractor at Phebe Hospital.

Need a tractor in Africa? Call Clayton Englestad. For the second time in a year Englestad and his congregation have responded to a need by locating and shipping a tractor to hospitals in Africa. A year ago Little Norway Lutheran Church, a 139-member congregation near Fertile, MN, learned of the need for a tractor. They began a search, located a machine, bought it and sent it to Madagascar. Now the call has come



Englestad drives the new tractor into the warehouse.

again. One of the casualties of the long civil war in Liberia, which resulted in the wholesale looting and destruction of Phebe and Curran hospitals, was a tractor. Little Norway congregation heard of it and was eager to help. They located a tractor and got it ready to send to Phebe to restore the ministry there. Contributions to GHM project #46-11 are requested to replenish Phebe recovery funds used for this project.