



GLOBAL HEALTH

Newsletter of Global Health Ministries

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Board approves growth plans

"We have come to a crossroads on our journey in mission," said GHM Executive Director Rev. Tim Iverson at the October 8th board meeting, "and we need to decide now if we are going to stop, turn, or move on ahead to embrace a future God appears to be calling us to pursue."

Faced with increased demands for shipping services, and signs that the present warehouse is inadequate to support future growth, the GHM Board of Directors established a committee to make recommendations on the acquisition of a new warehouse. The board received reports that the current warehouse cannot accommodate additional shipments much beyond the 14 scheduled for this year, while up to 25 sea containers are projected in the next 5-10 years. Processing and storage of in-coming donations of medical supplies and equipment are increasingly difficult in cramped work space, affecting work conditions for our dedicated volunteers and raising safety concerns.

Growth in recent years is attributable to increased awareness of GHM's services by partner Lutheran Church health care programs around the world, the challenges they face in addressing overwhelming needs such as those associated with the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and rising competition to provide the best service at the lowest cost. Accompanying these factors is growth in mission activity by Lutherans in America through such initiatives as the ELCA companion synod programs.

As additional strategic responses to growth pressures, the board endorsed plans to continue exploration of establishing satellite offices in up to two U.S. locations in the coming five years, and provided for staffing expansion to manage projects and shipping, service collaborative relationships with overseas and stateside partners, and develop grant proposals.

Gittins: Mission is centered in the margins

"Mission is what God does for a living." In this striking way Dr. Anthony Gittins began his keynote address at the annual Twin City global health conference.

God is the subject of mission, he emphasized. It is not our mission nor the church's; it is God's. We don't take the

initiative; we respond to God's action.

God's mission is brought down to us in the coming of Jesus, who made it visible and understandable by sharing himself with us. His job was evangelizing - not just by proclamation, but by sharing himself. He looked for trouble and did something about it. The center of his mission was at the margins, among the poor, the weak, the oppressed.

Jesus asks us to do as he did . . . to break through the boundaries of comfort, privilege and security and share ourselves with the needy. In a changing world these things remain constant: God's call, the human need for solidarity, and generous people who find life's meaning in having their own lives turned inside out so that hope is kept alive and the human spirit is not quenched.

Dr. Gittins is on the staff of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. The conference, held Oct. 9 at Incarnation Lutheran Church, North Oaks, continued in small groups on various aspects of mission activities.



LHCB Director Bijoy Baroi reported from Bangladesh



Youth from St. Mark's Lutheran Church, St. Paul, told of their mission trip to Tanzania



Direct Lines from the Director

Our annual conference at Incarnation Lutheran Church was wonderful, and Father Anthony Gittins, our keynote speaker, was an inspiration. I could identify with his comment about our relationship to mission when he compared it to standing on the shore of Lake Michigan and wondering if it made sense to try to make mission our own by attempting to drink it all up, or simply surrendering and jumping in, immersing ourselves in God and God's mission. It's a rare day at GHM when I don't feel like my head's just above the water and I'm being caught up in the current and pulled towards unplanned but almost always delightful destinations. The mission is God's, and often we have all we can do just to try to catch up!

Our board recently jumped into the current of God's mission when they approved action to explore acquiring a larger warehouse, establish Satellite offices, and expand our staffing to catch up with our growing demands and opportunities to advance the healing ministry of Jesus. I was blessed to learn of one such opportunity a few weeks ago when I was invited to meet with Bishop Philip Hougen and his assistant Rev. Kathy Gerking of the SE Iowa Synod, ELCA. Bishop Hougen had recently returned from visiting his companion Church of the Pare Diocese in Tanzania and its hospital at Gonja. He was invited to preach at one congregation and learned, on arrival, that a hundred or so children were being brought to be baptized that Sunday by the American Bishop! He was understandably overwhelmed by the prospect, but as he conducted the service noticed that most of the babies were being brought forward by children and the elderly. "Where are their parents?" Hougen asked the congregation's pastor, to which he replied, "Oh, Bishop, so many have died from AIDS." The Bishop returned home with a passion for mission on behalf of those who had become his new brothers and sisters in the waters of baptism. This is how the Spirit is inspiring the growth to which we are being called to respond.

It's an exciting and equally humbling time for all of us in the mission of Global Health Ministries, and it's not surprising I can't seem to get the words of this old hymn out of my head: "*As I went down in the river to pray, studying about the good old way, and who shall wear the robe and crown, Oh Lord, show me the way! Come sinners! Come on down, let's go down, come on down. Oh people, come on down, down in the river to pray!*"

Rev. Tim Iverson

Short-term mission yields excellent results

A year ago, at the request of SALFA, the Malagasy Lutheran Church's health care program, GHM sent Dr. Wally McKenzie and his wife Kathy, a dental technician, to Madagascar to conduct a training program for SALFA's dental personnel. The three-week program was designed to upgrade skills in new techniques, improve local ability to repair dental equipment, learn HIV/AIDS protective procedures in practice, and assess supplies and equipment needs.

Upon their return, the McKenzies researched vendors and found that many needed items can be purchased at lower prices in the U.S. They identified high quality materials, negotiated discounted prices, and established vendor relationships that have begun to provide the Malagasy dentists with a dependable source of standardized supplies and equipment. They also provided GHM with a plan and benchmark budget for grants to purchase the supplies needed each year by SALFA dentists.



An example of available equipment.

Having demonstrated the effectiveness of short-term missions in supporting our overseas' partners, the McKenzies have now turned their attention to a new initiative in developing a dental program for the Dodoma Christian Medical Center in Tanzania. The project, under leadership of former GHM president Dr. John Toso, will also receive the assistance of Dr. Charles, the Malagasy Lutheran Church's dental program director.

Calling all knitters

Calling all knitters and crocheters! You can use your skills to improve health care for people overseas. Some kinds of bandages can be made by this process as well as items for midwife kits. Send to the GHM office for instructions. One lady, after hearing a presentation on health needs, announced that she had found a new calling. She was bored by having to stay home, unable to do much as she was undergoing treatment for cancer. So she bought a 6-inch styrofoam ball and some yarn and is making baby hats for midwife kits.

THE B-LINE



New at GHM

Knitted and crocheted bandages for tropical ulcer patients.



These bandages are knitted or crocheted from "kitchen" type cotton yarn ("Sugar and Cream" or "Peaches and Cream") or may be made from "bedspread" type yarn (e.g., "Knit Cro-sheen"). They are 3 or 4 inches wide and 4 feet long. **ONLY white and natural.** No colors, they contain heavy dyes.

The bandages are especially helpful for long term treatment of ulcers as they are durable, washable and heavy enough to protect an open or slow healing area from further injury.

A complete pattern with instructions is available from GHM.

And yes, we still need rolled bandages as well.

The GHM stress-free solution to gift giving:

- Put on your cozy robe and slippers
- Fix yourself a cup of cocoa
- Light an aromatic candle
- Fill out some GHM **Tribute Cards** or **Bed Net Cards** to let family and friends on your gift list know that this year you and they are "**Helping the Hands that Heal**"
- Fill out the GHM portion and include a check (any amount will help)
- Leave them for the mail carrier to pick up
- Spend your newly found free holiday time to:
 - bake cookies with the children or grandchildren.
 - get a group together and go caroling in a nursing home or in your neighborhood.
 - get reacquainted with your favorite chair and read a good book.

The cost of two **bed nets** is about \$10.00. Tribute ideas in any amount include: Hospital care for a poor patient, material needs for an orphan, support of a clean water project, medication to protect a newborn from HIV/AIDS, multi vitamins, GHM shipping cost, GHM general fund. Or pick a project from the green GHM Project Fund List.

Tribute Cards, Bed Net Cards and Project Lists are available from GHM. *These cards are always available and can be used for any occasion.*

**Best wishes for a blessed Christmas
from the B-line**

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

Cameroon gets boost from staff visit

For the first time, GHM has sent two 40-foot containers at the same time to Cameroon. The unusually large shipment was a direct result of the visit by GHM staff to that country, where they learned of several urgent needs.

The most critical items sent included an ultrasound (the only one in the area), a large steam sterilizer, two surgical tables, 10 examination tables, and an anesthesia gas machine. The shipment also included 31 computers. In addition more than \$2,000 worth of supplies which were not in stock at the time were sent.

The materials went to hospitals at Ngaoundere, Ngaoubela and Garoua Boulai and church offices in Cameroon and Central African Republic.

The staff visit on site also alerted GHM to the need to provide additional training in Cameroon so local staff can repair and maintain the new equipment. To this end, Joseph Tasky from the St. Mary's Duluth Clinic is being sent by GHM to Africa to provide this training.

A Global Health news editor is needed. Rolf Aaseng who has been our editor for so many years is retiring from the position. Please call the GHM office for more information and job description (763/586-9590).

Solofo goes to Garoua Boulai

Dr. Solofo, a South/South missionary from Madagascar, has been named director of the Garoua Boulai Lutheran Hospital in Cameroon. He is the fifth Malagasy doctor to serve in that country. Other Malagasy doctors are serving in Papua New Guinea and Bangladesh and a dentist in Tanzania.

Projects for funding

04-01 Bangladesh: Shipping
 04-02 Bangladesh: Charity patient fund.
 04-12 Bangladesh: LHCB clinic-Dumki
 09-01 Cameroon: Shipping
 09-02 Cameroon: Charity patient fund.
 09-27 Cameroon: Training of 2 anesthetists
 09-28 Cameroon: Technician of Lab Training
 09-29 Cameroon: Tech/Radiology Training
 09-32 Cameroon: Prevention of Maternal/Child HIV Transmission
 09-33 Cameroon: Health Mgmt. Info Systems
 09-34 Cameroon: Urgent purchase medical supplies and equipment
 10-11 CAR: Aids Awareness Program
 12-11 Chile: EPES Community Health
 12-12 Chile: EPES Construction of Center
 14-10 Colombia: Holistic Health/ poor/displaced
 18-02 Ethiopia: Charity patient fund
 18-16 Ethiopia: Women's HIV/AIDS awareness
 32-15 India: AIDS Awareness
 32-20 India: Renovation at Parkijuli Hospital
 46-01 Liberia: Shipping
 46-02 Liberia: Charity patient fund.
 46-11 Liberia: Phebe Hospital Recovery
 46-12 Liberia: Curran Hospital Recovery
 46-18 Liberia: Continuing Education
 46-19 Liberia: Phebe surgical instruments
 48-01 Madagascar: Shipping
 48-02 Madagascar: Charity patient fund
 48-10 Madagascar: Nursing Scholarships



23 persons graduated this year from the nursing school in Madagascar

'God makes even the dust to shine'

I was feeling depressed as I lay on my bed. The late afternoon sun was shining brightly through the upper ventilatory windows just under the 22-foot high ceiling. I was struck by the beauty of the gently swirling dust which was brilliantly illuminated. Here was plain, ordinary dust, of less than no value, set in motion by a gentle breeze and radiantly illuminated. The Lord reminded me that there is beauty in this dusty, dreary desert. He can make even the dust to shine. Wow!

Crowds seeking help were jamming the hallway outside my office. A simple change restricted them to the waiting room (where they should have been in the first place). Now I have more brains left for medically caring for my patients!

Did you know that being able to take a shower any time you want, with good water pressure, is a luxury? We have had severe water shortages and have had to ration water extensively. We are look-

ing ahead with hope, though. The Finnish mission with whom we work has made funds available for the drilling of a well. We need your prayers greatly for this project: that the work would begin soon and all material would be available; that the work would be of good quality; that the Lord would guide the location of the drilling to be at just the right place to reach an underground vein. The drilling will be done to a depth of 1,000 feet!

I am greatly thankful for the assistance of Global Health Ministries in providing funds for a new phone system. You would not believe the mix of old wires on our roofs which would often create havoc with efforts to communicate--and that was always a potential disaster for patient care. How amazing now to be able to communicate dependably throughout the compound.

Dr. Elenn Elness, Missionary
 World Mission Prayer League
 TANK Hospital, Pakistan

48-14 Madagascar: Pharmacotherapy/ Mentally Ill
 48-17 Madagascar: Rural Clinic Support
 48-28 Madagascar: Professional skills upgrade
 48-30 Madagascar: Med. prof. teacher subsidy
 48-31 Madagascar: On site training/new grads
 48-53 Madagascar: Purchase Surg/dental supplies
 48-55 Madagascar: Air Compressors for Dental Clinics
 48-59 Madagascar: Computers/SALFA
 48-61 Madagascar: Urgent Medical Equipment
 48-62 Madagascar: Vehicle for Ejeda Hospital
 48-63 Madagascar: Continuing Education
 49-01 Malawi: Shipping
 57-01 Nigeria: Shipping
 54-02 Namibia: Charity patient fund.
 57-11 Nigeria: Nursing Scholarships
 57-12 Nigeria: Community Nursing Scholarships
 57-13 Nigeria: Water and Wells
 57-14 Nigeria: Adamawa training/development
 60-01 Papua New Guinea: Shipping
 60-02 Papua New Guinea: Charity patient fund
 70-02 Senegal: Charity patient fund
 79-01 Tanzania: Shipping
 79-02 Tanzania: Charity patient fund.
 79-04 Tanzania: Selian Hospital
 79-05 Tanzania: Maasai support services
 79-06 Tanzania: Maasai Dispensary Capital Dev.
 79-08 Tanzania: Continuing Education at Selian
 79-16 Tanzania: TB Treatment, Selian Hospital
 79-17 Tanzania: Selian Surgeons subsidy
 79-30 Tanzania: Selian Hospice Support
 79-33 Tanzania: Mosquito Nets - Selian Hospital
 79-35 Tanzania: Selian/Arusha Expansion
 79-37 Tanzania: ELCT hospice expansion
 79-38 Tanzania: Training for HIV/AIDS victims and families through churches
 79-39 Tanzania: Maasai dispensary continuing education
 79-40 Tanzania: ELCT respiratory care project
 79-41 Tanzania: Maasai disp. solar batteries
 79-42 Tanzania: Mto Wa Mbo maternity ward
 79-43 Tanzania: Selian Exp. Hosp. Equipment
 79-91 Tanzania: Dodoma hospital development
 79-92 Tanzania: Haydom Hospital shipping
 79-93 Tanzania: Iambi Hospital shipping
 79-94 Tanzania: Ilula Hospital shipping
 79-95 Tanzania: Bumbuli Hospital shipping
 79-96 Tanzania: Nkoaranga Hospital shipping
 79-97 Tanzania: Lugala Hospital shipping
 79-98 Tanzania: Ndolage Hospital shipping
 88-01 Zimbabwe: Shipping
 95-03 General: Med. equipment purchase/repair
 95-04 General: Malaria bednets, all countries
 95-05 General: Safe Water
 95-07 General: HIV/AIDS Initiative
 98-10 USA - Travel for Medical/Dental Students
 98-11 Short-term Mission Volunteers
 99-20 Endowment Fund - details available
 00-00 Gifts may be given without country designation to be used "where most needed."

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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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Container arrives at Dodoma Medical Center



A container is unloaded at the new Dodoma Christian Medical Center in Tanzania. (See newsletter for November.) The center is a cooperative effort by the government, church, community leaders and GHM. Shown are government and local representatives, Bishop Peter Mwamasika and Dr. John Toso.

Dodoma is located in the center of the country, at a junction of major roads, and has been designated the parliamentary capital of the nation. The area is one of the poorest in the country with inadequate health care. Malaria is the leading cause of death among the 30% of children who die before the age of 5.

The new center will have responsibility for bringing six dispensaries up to government standards. It will include a 60-bed hospital, an administrative center for HIV/AIDS activities, reproductive and child health, and a dental clinic. Young people from 15 to 24 account for 60% of HIV infections.