



GLOBAL HEALTH

Newsletter of Global Health Ministries

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Iverson: Continue the Healing Ministry Begun by Jesus

“Keep the gospel light burning” was the appeal GHM director Tim Iverson brought to the annual global health conference, October 7 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, MN. In the face of declining numbers of missionaries, Pastor Iverson asserted that there were still great mission challenges and opportunities. They may call for new approaches and different kinds of service.

Not only are there great needs overseas, but by God’s design, Iverson said, we ourselves need them as opportunities to give ourselves away for others. The Spirit calls us to this service, and it is not optional for Christians, but comes with membership in Christ’s body. Now that indigenous people have become the leaders in carrying on the healing ministry of Christ, we need to see ourselves, not as the ones in-charge, but as partners and servants with them. Gifts of many kinds, not only physicians and nurses, but accountants and hospital managers, computer technicians and bio-meds will be needed, both here and abroad, and in some cases, may prevent the demise of struggling mission hospitals.

Alone, our resources are limited, Iverson said, but our faithfulness is significant and blessed in God’s sight, who through us is able to do far more than we could ever ask, or think or dream. We need to continually seek other groups with whom we can partner in mission, such as the ELCA Companion Church teams who work with the same overseas Lutheran Churches as GHM around the world. Through 22 such partnerships in the last four years, Iverson said, 36 shipments of medical supplies have been generated, two million dollars raised in mission support, 500 new volunteers engaged in mission, and 30 mission trips completed. The Spirit is truly active today through these partnerships, Iverson said. “We are “chasing after the Spirit” to discover and follow God’s plan to continue Christ’s healing mission.”



Conference attendees received many informative presentations, including those of Rev. Kathy Gerking, (right) Assistant to the Bishop, SE Iowa Synod, who reviewed the history and goals of the Synod in its new medical mission initiatives; and Pat Bentsen, (left) Missionary Nurse in Madagascar, who called attention to the needs of mental health ministry in Madagascar.

Former LCMS Missionaries Return to PNG on Short-term Mission



Papua New Guinea is an island just north of Australia that became an independent country in 1975, with a population of 5 million people and over 800 different language groups. The Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod began mission work in the Western Highlands province in 1948. Former missionary, Roy Schache served as a saw/miller/builder from 1966-79, and his wife Judy, whom he met and married in PNG, served in the same period as a missionary nurse.

In July, 2005, the Papua New Guinea Mission Society asked the Schaches to return to PNG to assist in unloading containers of medical supplies that had been sent by Global Health Ministries, and to do some maintenance and repair work at Immanuel Lutheran Rural Hospital, served by LCMS missionary physician, Dr. Steven Lutz. Roy and Judy enthusiastically accepted the invitation. Upon arrival, they met with the hospital’s administrative staff to determine projects and priorities. Little did they realize the enormity of needs! The 50-year-old structure desperately needed a clean-up and face-lift.

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Direct Lines from the Director



As usual, at the peak of Fall colors, we held our annual conference, "Pursuing our Vision, Renewing our Hope;" this year at Calvary Lutheran in Golden Valley. It was my privilege to give the keynote address, "Keeping the Gospel Light Shining." If any of you would like to read what I had to say, it's on our website this month. After four years as Executive Director, I thought it important to highlight the challenges and threats we face in continuing the healing ministry of Jesus, but also to point to signs of the irrepressible Holy Spirit of life calling and lifting up new people with a passion for mission, and stirring hunger for partnerships in the healing ministry between brothers and sisters in the world-wide Body of Christ. It's quite a time to be in mission, calling for some risk to venture into new territories, lots of faith and creativity, and the promise of every blessing.

You can sense something of what I mean in the accounts serendipitously shared in this edition of *Global Health* by or about people engaged in short-term mission adventures. Roy and Judy Schache, former Papua New Guinea missionaries of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, tell the story of returning to Immanuel Lutheran Hospital after nearly 25 years to follow a GHM shipment and assist in its unloading. What they encountered was an immense challenge and great satisfaction in service while rediscovering the beauty of relationships with their PNG brothers and sisters in Christ. Milo Hoiland is very fit for his age, and a blessing to all who come to know his strong faith and sweet disposition. He is also passionate about being useful in the mission field, and has traveled to some difficult places to fulfill his calling, including Banda Aceh after the Tsunami. The article about him, written by his grandson, is a fitting

tribute to a fine servant of Christ. Dr. Doug Dorner and his wife, Carole Villeneuve, are newcomers to the medical mission initiative of the SE Iowa Synod, but in the account given, dive into a new culture and medical community with both feet to discover impressive accomplishments with scarce resources, and new ideas for how they might support the leaders of the Pare Diocese of Tanzania in their healing ministries.

Volunteer Biomed Engineers Needed

Global Health Ministries is in need of more volunteer biomedical engineers to assist in the evaluation, repair, and support of donated medical equipment. If you are retired, or will soon retire, or know of someone who has the experience and interest, please contact the GHM office immediately. Fetal monitors, ultrasounds, defibrillators, suction pumps, EKG monitors, pulse oximeters, anesthesia gas machines, centrifuges, incubators and microscopes are waiting to be certified and shipped.

Wednesday Evening Groups a Hit!

This past month, several groups have come to the warehouse on Wednesday evenings, varying from 3 people to over 50. The larger group was from Abiding Saviour in Mounds View, a 7-8th grade confirmation group for a service project. It was quite a party! That evening I invited them to come back on Saturday to help load a container being shipped to Tanzania. One of the students came and brought her dad. How great that was! I would like to invite you to come on down some Wednesday evening. We are here 6pm – 8:30pm. If you would like to bring your group for a service project on Wednesday or another night, it would be great. Just let me know. My e-mail is warren@ghm.org by Warren Westvig, Warehouse Mgr.



Thanks to all the folks from Abiding Saviour for their service to GHM

The B-line



It is towards the end of the year. - Where did the time go? Looking back at the past few months, the assessment of the GHM warehouse is: busier than ever, more stuff and more shipments. The need for and the capacity to send more containers is constantly increasing. So far this year we have shipped 14 containers to 6 countries and three more are scheduled to go before the end of the year.

We recently rejoiced at the ability to pack two 40 foot containers side by side on the same day! That we could not have done a year ago when we had only one dock.

The 2007 schedule is even busier as we hope to send 25 containers, 13 of which are 40 foot and the rest are 20 foot. Considering that a 40 foot container holds about 1,500 boxes we scratch our heads and think, "Where will we get all the stuff from?" In Scott Lien's words, "It always works out." Besides, at GHM we have learned that

"God's work done God's way will never lack God's supply" (Hudson Taylor)

So, literally, we are not sitting on our hands. Scott (Director of Operations) and Warren (Warehouse Manager), along with many regular volunteers, are always looking for creative ways to obtain high quality supplies and equipment and to recruit more volunteers who have a heart for and can get excited about the mission of GHM.

Many of our volunteers are retirees who through the freedom of retirement have found tremendous joy in serving. What are your plans for retirement? We need you, even if it is just a few hours a week. Call the office and find out about the job that fits your abilities and schedule and then join the awesome GHM family.

We look forward to seeing you and saying ***"Welcome aboard, and God bless you for helping the hands that heal."*** Submit questions for the B-line to GHM, attn. Bea Haagenon.

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Milo Hoiland: Spreading Goodness Around the World

On his second trip to Indonesia since the 100 foot tall wall of water traveling at 600 mile per hour devastated the vast shoreline, septuagenarian Milo Hoiland joined up with International Aid to put his extensive technical knowledge to good use. International Aid (IA), a disaster relief organization based in Spring Lake, Michigan, works in support of Christian organizations worldwide in training and assisting in the repair and maintenance of medical equipment. IA is one of 100 NGOs, or non-government organizations, still helping to rebuild Indonesia, working to get everything into working order so normal life can resume.

Mr. Hoiland was stationed from February through May of this year in the large Muslim city of Banda Aceh. He originally thought that he would be spending most of his time in a newly built medical repair shop as a mentor, training recent graduates of the area technical college. The Provincial Health Authority (Indonesian government) requested the building be built in order to service huge amounts of medical equipment damaged in the storm. Constructed with funding from Johnson & Johnson, it opened in November of 2005 under International Aid's supervision.

However, Mr. Hoiland's extensive microscope knowledge lead him on a slightly different path. Although microscope repair cannot be quickly taught, sufficient preventative maintenance can be learned in a couple days. Mentor Initiatives, from England, had been training clinic workers how to draw blood from patients and check it for malaria under microscopes. However, in order to find the parasites, the microscopes needed immersion oil applied to the 100x lens for every test in order to stop light refraction. If this oil was not properly removed, it would dry up and cloud the lens, rendering it useless. Thankfully, Milo ventured to area clinics, teaching a three day class covering necessary measures for the upkeep of the microscopes.

When not teaching, Mr. Hoiland helped out at the shop and occasionally went on service calls with trained technicians. He helped locate basic equipment such as grinders and hand saws from local markets, as well as various needed parts. We could all learn a lot from this kind and giving man, who has repeatedly spread his goodness throughout his community and the world at large. Although he isn't currently eyeing another trip into the third world, he keeps his head up and his options open. He can be found weekly at Global Health Ministries in the Laboratory Department, preparing equipment for shipment to overseas mission hospitals.

(article written by Milo's grandson, Gustav Hoiland)

"Former LCMS Missionaries" continued from page 1

Priority #1 for Judy was to get the containers emptied and stored. This could not be done until storage rooms were identified, cleaned and prepared with shelving; projects that took over two weeks to complete. The supplies were then unloaded, catalogued and categorized for optimal use. Roy's priority was to remodel the obstetrical department's labor and delivery rooms, and the surgical department operating and recovery rooms. Tiles on the labor room floor were cracked, missing or loose, paint on walls and ceilings was peeling or damaged, delivery rooms were dirty and uninviting. Much plumbing and electrical work had to be done, as well as exterior repairs and painting to protect the structure.

Today, Immanuel Hospital is better equipped and able to provide greater services than any other government or private hospital in the area because of the supplies and equipment shipped by GHM, and the huge investment of heart and labor by the Schaches. During their busy seven weeks of service on this mission trip, they experienced many expressions of gratitude and rich blessings through the work projects that were completed. Global Health Ministries is grateful to Roy and Judy for their faithful dedication and the hope their service inspires for the continuation of Christ's healing ministry in Papua New Guinea.

SE Iowa Synod Assessment Team Returns from Pare Diocese

Earlier this year, Dr. Douglas Dörner, Senior Vice President for Medical Education and Research of the Iowa Health System and his wife, Carole Villeneuve, an international banking professional, visited the SE Iowa Synod's companion Lutheran Church, the Pare Diocese. As representatives of the Synod's medical mission team, they visited Gonja Lutheran Hospital (GLH) to assess their needs in terms of potential student/resident exchanges, and administration. The trip was facilitated by ELCA representatives Todd and Lori Byerly, and Dr. Amin R. Mshighwa, Medical Secretary for Pare Diocese.

In the village of Shigatini they visited a dispensary directed by Dr. Mark Mvungi, a urologist who volunteers there on Saturdays after working a full week at KCMC in Moshi. Shigatini dispensary is a special project of Bethesda Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa. A new operating theater and wards were being built with supplies and equipment provided in a February shipment from GHM. A laundry was also being built, and a water project, was going to be started soon.

At Gonja Lutheran Hospital, Carole reported, "we met extraordinary people committed to their patients and well-versed in medical treatments, including AIDS prevention programs. These wonderful staff were working miracles with very little." They expressed their thanks regarding the shipment in so many ways. "When you sent us the shipment you gave us courage to continue," they were told by hospital staff.

"They were delighted to show us their locked supply room," said Carole. "I was impressed by how well they maintained their inventory." A list of needs from all the Pare Diocese medical facilities visited was compiled for future shipments, including an ultrasound, useful in many situations, and for some dispensaries an essential tool to help attract patients and therefore increase their revenue, which they vitally need." Thanks Carole & Doug for your service!



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Second Dock Helps with Cameroon Shipment



The Health Department of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon. (OSEELC) owns and operates three large hospitals: Ngaoundere, Ngaoubela, and Garoua Boulai, and fifteen smaller health centres. This year OSEELC returned to GHM an extensive needs list, and it quickly became apparent that two 40' containers and one 20' container would be needed. GHM has sent more than one container to Cameroon in the past, but the significance of this occasion was that the warehouse expansion allowed us to stage for and load the two 40' containers on the same day, taking advantage of a very large and enthusiastic group of volunteers from Lutheran

Church of Our Redeemer in Watertown, SD, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Eagan, MN, and other congregations. Over forty-five volunteers were present!

Key items on the shipment included two ultrasounds, x-ray, fetal monitors, suction pumps, phototherapy lights, infant incubator, exam tables, stools, patient scales, 20 desktop computers for hospital administration and office use, a wide range of basic medical supplies. In addition, the shipment included 52 desktop computers for the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, donated by the ELCA Board of Pensions. A total of 2,924 items with 33 different designations! Doug Hall from Fairmont Rotary, and Susan Hall his daughter, configured and installed software on each computer.

Another reason this shipment was significant was how St. Mary's Duluth Clinics, the ELCA South Dakota

Synod, and partner congregations rallied together and pooled their financial resources to cover the expenses of sending three containers at once. Less than a month from loading, GHM had enough funds to cover only one 40' container, estimated at \$5,000 from GHM to the Port of Douala, plus another \$12,000 for in-country expenses. However, once the opportunity and need was known funds became available and the decision to add two additional containers was made with great joy. Praise God! Note: Additional funds are still needed to cover this project and we ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this important work.

