



GLOBAL HEALTH

Newsletter of Global Health Ministries

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Arriving Container Met by Synod Mission Team

In October, a delegation from the Western Iowa Synod, ELCA, visited the Southern Diocese in Tanzania, their companion Church. The trip was scheduled to coincide with the arrival of a container from Global Health Ministries destined for Ilembula, the diocese hospital. In most cases, delays in the shipping schedule make such plans risky at best. But Dr. Tim Peterson and Carlene Embree, RN, members of the synod's medical mission team, were blessed with success. It was an exciting and memorable experience, as the Church's bishop, Rev. Cleopa Lukilo, officiated in a container opening ceremony with prayers of thanksgiving for the container's safe arrival and a blessing of its contents to the healing ministry of the hospital. Sister Alipa Lupembe, Ilembula Nursing School Principal, was also in attendance to receive computers, medical and educational supplies and textbooks requested to enhance the nursing education program there. Dr. Peterson observed that:

"Being present to witness the opening of the container was awesome. Seeing the happiness on the faces of the hospital staff and villagers, receiving their words and songs of joy, and helping them unpack 12+ tons of medical equipment



Bishop Cleopa Lukilo leads prayers of thanksgiving and blessing for the container of requested medical supplies and equipment at Ilembula hospital.

and supplies was a "knowing and sharing the love of Jesus" experience for me. During the next several days I learned much about what some of their critical needs are to sustain the local health care system of Ilembula hospital and outreach clinic/dispensaries. The needs are overwhelming and impossible for them or any one single entity to meet. It will take prayer, strategic planning and partnerships among key agencies like Global Health Ministries, the Western Iowa ELCA Synod, and other concerned stakeholders in Tanzania and globally to strengthen and sustain the health care capabilities in the Southern Diocese of the ELCT. Together, as one in the body of Christ, we can be part of a much-needed miracle to bring continued healing of body and spirit to the Tanzanians in the Ilembula area."

Dr. Peterson and Ms. Embree completed one of the most comprehensive and insightful post-trips reports ever seen at GHM. Their assessments and recommendations will guide the collaboration between Global Health Ministries and the Western Iowa Synod in enhancing the healing ministry of the Southern Diocese for years to come. Congratulations and thanks to Tim, Carlene and the Western Iowa Synod for helping the hands that heal!



Crowd processing to celebration, including hospital staff, nursing students, families of patients, and community, WIS and Southern Diocese leaders.

New board members elected

Global Health Ministries is pleased to announce the election of three excellent additions to its board of directors.

Born in South India, graduated from Madras Medical College, married and immigrated to the U.S. in 1967, Dr. John Prabhakar practiced in general and thoracic surgery in Rochelle and Dekalb, IL until retiring in 2004. He has been a short term medical missionary to Swazi-land, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania and India. Dr. Prabhakar lives in Rochelle, IL.



Barbara Wang, RN, BSN, is a graduate of Lutheran Deaconess School of Nursing and the U of M. She served under the ELCA at Chiayi Christian Hospital in Taiwan during the late 1970's and has been employed by Children's Hospital and Clinics of MN for the past 20 years. Barb is a returning board member as well as a member of the publicity and conference planning committees. She lives in Shoreview, MN.



Dr. James Hart worked for many years in primary care medical practice and management, independently and with HealthPartners. Currently he is the Director of the Executive Program in Public Health Practice in the Academic Health Center at the University of Minnesota. He has had a long interest in international health issues, has served on the board of Minnesota International Health Volunteers for 13 years and now joins the GHM board. Dr. Hart resides in Stillwater, MN.





Direct Lines from the Director

There are many things about our ministry that are exceptionally rewarding and inspiring. Right up at the top of the list for me is the opportunity to encounter God in sometimes familiar, often surprising and wondrous, ways and forms among God's people around the world. The Christmas promise of *Emanuel, God with us in Christ*, is fulfilled in endless ways that pass all understanding, yet still touch and enfold us in blessing and grace as God wills. A procession of beautifully dressed women came to the house where we stayed one night last year in Northern India on the border with Bhutan. They brought my daughter a precious gift: the hand-made dress of a coming-of-age woman of the tribe. They wrapped her in the shimmering, rainbow-colored cloth until she shined with glory, as they did, and then led her through the village to celebrate their new daughter and sister. Rebecca returned to our house speechless, and then fumbling for words, asked, "What can you ever do to repay a gift like that, dad? What can you ever say?" "Why, say thank you, I guess," I said, "and join in celebrating the joy of giving gifts and receiving them, and then be prepared to be the giver of such gifts yourself one day." Christ can be found in the stranger, waiting to bless you with grace, and then again, to use you as a vessel for his gifts.

On November 25th, Global Health Ministries' Nigeria medical survey team, composed of Rev. Tom Duke, Dr. Maynard Jacobson, Dr. David Thompson, Jay Johnson, Linda Van Ryn, and Gary Sande, departed with the other members of the Minneapolis Area Synod (MAS), ELCA, Companion Synod delegation en route to visit the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN). Nearly a year in planning, the visitation affords GHM its first direct encounter with the Nigerian Church and its health ministry, and the opportunity to evaluate and plan together for future support of health care programs with the leadership of the Minneapolis Area Synod. The medical team has had very informative visits to view the Church's work to help villages obtain clean water, and many clinics and hospitals, including one in the city of Dempsa whose construction was initiated by Mt. Calvary Church in Excelsior, MN.

The travelers had wonderful opportunities to worship with members and leaders of the Nigerian Church, including a memorable service of welcome at the cathedral church in Abuja. During the service, Archbishop Nemuel Babba quoted from the first chapter of the gospel of John where Jesus says "Come

and see." The archbishop invited his American guests to come and experience what the LCCN and the people of Nigeria have to offer. Bishop Craig Johnson of the MAS responded by telling those gathered that the Minneapolis Area Synod and the ELCA have so much to learn about evangelism from their brothers and sisters of the LCCN. Through song, prayer and hospitality, the Nigerian hosts overwhelmed the delegation with their love for Christ and brothers and sisters from their companion Church who had made the trek to their country.

According to comments on the Synod's website (nigeria06.blogspot.com/): *We go to Nigeria to experience Christ walking with our brothers and sisters of the LCCN and to join them in this journey. Even though we are unworthy of this privilege, we all go confident in the knowledge that "we walk with one another in a journey where the presence of God is revealed to us. God in Christ accompanies us in the fellowship of word and table."*

At Global Health Ministries, we pray for a safe and successful journey for our medical team and the larger MAS delegation in Nigeria. Through this and other initiatives, we work to establish and strengthen the healing ministry of Christ as a gift of grace to be trusted.

Rev. Tim Iverson



Members of GHM medical survey team visit the Dempsa hospital and clinic whose initial two rooms were built by Mount Calvary, Excelsior

Update on Biomedical Repair

The last edition of Global Health featured an article on volunteer biomed engineers needed to evaluate and repair donated medical equipment. The need continues, so if you are retired, or will soon retire, or know of someone who has the experience and interest, please contact the GHM office immediately. To support this expanded work, a comprehensive list of tools and supplies has been identified and budgeted for \$1,000. Please consider making a donation to cover these expenses so that our volunteers have the tools they need to help the hands that heal. To learn more, please visit the GHM website at www.ghm.org.

The B-line

by Bea Haagenson



Grace, Opportunity, and Global Health Ministries

B-line New Year's Reflection:

2006 was an unusually busy year at GHM. There was the continued remodeling of the new part of the warehouse, the handling of increased incoming deliveries of donated supplies, keeping up with sorting, shipments and related office and inventory functions. And then there was the day in April when the building expansion was made official at a ribbon cutting ceremony. That was a 'Hallelujah Event' that contributed to another *Hallelujah Year* for Global Health Ministries.

So where do we go from here? And what are our challenges and needs for 2007? The challenges include an expanded shipping schedule, decision making regarding funding of projects, and having enough willing hands to keep up with the warehouse activities. **It is by God's grace that we have been given the opportunity to serve in this very meaningful ministry.**

During 2006 we have experienced a growing volunteer force and are thankful for anyone who has become part of the GHM family. So what is missing? At the same time as we appreciate the one-time or occasional volunteers we also pray for more "regular" volunteers who can take part in the responsibility of the day-to-day functions. For some of our volunteers the mission of GHM has become a "retirement career" - a meaningful and challenging opportunity to serve one or two days a week. Are you looking for this kind of opportunity? Stop by and spend a day with us. Quoting Philip when he said to Nathanael:

"Come and see for yourself!"

Read any good books lately?



I suggest "*Joy in Divine Wisdom*" by Marva Dawn, theologian and author of several books. It is excellent reading plus all the royalties from the sales are donated to Global Health Ministries. We thank Marva

Dawn for her wisdom and generosity. The book is available in most book stores.

Thank you for a great year 2006 and best wishes for a blessed New Year.

HealthEast and Global Health Ministries partner in care and service to Iraqi civilians

Dr. David Hale, a HealthEast physician at the Woodwinds Hospital Emergency Room, is currently serving with the Minnesota National Guard in Iraq. In hopes of building trust between Iraqis and members of the Guard, Dr. Hale requested that HealthEast collaborate with Global Health Ministries to put together first aid kits and maternity care kits. These kits will be given to Iraqi civilians to whom Dr. Hale and his colleagues have been teaching first aid.

HealthEast is partnering with Global Health Ministries to carry out a core value: passion for caring and service. Currently, HealthEast donates surplus medical supplies and equipment to Global Health Ministries that are used on shipments from the organization to mission hospitals around the world. On Tuesday, November 14, a group of staff from the HealthEast hospitals and clinics came together to sort, package, and catalogue supplies at the GHM warehouse. Since this volunteer activity requires little medical knowledge, employees have been encouraged to bring family and friends. Many of the staff at HealthEast have responded with enthusiasm and sincere interest.



The range of experience in service and volunteering varies within the group of HealthEast volunteers. Some of the volunteers are interested in eventually donating their medical skills and time in the form of an international mission trip, while others are participating in order to introduce their children to the idea of volunteer service. Since this volunteer opportunity is open to all staff, the HealthEast Global Health Project will promote interactions between staff who normally would not work together in the same area.

For more information, please contact GHM at 763-586-9590, or Caroline Martin at 651/232-0064 (clmartin@healtheast.org).

GHM Benefit Concert Planned

On **Sunday, January 7th at 4:00 pm**, Benjamin and Christopher Kumpula, faithful members of the GHM warehouse Tuesday volunteer crew, will offer a concert to benefit Global Health Ministries at **Grace Free Lutheran Church in Maple Grove, Minnesota**. Ben and Chris are unique as GHM daytime volunteers who are also high school students doing home schooling. They enjoy the freedom this affords to volunteer for Global Health, and indeed, make their service a part of their program of learning. The two have entertained as vocalists for a number of years as the "2 Singing Knights", and since joining GHM, have been wanting to use their gifts to support the mission. Grace Free is located at 15655 Bass Lake Road in Maple Grove. Call 763-463-2300 for directions. Admission is free, but a free-will offering will be taken.



L-R, Ben and Chris Kumpula

2006 final shipment: "It's a doozy!"

The 14th shipment for 2006 was loaded on December 16 and included supplies and equipment for the new hospital in Arusha, Tanzania (Arusha Lutheran Medical Center), Selian Lutheran Hospital, KCMC (Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center), and dispensaries in the Diocese of the Arusha Region. The shipment was significant not only because it included four ultrasounds (from East Africa Foundation and Assist International), three anesthesia gas machines, laparoscopic equipment, two surgical tables (from Lutheran Medical Center in Wheat Ridge, CO), seven ICU beds (from Trinity Medical Center in Rock Island, IL), motorized x-ray film illuminator (from Intellamed in St. Louis, MO), hospital mattresses (from Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, MN), and many boxes of basic medical supplies, but that funds became available to cover the ocean freight expenses. Shipments to Tanzania are expensive with average costs running between \$12,000 to \$14,000 each for door-to-door service and customs clearance. A new clearing agent has been identified and these costs are anticipated to be

reduced by 25%, starting with this shipment. We praise God for the donors that came forward to cover this shipment and for the continuing support for the Diocese in Arusha Region by the ELCA Northern Illinois Synod.

A final note for this shipment is the inclusion of the entrance sign for Arusha Lutheran Medical Center. A beautifully



colored 4ft x 4ft aluminum sign designed and machined by Clinkenbeard in Rockford, IL, featuring the classic logo of a Maasai over a red cross with white background. Ronald Gustafson, President of Clinkenbeard, explained that the logo was taken off the Selian website and converted to a CAD program, where the image was enhanced and enlarged. Multiple sheets of

aluminum were powder-coated and joined together with love and talent to lift high the health care ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Before shipment to GHM, members of Grace Lutheran Church in Rockford, IL, held a service to bless the sign and taped to it little notes saying *Mungu akupenda*, or God loves you.



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GHM Hosts Kenyan Visitors

Global Health Ministries is blessed to receive many visitors from around the world who are partners in ministry, and in early December, it was a unique delegation from Kenya. Near the end of a two week itinerary and suffering from the sting of a Minnesota cold snap, the group was looking forward to returning home, but celebrated the visit with joy and thanksgiving as a meeting with brothers and sisters whom they had often thought and prayed about, but only now were meeting for the first time. Twin Cities native, Paula Meyer, who organized the meeting, couldn't have guessed that connections already existed between GHM and the group. Actually, GHM Executive Director, Rev. Tim Iverson, recognized one of the visitors as the bishop of the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC), whom Iverson had met during his first week of work for GHM in May of 2002 while attending a conference on HIV/AIDS in Nairobi. Bishop Zacharia Kabuthu said that the commitments made at that conference by African Church leaders over four years ago had become the heart of his ministry in "breaking the silence" about HIV/AIDS, preventing its spread and caring for those affected. These commitments later formed the basis of GHM's own HIV/AIDS Initiative. It was for that very reason that the visiting ecumenical group formed years ago to enhance their impact in the ministry, and were now at GHM. Composed of representatives from the Anglican Church in Kenya, the KELC (a partner Church with the ELCA), and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya (a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod partner), they had combined forces to develop services in support of AIDS orphans, now estimated to have reached

twelve million in Africa. They had come to Global Health Ministries to learn how they might develop a common proposal for this mission. The group was excited to learn that GHM would welcome and encourage such an initiative.



Kenyan delegation to GHM, pictured left to right, Rev. Canon Rosemary Mbugo (Anglican Church of Kenya); Scott Lien, GHM Director of Operations; Deacon Eliaika Oruko (ELCK); Paula Meyer; Bishop Zacharia Kabuthu (KELC); Very Rev. Enos Omodhi (ELCK); Rev. Peter Ndungu, Kenya Organizing Project, KELC; and Rev. Tim Iverson.