



Global Health Ministries

Helping the hands that heal

Sharing news with our partners

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From “Breathing Space” . . .

By Pastor Doug Cox, Executive Director

“It’s very exciting. We’re just not seeing the pathology that was there a decade ago,” Dr. Steve Friberg recently told GHM volunteers and staff. Steve, a long-time missionary among the Maasai in rural Tanzania, was commenting on the impact of vaccinations on health across the country. He explained that thanks to broad efforts by USAID, the Gates Foundation and others, certain diseases are literally disappearing. These vaccination programs contribute to positive change that lasts even when the aid is removed. This is sustainable development.

GHM participates in sustainable development programs like vaccination programs at the level of implementation. For example, hundreds of our partners’ clinics and hospitals are distributors of vaccines in remote locations. Our partners, who understand their work as a call from God, can often reach more people than government counterparts because their communities trust them. GHM helps sustain these facilities with gifts of equipment, supplies, and even scholarships to educate new medical professionals. Our work helps the hands that heal, and helps keep their doors open.

Although some of what we do together may seem like a “band-aid,” Dr. Terence Wood, a Research Fellow at Australian National University,¹ suggests that work like this creates “breathing space” for our partners. The assistance we offer actually helps hold institutions together over time, providing ‘breathing space’ for sustainable development to take place through many complex factors.

. . .to Sustainable Development

Of course, we also strive directly for sustainable development. Empowering community-based efforts to promote health is one expression of this. Elbina Fere, one of 114 Nigerian volunteers, creates sustainable outcomes when she teaches her neighbors about healthy pregnancy, malaria, and sanitation. Behind the scenes, GHM funds the programs that train and gather an array of volunteer health workers in Nigeria, El Salvador, and Tanzania. Similar efforts are beginning in Madagascar, South Sudan and Liberia.

Our consulting ministry, GHAP (Global Health Administration Partners), focuses enormous efforts on helping our partners strengthen their health systems. At the level of national and regional leadership, GHAP brings high-quality consulting to improve our partners’ long-term ability to provide health care and health promotion for their communities.

Every gift to GHM makes an impact, from breathing space as we help the hands that heal to directly reaching sustainable outcomes. The foundation and fruit of all our efforts is a deep love of God in Christ with concrete expressions of that love around the globe. Thank you for your partnership in this vital ministry.

¹ Terence Wood, “Band-aids, breathing space and aid which works,” DevPolicyBlog, June 17, 2011



Health workers in the Central African Republic bring immunization by motorcycle to people in remote areas, carrying precious vaccines in a cooler on the back of their bike.



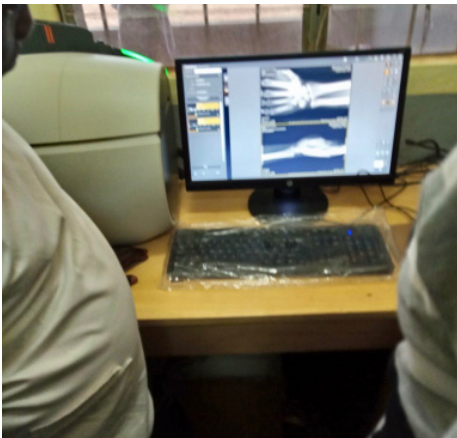
Volunteer health workers in Nigeria are improving health and creating sustainable outcomes as they teach their neighbors about healthy pregnancies and monitor growth and malnutrition in children. Measurements tell the story.

Shipping Update

By Scott Lien

Warm greetings from Ngaoundere. I would like through these pictures to inform you that the printer of the digital x-ray of Ngaoundere Protestant Hospital has been installed and the personnel of both the radiology department and the maintenance service have been trained for its use. The x-ray films are now perfect and is allowing us to better take care of patients. We want to thank you again for the ongoing support and reassure you that we will make good use of it. Stay blessed.

*Dr. Simon Aroga, Director,
OSEELC, Cameroon*



In close partnership with the Cameroon Healthcare Development Program (CHDP) of Duluth, MN, GHM was able to purchase this digital x-ray printer last month for Cameroon. We're also grateful for a company in Cameroon

that assisted with installation and training, and will continue to support the hospital as needed. Another way we get to help the hands that heal - connecting local resources for our partners!

The Cameroon Healthcare Development Program (CHDP) is formally changing its role in 2020. Founded in 1998 by Drs. Martha and Hans Aas, CHDP has facilitated the exchange of medical professionals, mutual learning and respect, cultural appreciation and many lasting friendships between Minnesota and Cameroon. It also facilitated financial support for many activities and building projects at the Cameroon medical facilities and partnered with Global Health Ministries to obtain and ship medical supplies and equipment to Cameroon. At the end of 2019, however, CHDP will let go of its identity as a separate non-profit organization and transition into a GHM Partner Advocate role for Cameroon. We look forward to working closely together for years to come!

Vision Trip

By Kim Dickey

Pastor Doug (GHM's Executive Director) and I recently returned from a GHM-hosted "Vision Trip" to Madagascar, visiting our partners and celebrating important milestones with them. As I consider all we saw and did, I ask myself what is the story I want to share from this experience? Is it the 40th anniversary of SALFA, the Lutheran healthcare system in Madagascar? GHM was honored to be recognized as an important partner by SALFA. I was struck by the deep connection people feel to this work. It is, indeed, a calling. Intense competition in the soccer tournament pitting one SALFA facility against another is one expression of this (Ejeda won! Ejeda pride!), but it is a thread that ran through the entire Jubilee, connecting SALFA employees who came from all across the island to celebrate, and connecting us as partners in a shared mission.

Is it the story of Manambaro Hospital's 65th birthday party? Another wonderful celebration, focused on the rich history

of this important hospital in southern Madagascar, as well as their vision for the future.

Or is it the story of the new clinic at Ambohimahazo? We were "wowed" by the new clinic, not quite open but close to completion. This clinic will serve local communities who have not had access to healthcare, and also be a practicum site for students in the new Community Health Nurse (CHN) certificate program at SEFAM, the Lutheran School of Nursing. The program is just launching, so more to come on this important initiative in Madagascar but for now, kudos to the Malagasy team for this impressive new SALFA health facility.

Is it the story of the health center in Tulear, the first SALFA facility to digitize patient records? Or is it the story of Ejeda Hospital? We celebrate with Ejeda the water that has brought new life and hope to the hospital. There are challenges still, but there is water.

Or is it the story of Lutheran mission in Madagascar? Some of our fellow travelers had deep personal connections to that story. Others were simply interested to explore with us (yes, we saw lemurs!), but our band of travelers was connected by curiosity and compassion. New relationships were formed, even as we nurtured our deep existing relationships in this beautiful place.

GHM is considering hosting another Vision Trip in the next 18-24 months. Stay tuned!



*Lunch al fresco,
Nahampoana Nature Reserve*

The B-line

By Bea Haagenson



We appreciate our volunteers - without them this ministry wouldn't be possible! And we learn from them. Volunteers have led us into an important change for our Newborn and Hospice Kits. We are transitioning away from using plastic ziploc-type bags for our Kits, and instead will be sending them in **pillowcases**. We think pillowcases are a better, more planet-friendly choice, and we know they will be gratefully received overseas.

We also know that many groups "buy ahead" to get the best prices as they prepare for these service projects. If you have already gathered plastic bags for Newborn Kits or Hospice Kits, please use them! We will continue to accept Kits in bags, but we hope going forward you'll join us in caring for creation by sending Kits in gently-used pillowcases (or secure with twine). Rather than identifying each Kit as Newborn or Hospice, you can simply identify the type of Kit on the outside of the box or bag you send them in.

Global Problems, Local Solutions: How Do Our Partners' Gardens Grow?

By Rob Thames, FACHE, FHFMA, Director of GHAP

Instead of dampening spirits, rain nourished the perspectives of participants at the 2019 Global Health Ministries Annual Conference on October 5. Insight grew from Rev. Concepcion Vanegas' story of how the development and support of community health workers (CHWs) in El Salvador has improved the health of communities there over the past decade. Understanding blossomed as Rev. Dr. Soliette Lopez shared how her parish communities spread the seeds of Community Based Primary Healthcare (CBPHC) from El Salvador to Nicaragua.

Locally grown health systems complemented these global views. Central Minnesotan David Tilstra, MD, from CentraCare, discussed how they are using the National Malcolm Baldrige Excellence framework to engage the community in health improvement. Christina McCoy, of M Health Fairview, shared how they are partnering in their service areas to nurture budding, health-giving relationships. A panel of these speakers plus Michelle Heerey, Executive Director of Wellshare International (which uses a CHW model to help Somalis, Tanzanians and others to improve health) and GHAP consultant and professor Magdeline Aagard, who has extensive experience in CBPHC, tilled the discussion soil. Despite differences in resource availability between our countries, similarities between the principles and applications to improve health through community partnership were striking.

The panel concluded that the biggest common challenge may be the lack of a business model for health. In many countries there is payment for care for the sick and injured, but not for prevention. Until this disconnect is addressed, the reimbursement economics of health and disease prevention remains a challenge. It is primarily due to the generosity of philanthropists like you that efforts that actually prevent disease and reduce the demand for healthcare bloom. Thank you!

A Gallery of Graduates

By Kim Dickey



In Madagascar recently I met a number of graduates from SEFAM, the Lutheran School of Nursing. Pictured below from left to right are Vasty (far left), who officially became a nurse on November 8th, along with two enthusiastic midwifery graduates. Vasty is hoping for placement as a surgical nurse at a Lutheran hospital in the next few months. Sosoa, lab technician at Ejeda Hospital, is pictured next. Benhazir, in the third photo, is a SEFAM-trained nurse at Ejeda, and has recently had additional training in radiology. Ejeda is grateful for the x-ray machine received with the last GHM shipment; Benhazir's training is critical for bringing imaging capability to the hospital. The last photo is of Anissa, a midwife, and Hego, a nurse. Both are working at Ambohimahazo Clinic, eagerly anticipating additional training in the Community Health program.

GHM provides financial support to SEFAM, including for scholarships that help students like these complete their studies. Each of them will be a gift to their community, bringing much-needed skilled healthcare to hospitals and clinics across the island. *Your* gifts to GHM's Education Fund make raising up future health leaders possible in Madagascar, Ethiopia, Tanzania - and so we thought you should meet these students, too. We join them in saying: "Misaotra betsaka!" Thank you!





Email: office@ghm.org • Web: www.ghm.org
763-586-9590

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES
7831 Hickory Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55432-2500

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Welcome!

GHM is blessed with a talented, committed Board of Directors. We welcome four new members in 2020!

Ken Borle, former Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, has generously shared his expertise in nonprofit financial management with various organizations throughout his career, including GHM. He has previously served as Chair of our Finance Committee, a role he takes on again in January.

After college, **Sarah Brock** spent a year in Rwanda as a volunteer with Young Adults in Global Mission, an ELCA program that creates opportunities for a year of international service. As a “YAGM” Sarah found her passion for health care, cultural competency and church leadership. She is a Family Medicine Physician Assistant in Pine Island, MN.

Fehy Rabemahefa is a missionary kid who grew up in his native Madagascar as well as Tanzania. A Business Systems Analyst at Medtronic, he has also volunteered at GHM working on donated computers that are sent out from the warehouse to partners overseas. Fehy brings a heart for mission and a deep understanding of Global Health Ministries’ impact for international partners.

Regina Seabrook is an educator and advocate for educational equity and anti-racism/anti-bias initiatives, currently serving as Program Manager for Professional Development for Equity Alliance MN. Regina sits on the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Community Accompaniment Table, of which she is a co-founder, and currently serves as President, Women of the ELCA, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Rochester, MN.

