



Global Health Ministries

Newsletter

Because all people should have access to a healthy life. PPE continues to arrive from GHM for partners around the globe.

Prepare a Way



Archbishop Musa Panti Filibus of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria and President, Lutheran World Federation, chose to be publicly vaccinated to encourage Nigerians to prepare for the pandemic to reach their communities, and get the COVID-19 vaccine.

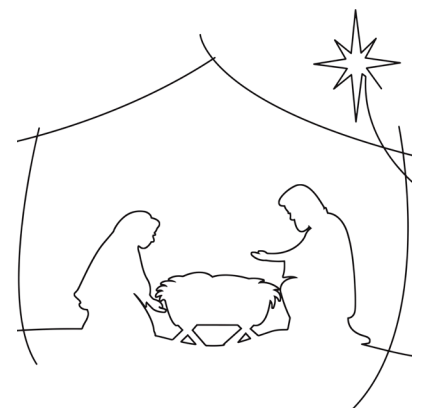
December and the season of Advent are upon us ... a time of

preparation as we focus on awakening to the presence and call of God. Such a theme is not uniquely about Bible reading, songs of worship and prayer. In fact, Christ seeks to awaken us to turn toward our neighbor, toward the "least of these," and our preparations for serving Christ are meant to be nothing short of seeking ways to find justice, equity and concrete expressions of love for all.

COVID-19 has highlighted how poorly prepared we really were as nations and individuals for such a pandemic. Yet, we've learned enormous amounts, and responded with compassion informed by science. With your help, GHM

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



~ continued from page 1



Sustainable health development in Nigeria, as volunteer Village Health Workers learn to make shampoo & soap.



A Community Health Nurse in Madagascar sees patients in a community clinic and runs a volunteer community health worker program for surrounding villages.



Spiny forests of cactus are the principal food in southern Madagascar after 4 years of drought. GHM is leading a path forward with deep wells coming in 2022.

responded, and continues to respond, to calls from around the globe for PPE, oxygen, support for community health workers, and even enhanced treatment facilities. We've linked hands in prayer as well, and engaged virtually in mutual encouragement with country partners around the globe. Thank you to each and every volunteer and staff member for your deep engagement, to professional researchers for continued insight, to generous donors that empower us to act, and for faithful prayer that moves mountains. All of these are vital, not simply in response, but as preparations to equip all of us for whatever comes next.

"We can no longer focus our understanding of disease transmission purely on the characteristics of a virus," noted the World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti. "COVID-19 operates within a social context which has a major impact on its spread."

In Nigeria, the most populous nation in Africa, Chikwe Ihekweazu, Director of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, notes that "In our part of the world, I've been talking a lot about access to public common goods. We don't have sufficient diagnostic capacity to scale up as rapidly as we would love to. If we had that, if we could build more equitable access to diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, we would solve most of the world's infectious disease problems."

GHM has always sought to partner with those who are marginalized and vulnerable. Yet, this December our partners in Nigeria and Madagascar specifically are seeking a three-year expansion of their community efforts to benefit the most vulnerable. In Nigeria, community-based efforts at disease prevention and improvements in maternal and child health are strategizing to double the annual impact from 50,000 to 100,000 by 2024. In the same period in Madagascar, the goal is to more than triple the annual impact of a new community health nurse program from benefitting 21,000 to 75,000. Meanwhile, GHM is leading efforts in southern Madagascar to bring sustainable access to water and nutrition among those who have perennially faced drought and malnutrition. In Tanzania, new community-based efforts in Lake Tanganyika Diocese are preparing to deepen in 2022, as are community-based efforts in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Preparation encompasses a wide range of efforts at GHM. But together, we are claiming this season with preparations that equip even the most vulnerable with access to a healthier life.

Rev. Doug Cox, Executive Director

Preparing for “Health for All” Success

“Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.”
~ Seneca, Roman philosopher

Leaders make their own “luck” by preparing well.

As we strive to help our Country Partners achieve United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, “Health for All,” we aim for the core health opportunity. SDG Target 3.2 is:

“By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births, and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.”

Despite significant progress on this keystone health goal, sub-Saharan Africa’s under-5 mortality rate is about nine times higher than that of European nations (WHO). **GHM Partner country Nigeria had the highest under-5 mortality rate in 2019**, an average of 117 children dying, per 1,000 live births, under five years of age.

Nigeria Partner LCCN established a Village Health Worker (VHW) program over a decade ago with support from

GHAP consultant Dr. David Thompson. Today, GHAP is engaged with LCCN leadership to help them prepare to improve health, particularly reducing under-5 mortality, over the next five years. Preparations include engaging local village leadership to assure focused goals and clear ownership, strengthening the infrastructure, including training of Village Councils, Mobile Team Leaders and VHWs to support these goals, and addressing sustainability factors such as leadership succession, measurement and improvement systems, and stage-appropriate funding sources. In short, LCCN is learning how to prepare an operating model that aligns with health outcomes, strengthens accountability and empowers action.

Through efforts like this with LCCN, your support targets the center of the bullseye for achieving SDG 3 Health for All: under-5 mortality. In this season of Thanksgiving, I am especially grateful for your support on behalf of those we are blessed to serve.



Rob Thames, FACHE, FHFMA, Dir. of GHAP

Shipping Manna!

Despite supply-chain challenges, including ocean freight delays, cost increases and limited containers, GHM is prepared to finish 2021 with 13 container shipments to our country partners - four more than last year! Praise God!

Preparations began in March, when GHM decreased warehouse stock to make room for new product. We prayed God would provide the right stuff at the right time and then, like manna from heaven, it appeared! Multiple 53’ trailers of donated PPE including face masks and shields, hand sanitizer, gloves and gowns! Over 2.8 million PPE-related items shipped in 2021, plus critical medical equipment such as ultrasound and digital x-ray machines, surgical tables and lights, patient monitors and more! We pray these items will help strengthen and build capacity for our country partners and offer protection for staff as they provide hope and healing for ALL in the name of Christ.

Scott Lien, Dir. of Operations

Vocation Preparation



GHM’s newly-elected Board VP and a longtime collaborator and supporter of GHM, recently shared this 1984 photo along with this reflection:

“When I was back in Madagascar with Peace Corps, after a 20 year absence, I was able to meet several of those students in (this) photo. Most have had long years of faithful service to SALFA and other health groups in Madagascar. We are very proud of the SEFAM students and the tremendous contribution they have made to the health of Madagascar and to the church.”

Congratulations to Lon, recently recognized by his alma mater with the Augustana University Alumni Achievement Award 2021. Lon’s training prepared him for a career in healthcare, including serving as State Epidemiologist for the South Dakota Dept of Health for nearly 20 years. His career became a vocation, as it has for so many SEFAM students whose training awakened a call to serve the most vulnerable, in Jesus’ name.

Kim Dickey, Dir. of Communications

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GHM in El Salvador

Since 2008, GHM has partnered with the Lutheran Church in El Salvador to support a vital health promotion program, helping mobilize a network of community volunteers committed to improving the health of their neighbors. Ongoing education and workshops help prepare them with information to prevent and treat illness and injury. Alicia is one of these committed volunteers.

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Alicia



Alicia, from Carasucia, El Salvador, is a volunteer Community Health Promoter. Mom to two older children, she works for an organization that cultivates the forest for clean water. Alicia volunteers for the GHM-supported health promotion program with Rev. Conchi because there are no health clinics in her area and in

an emergency, she says, no one knows what to do. She recently told GHM's Director of Philanthropy, Ceallaigh Anderson Smart, that she loves this program and would highly recommend it because they teach people how to make medicine with natural resources found in their area, such as local plants. They also teach how to grow and take care of these plants. Many people don't have any money, and can't afford to buy medicine. All other health programs she has seen only teach people to go to the pharmacy for certain ailments. This is the only one she has seen in El Salvador that helps those in extreme poverty live better lives. Ceallaigh's recent trip to El Salvador marked GHM's first in-person Country Partner visit since the pandemic.