



Because all people should have access to a healthy life.  
*Photo from Nigeria, a community well.*

Global Health Ministries

# Newsletter

## 35 Years: A Well-Watered Garden



To “spend yourselves for the hungry” means more than a passing interest or a few dollars pushed through a car window while stopped at a traffic light. At GHM, God’s call “to spend yourselves for the hungry” has led to 35 years of

engagement with underserved communities who have little access to food, water, and other basic needs to live a healthy life.

In Madagascar it has meant partnership with SALFA, the Lutheran health system in that country. SALFA was founded by Stan and Kathie Quanbeck, 40-year missionaries in Madagascar, walking with the most needy in the name of Christ. Kathie sought to identify with the poorest where they served, including village prostitutes, and often chose a seat in church among the seats where the poorest would sit. In some communities, prostitutes were referred to as “children of the Quanbecks.”

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*If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then ... The LORD will guide you always ... You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.*

*~ Isaiah 58: 9-11*





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A Community Health Nurse shares the importance of handwashing with a traditional birth attendant, Ankaramalaza, Madagascar.



Dr. Amon Marti, Medical Director of Selian Lutheran Hospital, Arusha, Tanzania.



Celebrating new life at Phebe Hospital, Liberia.

Today, this spirit still shapes SALFA, which manages over 50 hospitals and clinics, plus a growing number of community-centered health networks. GHM has walked with SALFA for our entire 35-year history. Stan would say assisting SALFA is why he and Kathie worked to help found GHM in the first place. In January, 2022, Kathie went home to Jesus. Within 10 days of her death, memorial services were observed at SALFA facilities all across the nation of Madagascar to celebrate “Mom-Katie” and the generations still being impacted by her life ... a well-watered garden.

GHM partners with servant leaders in many countries. Like Dr. Amon Israel Marti in Tanzania, whose leadership of Selian Hospital is resulting in a “turn around” with sustainability and quality healthcare, thanks in part to an ongoing consultation with GHAP, the consulting arm of GHM. From consultants to grants, to decades of annual shipments of masses of medical equipment and supplies, GHM partners with Dr. Amon and the staff at Selian Hospital ... as they spend themselves for the hungry. Over the past few years, Selian staff have been known to gather free will offerings among themselves to pay the medical bills for some of the most vulnerable patients. Another glimpse of well-watered gardens.

“I think we should be telling you thank you, because you are the engine, the driving engine behind these hospitals!” These were the words of Dr. Sibley, Medical Director of Phebe Hospital in Liberia, as we spoke in the fall of 2021 about both Phebe and Curran Hospitals. It was here in 1987 that one of these two hospitals received GHM’s first-ever grant, for a community-centered health project. Still partnering 35 years later, we have shared strategic gifts of medical supplies and equipment valued literally at well over a million dollars, to walk with these hospitals through war, Ebola, COVID-19 and persistent poverty. Although GHM is a partner, it is the servant heart of the mission-minded staff at both hospitals that make these words of Dr. Sibley so poignant, “People know when they come to Phebe [or Curran] they will never turn them back.”

These are just a few of GHM’s partners. Each one spends themselves for the hungry, in order to break the yoke of oppressive poverty, and each has become a well-watered garden. I write today to thank each of you who support this ministry, and spend yourselves for the hungry from where you sit today. Thank you for partnering together with communities around the world.

*Rev. Doug Cox, Executive Director*

# Priming the Pump for Health

Water is fundamental to health. To tap the well water, we often need to “prime the pump” to stimulate or jump-start the flow. Leadership is fundamental to global health development. To tap the headwaters of health, we often need to elicit leadership within the community to enable health development to flow.

For the most recent one-third of the past 35 years of GHM’s history, GHAP has focused on priming the leadership pump for sustainable health. In 2021, GHAP partnered with Country Partner leadership in Cameroon, Tanzania (Selian Lutheran Hospital and Lake Tanganyika Diocese), El Salvador and Nigeria to empower health development. The focus of Cameroon and Selian was on financial sustainability of their healthcare system, while Lake Tanganyika, El Salvador, and Nigeria focused on strengthening community-based primary healthcare. We learned that the remote or virtual nature of this assistance is secondary.

While our partners must ultimately “carry the water,” all leaders need encouragement, catalytic energy and ideas, and a sound process to prime their pump. And all of this can be facilitated remotely when necessary.

Dr. Amon, Medical Director of Selian Lutheran Hospital (SLH), updated the GHAP team recently on how they have significantly closed their financial gap. SLH was able to “back” pay their staff for their work the prior month (December). SLH also gave each employee 5kg of rice at Christmas as a thank you for their work and patience when SLH had to delay payroll.

Many SLH healthcare workers enjoyed a nice rice bonus because of your support of GHAP to help SLH close their financial gap. Thank you for priming the pump for better health!

*Rob Thames, FACHE, FHFMA, Dir. of GHAP*



*So many bags of rice! Dr. Amon was pleased to be able to celebrate Selian’s financial improvement with a Christmas gift to dedicated staff.*

## 2022 Internships!



GHM’s summer Internship program is returning in 2022! We are actively seeking candidates who are interested in global health and would like to learn from and contribute in a nonprofit environment. Internships are available working with Supply Chain, Communications, Development and GHAP Directors. Know someone who might be interested? More information and applications at [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org), or contact Ceallaigh Anderson Smart at 763-586-9590, or [csmart@ghm.org](mailto:csmart@ghm.org).

## A Strong Board



35 years ago, GHM was founded by a group of people who believed that all people should have access to health, and acted on that conviction. GHM is led today by people who share that commitment. At the last Board meeting of 2021, GHM’s Board of Directors approved a new three-year strategic plan that they helped shape. Their engagement

with this organization is critical.

This year, we welcome back to the Board Rev. Sam Wolff, retired ELCA pastor and former missionary to Kenya and Tanzania. We also thank Peter Getts who has accepted a full (3-year) term on the Board. Peter has a particular passion for South Sudan but contributes his business acumen to help guide our work around the world. Thank you to all who serve on this Board - we’re grateful for your commitment, and your ardent advocacy!

“ I feel that I have truly been a part of something that ... has the tools and knowledge to help make lasting change WITH, and not FOR, its partner countries and organizations.   
~ Chloe, 2021 Summer Intern



**GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES**

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**Save the Date!**

*Imagine Change  
with us at GHM's*

**Spring Gala!**

Thursday evening

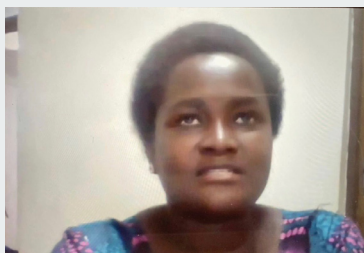
**May 12, 2022**

*We are planning for both an  
in-person and virtual event.  
Registration will open in April  
at [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org)*

Contact us at:

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**GHM in Tanzania**



The latest GHM container shipment to Tanzania arrived in January with 1,760 boxes of medical supplies and equipment for 12 different health facilities. From a digital x-ray film scanner for Kirurumo to infant incubators for the ALMC NICU, this was GHM's 114th container shipment to Tanzania. The first carried an autoclave to Selian in 1992.

The next container to Tanzania, arriving late February, will include PPE (masks and other personal protective equipment) to help protect Community Health Educators (CHEs) in Lake Tanganyika Diocese. During a recent videoconference this CHE shared

her experience piloting a cell phone application to empower her work. It's an exciting, potentially transformative project - an evolution of our continued engagement in Tanzania. As CHE Mashiku said, "After getting a phone, we are learning a lot of things. Because it is a smart phone there are a number of programs ... We need to learn more so that we change."