



Global Health Ministries

Helping the hands that heal

Sharing news with our partners

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For Such a Time as This ...

By Pastor Doug Cox



Waiting mothers at Musume Hospital

Visiting Zimbabwe this summer I was struck. Not just by the hospitals and clinics operated by our partners, or even the profound impact they make on new mothers who gather in huts on the hospital compounds as they prepare for giving birth. Not even the context of these Lutheran hospitals where 90% of the population is unemployed, where decades of violence and oppression have included genocide. Clearly there is profound need.

Yet what struck me most was a Christian movement (supported by the ELCA) stepping up to bring healing to deep divisions in their society. In the midst of a peace building workshop one woman stood up to speak:

"If I were to undress myself right now, you'd see the big scars on my body and wonder how I'm alive today. I was beaten and left for dead. I survived, but I've carried hate and anger

with me ever since. I've wanted to move on with my life...but I haven't been able. The men who beat me are sitting right here in this room. This workshop has helped me... My brothers, I have been searching for a way to let go...I need to forgive you, I forgive you."

One man stood up, looking utterly broken and afraid, "I'm sorry," he stammered, "What I did was wrong, and I didn't want to do it. Others forced me... ever since, I've been haunted by this thing I've done...Thank you for forgiving me..." With tears streaming, a victim and victimizer embraced.

After three days of this kind of sharing, all participants wanted to work together to do something positive for the community. Together they resolved to build a clinic in their village. Together they worked shoulder to shoulder to build their community clinic...in peace.

At GHM we partner to improve the health of whole populations in the name of Christ. Peace building and reconciliation are foundational for health, but it's not always on our minds.

GHM's new Director of consulting (GHAP), Stephanie Hope Smith, comes with a long history as a volunteer mediator. I asked Stephanie to share a few words here.

"As I watch the litany of conflict, strife and anger on the news I am struck by how we sincerely need something different. At this time in history, the world needs change agents who are willing to try something different. And that is my challenge to our GHM faith family. Can we pray more? Serve more? Listen more? Spend more time building connections?"

"Scripture teaches us in Matthew 5:23-25 'Therefore if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. Reconcile quickly with your adversary...' As we look to our circle of influence, let us pray more, listen more, forgive more, and have the courage to ask for forgiveness; then as we become more whole we will be able to serve more. Blessings as you find ways to share Christ's peace."



GHM is an independent Lutheran ministry enhancing the health care programs of Lutheran Churches in other countries.

What's New In ...

Tanzania: The Government of Tanzania just announced that Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC) won First Place in the national evaluation of hospitals for environment, hygiene, infection control and cleanliness. Hospital Director, Dr. Mark Jacobson, commented, *"This does much to raise national awareness about ALMC. It is rewarding indeed as the entire hospital is engaged in a year long effort to intentionally improve the quality of services provided at ALMC."*



Suitcase Ministry: Suitcase Ministry has impact everywhere travelers carry vital supplies. Recently Fairview's Medical Mission Team shared the following report from Vietnam:

"Thank you very much for taking time to go to Global Health Ministries in Minnesota last year. I collected so many useful things for poor Vietnamese patients in HCM city Oncology Hospital." My colleagues and I used endo GIA for our patients when we performed video-assisted thoracoscopy (we don't need to do thoracotomy with a long incision.)"



El Salvador: in September 2017 Sandy and Tim Iverson accompany Pastor Conchi from El Salvador to lead an initial training on First Aid and health promotion in Nicaragua. This comes as news of success from the Salvadoran Lutheran health promoters reached Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan Lutherans asked GHM to help bring the model to their country. Watch for more detailed news as we celebrate building on success!



Partners in Mission

By Scott Lien



Fairview Health and GHM have partnered together for many years. Generous donations from multiple Fairview sites have

enabled GHM to provide urgently needed medical supplies and equipment in support of our partners overseas. Volunteers from Fairview assist in GHM's warehouse, sorting medical supplies and helping to prepare and load containers. GHM staff are members of Fairview's Worldwide Medical Missions team.

Fairview travelers have gone to Vietnam, Tanzania, Zambia, Peru, and elsewhere, many carrying suitcases packed at GHM with medical equipment and supplies for hospitals and clinics overseas. Fairview staff are encouraged to apply for travel grants through Fairview's Worldwide Medical Missions.

Deep, meaningful, engaged relationships with partners like Fairview, North Memorial, HealthEast, Allina, and others, strengthen the work that we are called to do.

Shipping News

By Scott Lien



Back to School, Rally Sunday, Football Season, and GHM's Shipping Ministry kicks into high gear! A 40' container recently arrived in Zimbabwe, and two 40' containers are en route to South Sudan for the new Lutheran Community Center and Clinic in Juba. We praise God for the partnership with ELCA Global Mission, and others, to continue annual shipments to Zimbabwe, and now new shipments to South Sudan, bringing hope and healing to that troubled nation.

A 40' container will soon leave for Liberia in partnership with the Lutheran Church in Liberia, and following the success of GHM's first "centralized" shipment to Tanzania, two more are planned this year. These shipments will send x-ray, ultrasounds, c-arms, endoscope carts, surgical table, patient gurneys, and more to Tanzania. These "centralized" shipments are strategic and critical to GHM's mission, and an opportunity to engage and strengthen our relationship with multiple Dioceses in Tanzania and companion Synods here. Bwana asifiwe - praise the Lord!

And then Cameroon and Central African Republic! A 40' container is scheduled to load mid-October, in time for Dr. Simon Aroga's visit to GHM. Dr. Aroga is Director of OSEELC, the Health Department of the Lutheran Church in Cameroon. But requests from the 3 hospitals, 17 health centers, eye and dental clinics, and Emmanuel and Bohong centers in CAR, will easily fill *two* 40' containers. GHM has much of the medical supplies and equipment, but lacks funding to cover the shipping costs of the second container. Please pray and consider a generous gift in support of Cameroon shipping. Thank you!

Celebrating GHAP

By Stephanie Smith



GHAP Consultant Dr. Nesa Joseph

As we launch into another season, GHAP is firing on all cylinders as we review reports from consultations in 2017 and prepare the budget to align with GHM's long-term strategic plan. I am so thankful for the hard work by our cadre of professionals who invest weeks at a time with our partner hospitals, clinics and community based primary health care workers. They work together with the partner administrators to develop goals as well as plans to reach them, then provide support in a multiyear relationship. It's an amazing team of people who have chosen to voluntarily invest their skills and expertise to increase our partners' capacity, efficiency and effectiveness..

Please look to this section each month as we begin again publicly acknowledging GHAP consultants and our exciting new partnerships. Most recently **Nesa Joseph, Elizabeth George and Ben Cox** spent several weeks in June in Madagascar. **Magdeline Aagard** is preparing to go to South Sudan where she will work with **Dr. Mark Jacobson** to help a new local administrator launch a clinic as our first shipment of medical supplies arrives. The plan is to support a fistula repair training center for physicians to help address this women's health issue in a country with a very high incidence of this devastating condition. And just as a teaser -- our team focusing on metrics is working hard to ensure we will be recording the best data points; this will help GHM ask the right questions and scientifically measure outcomes as they relate to community health and strategic plans. Thank you for supporting this division of GHM with your prayers!!

Zimbabwe Visit

By Scott Lien

A recent visit to Zimbabwe was fast-paced and productive with time spent with leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ), listening and learning about challenges and opportunities with rural health care in Zimbabwe, hospital staff turnover, concerns with national elections next year, reconciliation and peace efforts, materials management, equipment maintenance, community-based primary health care, disease prevention, and more.



Waiting mothers at Masase Hospital

Newborn kits! As we visited each of the four ELCZ hospitals, we asked staff to highlight priorities and provide critical feedback on recent shipments from GHM. What we heard over and over again was send more newborn kits! Really? We expected to hear send more gloves, dressings, syringes, needles, suture, x-ray, ultrasound, blankets, sheets, surgical instruments, patient monitors, stethoscopes, microscopes, fetal dopplers, etc. And yes, these items were highlighted and are needed, but the number one item lifted up was newborn kits. Send more!

At Masase Hospital, this fact was driven home as we walked toward the maternity waiting homes, a safe and comfortable place for women to stay before giving birth. Several young women were resting on the ground, texting with their mobile phones and eating roasted peanuts. As we approached, the women laughed and quickly stood up to take pictures of us with their phones. And then they showed us their newborn kits, received as a gift from the hospital as they prepare to deliver their babies. Praise God!

Fall Conference



When GHM says it "helps the hands that heal" we recognize that healing of mind, body and spirit are inextricably linked, and that across the globe, GHM's efforts also enhance our partners' capacity to be everyday peace-makers, healing individuals and entire communities in places torn by conflict and even violence.

GHM's annual Fall gathering is focused this year on stories of peace building from three of GHM's international partners. Join us to hear updates on our work in Cameroon, El Salvador and Nigeria, and how that impacts the potential for peace among groups that are in conflict. Speakers include Dr. Simon Aroga, Director of OSEELC, the health system of the Lutheran Church in Cameroon, as well as Rev. Tim Iverson, former GHM Executive Director and Partner Advocate for El Salvador. The program starts at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 7, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, Minnesota.



Dr. Simon Aroga

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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GHM's Annual Fall Conference: Connecting Health and Peace



9 am - 1:30 pm, October 7, 2017
Calvary Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, MN
Register online at www.ghm.org, or call us at 763-586-9590