



# GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

*Helping the hands that heal*

Sharing news with our partners

Vol. 29 No. 1

Dec-Jan 2016

## Preparing the Way with GHM

By Pastor Doug Cox

*"Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him." Mark 1:2-3*

John the Baptist was a spectacle preaching in his camel's hair clothing. He drew people away from their daily routine, into a wilderness. Why? It was all to "prepare the way," by refocusing people so they could spot Jesus when He finally appeared.

How do we prepare to spot Jesus? It may help to pull away from the routine. Personally, I'm feeling very grateful for the ways GHM is helping to "prepare the way."

I don't even know his name. He lives in central Tanzania, and we met while visiting a widow with five small children and a positive HIV test. He visits every week. Sometimes he brings a Hospice Kit from GHM. Other times it's a small amount of food. Always, he brings prayer, a smile, and his own presence. His humility, faith, and service are helping me "prepare the way" to see Jesus this year.

She laughed! To think... she retired from a nursing career and now she



volunteers in a warehouse! But she volunteers at GHM every week. Why? Because, she's discovered that the "Spirit of the Lord is in this place."

At Global Health Ministries we are blessed with countless opportunities to spend time seeing and experiencing the Lord at work among us, around us, and through our partners every day. As we rub elbows, pack medical supplies, travel as consultants, share stories, coffee, laughter, and prayer...the "routine" around GHM offers many glimpses of the Lord at work.

How are you preparing to spot Jesus this Advent? I invite you to join in on the adventures and the community we share at GHM. Discover how this ministry refocuses lives on discerning the presence of Christ. Consider packing hospice kits with your family or small group, rolling bandages, and praying for a specific partner this season! Check out our website at [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org) for stories and loads of "action" ideas that "prepare the way" for us and for others, to spot Jesus in action!

## Shipping News

We have much to celebrate as we approach the end of 2015! Two 20' containers are en route to **Madagascar** – praise God! A new x-ray machine, TURP (transurethral resection of the prostate) equipment, vital signs monitors, large sterilizer, oxygen concentrators, suction pumps, surgical instruments, and more for Manambaro and Ejeda Hospitals! The shipment also includes basic medical supplies for sever-



al rural health clinics, and two complete dental suites for Vangaindrano and Tamatave clinics. The value of these gifts is over \$197,000! Dr. Heuric, Medical Director at Manambaro Hospital, greeted the news of the containers' departure with these words ... "misaotra tompoko" from the bottom of our heart.

**Continued on page 2**

## Shipping News Cont.

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Anoka, MN is passionate about DOCAS (District Outreach for Care and Support), a Christian ministry that serves marginalized communities, vulnerable children, and people with disabilities. In July, a team from Mt. Olive loaded a 40' container at GHM with basic medical supplies, crutches and wheelchairs. The container arrived in **Zimbabwe** on November 3, the same day a team from Mt. Olive arrived (small miracles!) to assist with unloading and distribution of these items.

Two 40' containers are en route to **Cameroon** in support of OSEELC, the Health Department of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon. GHM received detailed request lists from 3 hospitals, 17 health centers, and a dental and eye clinic, each partner asking for specific items and quantities. Volunteers worked hard to pull everything requested and put stickers with colored tape on each box to designate the final destinations. Over 4,000 boxes!



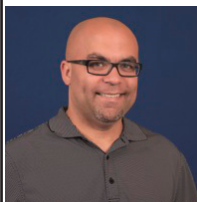
And our **suitcase ministry** continues with 87 suitcases to 23 countries around the world. GHM travelers to Ilboru Dispensary in Tanzania brought a new baby-weighing scale in their suitcases to Mama Mary Mollel to replace the one that was broken – thanks to those of you who helped make that possible! Traveling hands are at work, carrying life-saving supplies and equipment in support of health care programs that provide hope and healing to the world's poor in the name of Christ. Praise God!

Each of these shipments and suitcases sent newborn and hospice kits, rolled bandages and more supplies and



equipment than we can name here. We have much to celebrate and we give thanks for the many hands that collect these items, sort the supplies, refurbish the equipment, pack the boxes, load the containers, contribute funds to cover the door-to-door shipping costs, travel overseas, and pray over these shipments that help the hands that heal. Please consider a generous gift in support of our Shipping Ministry so that we may continue sharing our resources with those who have less. With your help, we can do even more in 2016! Thank you! Misaotra tompoko!

## GHM Welcomes New Board Members



**Kyle Jackson**



**Ismaila Juta**



**Mark Monson**



**Samuel Wolff**



**Donna Wright**

**Kyle Jackson** is Pastor of Children, Youth and Families at Incarnation Lutheran Church in Shoreview, MN. Kyle has led mission trips to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, and has served as Interim Pastor at Greenfield Lutheran Church in Harmony, MN and Director of Student Ministries at Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina, MN.

**Ismaila Juta** is currently pursuing an MBA and Ed.D in Leadership. Ismaila brings financial management and consulting experience to the Board, as well as public health experience through his involvement with his home church, the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria.

**Mark Monson** (M.D., F.A.C.P.) is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and a Medical Oncol-

ogist & Palliative Care physician at Essentia Health. Mark served in Liberia as a medical missionary through the ELCA from 1980-1993, working as Medical Director at Curran Lutheran Hospital for five years and as a member of the faculty at the Esther Bacon School of Midwifery and Practical Nursing. Mark also is a founding member of GHM. His father was the first GHM treasurer.

**Samuel Wolff** joined the Board in August to replace Rev. Doug Cox when he accepted the Executive Director position. An ordained Minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Sam has 32 years of mission experience in Africa, Europe and the United States, including work with street children, refugees, HIV/AIDS outreach, cross cultural ministry and in-

terfaith dialogue and seminar leadership. Sam also assisted in initiating a program for primary health hygiene training in Nairobi and served on the Board of Directors for Pangani Lutheran Children's Centre.

**Donna Wright** (RN, BSN) is a returning Board member and former Board President. One of the 50 founding members of GHM, Donna is currently serving as GHM Project Manager for Cameroon. She also brings short-term mission experience as a nurse in Madagascar, and is active with the ELCA's South Dakota Synod relationship with Cameroon. Donna specializes in Human Resources and Competency Assessment.



# Expressions of Love



Mama Joyce Mtinda greeted the Global Health Ministries container arriving at Iambi Lutheran Hospital in central Tanzania with flowers in her hand. They were a heartfelt expression of her gratitude. Inside the container were hospice kits for her patients.

Mama Mtinda directs volunteers in a Palliative Care Program that hand delivers hospice kits to people suffering from cancer, HIV/AIDS and other devastating illnesses. Her excitement is not only about the material items in these kits, but also because these kits empower her volunteers to connect with the patients. The contents themselves are simple but powerful expressions of love. As they make their home visits, these volunteers prepare a way for Jesus to enter. Those who receive these kits see Him in the GHM volunteers who prepare the kits, and the Tanzanian volunteers who bring them.

Currently, Mama Mtinda is responsible for 1,068 hospice patients. There are dozens of dedicated health workers like her in Tanzania as well as other countries where the Lutheran Church cares for the sick and dying.

GHM takes every opportunity to ask our partners if the contents of our kits are useful. One change for the future will be the type of soap requested, because the type of soap shared with hospice patients is especially important. Scented soaps can be irritating to brittle, sensitive skin and open wounds, and antibacterial soaps help keep

wounds clean. People receiving these kits often live in conditions where that is a challenge, so bacterial infection is a particular concern. You can download a full list and instructions for Hospice Kits on our website at [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org).

**With your help, GHM sent more than 4,100 Hospice Kits overseas last year!** In fact, we could have sent more. We need thousands!

*We've made some recent changes to GHM Hospice Kits, based on feedback from our partners. We ask that soap be unscented, antibacterial soap. Look for soap that is NOT labeled "deodorant soap." We have also taken the toothpaste and devotional out of the kits. Toothpaste has an expiration date, and customs officials overseas have become increasingly aggressive in searching and charging fines for expired items on shipments. Devotionals will be sent as a separate item, not included in the kits themselves.*

*If you or your group has been collecting these items for Hospice Kits, or they are already in Kits you have recently assembled, please send them on! We will gladly receive and distribute them.*

## In Loving Memory



Joann Toso was born in Brooklyn, New York of missionary parents on their way to Madagascar to serve the Lutheran church. She and her future husband, Dr. John Toso, grew up together in Madagascar as 'missionary kids'. They returned to serve at the Manambaro Lutheran Hospital in southern Madagascar from 1983-88. John and Joann were integral in the original vision and founding of Global Health Ministries. Together they have served in many capacities. Joann was a vital part of the development of Dodoma Christian Medical Center in central Tanzania, where John served as Project Director until 2007. A memorial service will be held for Joann on Saturday, Dec 12th at Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville, MN. Visitation at 10AM, Service 11AM, lunch to follow.

We thank God for Joann and other dear friends we've lost this year—we will miss them.

## Kairos Mission Appeal

KAIROS gifts are already helping GHM do more ministry! Our KAIROS Appeal is your invitation to build GHM's capacity to support health care programs around the world. Nearly 500 supporters have already participated with a gift to the KAIROS campaign – if you are one of them, THANK YOU!

Please help us finish strong! Consider fulfilling your pledge or participating with a donation of any size before the end of 2015. Every gift makes an impact. Thank you!



# Community Based Primary Health Care



*Children at a low-tech hand washing station.*



*A community toilet.*

## Toilets in Madagascar!

After one year of extensive efforts, GHM's project in southern Madagascar, AVIA, recently reported 80 villages are "open defecation free!" This means everyone in the village is using a latrine rather than relieving themselves in surrounding fields. Villagers themselves are building latrines! Not only that, the latrines are "fly-proof" and feature adjacent hand-washing facilities. The impact on community health is profound and represents a major breakthrough. For centuries, traditional taboos have kept these communities from ever daring to use the same place twice. This is a powerful example of community-based primary healthcare at work. Along with the toilet usage there are other foci including: maternal and infant health, cleaner burning stoves, hand washing, and clean water.

## Nigerian Health Leaders

Thanks to GHM, the new CEO of the Health Board for the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) just completed a certificate in CBPHC (Community-Based Primary Health Care) in Jamkhed, India! Two bishops of the LCCN also went to India in August for an immersion in this model. GHM continued the capacity building with a 3-week consultation from a Jamkhed staff member in Nigeria in October. These are major steps forward in integrating CBPHC into the whole system of health care. Special thanks to Dr. David Thompson of GHM who has guided this process. "A lot is being realized ... I believe things will be different henceforth," said the CEO, Mr. Emmanuel Sabiya.



*Mr. Jayesh (on the right) spent Oct. 2015 consulting in Nigeria*



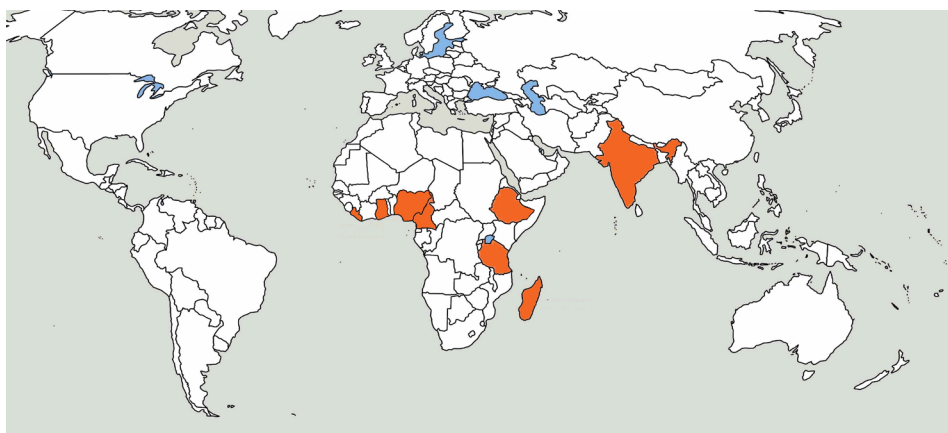


*As we enter 2016 please pause for a moment of reflection and prayer for peace and health in our world.*

Loving God, we ask for your help in bringing about peace among all people. As your children, we are bound to each other. Open our eyes and allow us to see our neighbors as our bothers and sisters. Bless our actions, that they may be the cause of peace and not injustice. Bless our lips, that they may speak your loving words in conversation with all people and be an avenue for change through prayer. Bless our hands that they may be instruments of healing. Amen.



Did you know that if you're an amazon.com shopper you could give to Global Health Ministries through your purchases? AmazonSmile Foundation gives 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. If you still have some holiday shopping to do, and will be ordering items from Amazon, we hope you'll consider supporting GHM through this program. To participate, go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and sign in as you usually would at the regular Amazon website. You will be invited to choose an organization, and that organization will receive a donation every time you purchase a product marked "Eligible for Amazon-Smile donation." You can find a link to the AmazonSmile site on GHM's website at [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org), under Take Action. You'll find this and more good ideas under "Creative Giving!"



## Where in the World is GHAP?

In January of 2016, GHAP Consultant Steve Laible will revisit Ngaoundéré Protestant Hospital in Cameroon. When Steve was there a year ago, he established a relationship with the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon, and the CEO of the Lutheran health system (OSEELC). He has been coaching the CEO via email and messages relayed by visitors across the ocean. Steve is eager to see the progress the new OSEELC Finance Team has made in their first year.

GHAP Director Cindy Wilke will be returning to Ilula and Iringa, Tanzania, in January. She will join Shoulder to Shoulder in providing a Continuing Medical Education Conference that allows teams from 28 mission hospitals in Southern Tanzania to come together for 2 days of management and clinical training. This Medical Education Conference provides unique, hands-on training, not widely experienced in Tanzania. This will be the first time hospital administrators join nurses and doctors on the mission hospital teams participating in the conference.

GHAP Consultants Linda Goergen and Louise Myers will be visiting Ndolage Hospital in Bukoba, Tanzania in February 2016. GHAP was asked to provide assistance with developing a strategic plan for the hospital. Linda and Louise look forward to working with the hospital leadership and governing body, local community leaders and citizens to make progress on building an action-oriented strategic plan with measurable indicators.

## The B-line

*By Bea Haagenson*



In 2007 GHM received a donation of toolboxes. It was an unusual donation, not really fitting into our shipping program of medical supplies. But deciding to use the tool boxes for something, we filled some of them with first aid supplies, decorated them with hand painted flowers, sent them overseas and then waited for a response. The response was "please send more." That was the start of our first aid kit program. Eight years, more than 500 kits and many refills later, we are still getting requests. Now having to buy the boxes and some of the supplies, we are asking our supporters to help finance the first aid kit program. Generally the cost of each kit - and the shipping - is about \$25. Can you help with this program? If so, please mark your check with "first aid kit" in the memo line.



*GHM travelers recently saw this first aid kit in use at Selian Hospital, TZ*

Email: [office@ghm.org](mailto:office@ghm.org) • Web: [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org)  
763/586-9590

## GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

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