



# Global Health Ministries

*Helping the hands that heal*

Sharing news with our partners

Vol. 30 No. 3

April-May 2017

## In the Shadow of Conflict

by Pastor Doug Cox

As February temperatures hit 95 degrees, I knew we weren't in Minnesota anymore. I was in Nigeria, where Bishop Ann Svenningsen and Rev. Bill Russell (of the Minneapolis Area Synod, ELCA), Rev. Dr. Andrea Walker (of Global Mission, ELCA) and I travelled to attend the inauguration of the new Archbishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN). Bishop Ann's words are telling:

*"...some 30,000 Lutherans gathered ... (it) was remarkable because it was held in an open field fewer than 40 miles from the 2015 Boko Haram bombing in Yola; fewer than 200 miles from 2016 church burnings and killings in the north ... I was overwhelmed and deeply moved by the witness of these Christians, publicly singing their love of Christ in the face of persecution."*



The public witness of this church is growing. On day 2 we ceremonially cut a ribbon, opening another witness to the love of Christ: a Training Hospital in Demsa, Nigeria. Many people already make this Christian hospital their hospital of choice. The kindness, faith

and integrity of the staff are palpable. Right now GHM is in the final stages of gathering funds to adequately equip the OR, radiology and maternity wards. Before Easter 2017 we pray we'll be able to fund, acquire and ship what they need.



Day 3 we visited 13 wells supported by GHM, in various stages of completion. Ahmadu greeted us as we entered one village. Grinning from ear to ear he explained why his 100% Muslim village was eager to link arms with the Christians. "We do not trust the government," he shared, "The government will come during the campaign period and deceive us saying they will do this and do that, but they will end up not doing it. We know this is a mission work and that's why we trust what you are doing. Even though we are Muslims we teamed up with the Christians because we know what the mission is doing here. The missions are serious people." To God be the glory!

Access to nutrition, clean water, sanitation, and decreasing the risk of malar-

ia are all parts of the agenda of LCCN Health Services. Each activity is a tangible expression of Christ's love. Village requests are spreading, asking the LCCN to partner in their communities. With GHM support, already more than 70 village health workers are trained and working. Another 2,300+ women Bible Study leaders teach about malaria every month. Efforts like these are changing health conditions at a grass-roots level.

In 2017 GHM is also partnering with the LCCN to build a Training Center: village health workers, well maintenance teams, nurses, Bible Study leaders and more should begin classes by October.

Conflict and persecution cast a lasting shadow over millions of Nigerians, yet Lutherans in Nigeria keep singing out their love for Christ in word and deed every day. You are part of this profound witness as together we "Help the Hands that Heal," in Jesus name.



## South Sudan



In Juba, the capital city of a new and deeply challenged country of South Sudan, the ELCA is building a community center and medical clinic. Global Health Ministries was asked to partner with the medical clinic by managing a shipment of “start up” equipment and supplies. While conflict rages and talk of “genocide” fills the news about South Sudan, GHM is honored to partner in this new nation. In our 30th year God continues to call us to new places to fulfill the mission of “helping the hands that heal.” Please remember the South Sudan in your prayers and gifts, and watch for news in the months ahead. *Photo credit: Oxfam East Africa*

## Our Little Engine



GHM's Suitcase Ministry is a small but powerful force for good in the world. We recently received a letter from Dr. Jonathan Ngoma, Hospital Director at Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe, Malawi, thanking us for a donation of staples for use in the surgical department. The donation was facilitated by Dr. Mordechai Gemer, who traveled to Malawi with two suitcases filled with surgical staples valued at 80 million Malawi Kwacha, or \$110,000 USD. Dr. Ngoma says the staples will be used free of charge by all Malawian patients requiring stapling procedures. Last year GHM's Suitcase Ministry sent 140 suitcases overseas, hand-carried by travelers to health facilities in 28 countries. Travelers packed everything from medical textbooks to surgical instruments in these suitcases. This little ministry can do amazing things!

## Bold Shipments Planned

by Scott Lien

As we celebrate 500 years of the Reformation, the words of Martin Luther still ring true today, “Faith is a living, bold trust in God’s grace, so certain of God’s favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God’s grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures.”

A special 40’ container is at sea, en route to Tanzania. This “centralized” shipment will arrive in Dodoma, in the center of that country, and the contents distributed to 10 different partners. This new type of shipment provides an opportunity for companion synods, congregations, and others to respond to specific requests from their partners – a pallet of newborn or hospice kits, an x-ray machine, ultrasound, or other items - without overwhelming the partner with a full shipment, and sharing the total shipping costs with others. We thank Dodoma Christian Medical Center for their partnership as consignee for this container – a **bold** pilot shipment, helping us discern how to reach smaller mission hospitals with needed supplies and equipment. Praise God!

We’re celebrating as we prepare another 40’ container, soon to leave GHM’s warehouse for Demsa Health Center in Nigeria. Despite threats from Boko Haram, the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria is steadfast in its commitment to provide hope and healing to ALL in the name of Christ. This shipment affirms our trust in these **bold** efforts by our friends in Nigeria. Praise God!

GHM is steadfast in its commitment to strengthen the healing ministries of our partners overseas by sending targeted, strategic items that will enhance their capacity to improve health and serve the poor. Shipments to Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Tanzania, Nigeria and more are planned in the next nine months, and Suitcase Ministry continues to grow. Please join us by helping us collect medical supplies and equipment, volunteering in the warehouse to sort and repair donated items, and most important, please consider a **bold** gift in support of GHM’s Shipping Ministry! Thank you!



Ward rounds at Iambi Hospital, TZ



A surgical table is going to Nkoaranga Hospital

We salute the women of the ELCA, Northeast Minnesota Synod, and RREAL for their bold vision and commitment to sustainable, reliable power for Phebe Hospital in Liberia. A team arrived at Phebe on March 22 to assist with installation of the recently-received solar equipment, sent in two 40’ containers by GHM.

*Most loving and abundant God, in your love for your creation, you provide sunshine that lights up our world and provides us warmth. You have given humankind the ability to capture the power of this sun. For this we are grateful! Your people in Liberia have longed for the impact of this knowledge in their healing ministry at Phebe Hospital. We give thanks for the loving people across America who have provided the resources needed for this project. Bless the hands of all who stand with us in making your mission a success.*

*We pray in Jesus’ name with thanksgiving. Amen!*

*- Bishop Seyenkulo, Liberia*

## Where is GHAP?

by Stephanie Smith



Global Health Administration Partners (GHAP) is one of the three legs to the GHM stool, providing expert consultants to assist staff at mission hospitals, clinics and dispensaries. This winter **Louise Meyers** conducted a strategic consultation to Tanzania in the Iringa Diocese, providing great insight and continuing relationship. **Bill Casey** went on a stateside mission to meet with African leadership who were in the USA for other meetings; he was instrumental to this process by sharing insight and creating clarity regarding a consultation relationship that was experiencing significant stresses. **Magdeline Aagard** continues to be a strong champion for GHAP and I am thrilled about her engagement in multiple projects including Pare Diocese in Tanzania. **Steve Laible** continues to be a tremendous resource and advocate for efforts to assist work in Cameroon.

**Cindy Wilke** has remained an invaluable resource through this transition year as she continues to invest herself with GHM. We are currently accepting applications for students in a Masters in Health Administration program to receive a scholarship in her honor to participate in a GHAP trip next January to Ilula, Tanzania.

Looking to the future, a new multi-year consultation to Madagascar is being headed by **Dr. Nesa Joseph** in June to help coach senior staff, implement/modify a strategic plan, conduct a financial analysis and discuss governance. We're excited that this trip will also include **Elizabeth Judge** (who holds an MBA from Harvard and a Masters in Social Work), and **Ben Cox** (part of a pilot to bring students along on consultations). I'm busy crafting strategies for measuring outcomes and am so thankful to **Dr. David Thompson** for his pas-

sion for Community Based Health Care and his willingness to introduce me to his contacts. Several other GHAP projects are in various stages so there is more to come!

It is exciting to be part of what God is clearly orchestrating through open doors to ministry partners around the globe.

## Simonette

by Kim Dickey



Two years ago a young woman in Madagascar received a scholarship through GHM to complete her final year of studies at SEFAM, the Lutheran School of Nursing in Mad-

agascar. Simonette agreed to serve at a rural health center after graduation. In January, 2016, she was placed at Vorehe, 122 km from Tulear. The road from Tulear is very poor, in places just a trail, in other places going through riverbeds. After six months, Simonette, 25 years old, became medical director at Vorehe. The doctor who worked with her when she arrived left for another clinic that had neither a doctor nor a nurse. The shortage of trained health workers is acute in Madagascar, especially in rural areas. The World Health Organization estimates that fewer than 2.3 trained health workers per 1,000 people is simply not enough to meet basic healthcare needs. The most recent studies estimate that in Madagascar there are about 3 health workers for 10,000 people.

Simonette says that "at the beginning of my new responsibility, I must admit that there were a few months of difficulty. Now, however, I have become accustomed to my responsibilities. Not only that, I am feeling more at home here all the time and thank the Lord for calling me to this place and in furthering our goals."

This work is hard, and the responsibilities are great - all medical work is up to Simonette, including deliveries. We're

thankful for the excellent training she received through SEFAM.

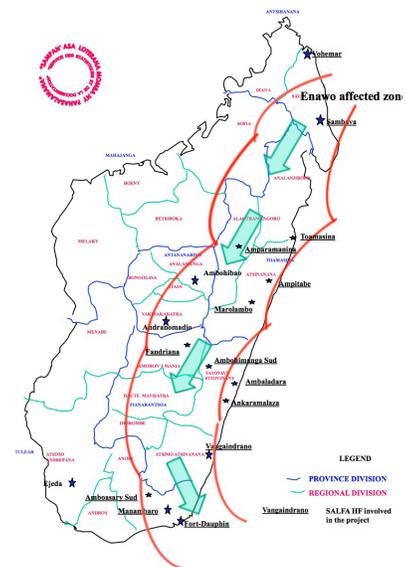
GHM provides scholarships for nursing and midwifery students through Lutheran Schools of Nursing in Madagascar and also Ethiopia. These young nurses and midwives sow seeds of change, improving health in their communities every day.



New mom and baby at Vorehe

## Cyclone Enawo hits Madagascar

The whole Eastern coast of Madagascar was ravaged by Cyclone Enawo in March. Our partner, SALFA, reports 300,000 victims and a spike in gastro-enteritis, malaria, typhoid and more. GHM is collecting donations to empower SALFA to provide free medicines and test kits (for malaria and typhoid), emergency food and water cleaning supplies, to repair medical facilities and offer other emergency relief through the Lutheran church network. **Please donate to Madagascar Cyclone Relief.**





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## Register Today!

Global Health Ministries turns 30 this year, and we're having a party! A fundraising Gala will be held at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest on Saturday evening, May 6. Doors open and a silent auction begins at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner, a live auction and program starting at 6:45.

Funds raised at the Gala will help GHM continue to sow seeds of change around the world, helping overseas partners make sustainable and measurable improvements in health care and community health.

We invite you to help us celebrate 30 years of impact. Register online at [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org), or call 763-586-9590.

## Global Health Ministries

### *Seeds of Change* Gala



5 / 6 / 17

Minneapolis Marriott Northwest  
7025 Northland Drive North  
Minneapolis, MN 55428

Doors open at 5:30 pm