



# Global Health Ministries

*Helping the hands that heal*

Sharing news with our partners

Vol. 29 No. 4

June-July 2016

## The Role of a GHM Partner Advocate

*By Pastor Doug Cox, Executive Director*

GHM “Partner Advocates” play a vital role in our ministry. A Partner Advocate is a designated contact person who communicates regularly with one of GHM’s many international health partners. These advocates often assist in identifying and lifting up local needs in ways that GHM can support. These advocates are specialists with both medical qualifications and mission experience. What each one shares is a heart and a call from God to “help the hands that heal” in a particular country.

Dr. Ruth Goehle is one of our GHM Partner Advocates for Liberia. GHM recently sent her to Liberia to advocate in person, but after decades of mission service there, Dr. Ruth has much more to share. In the adjacent article Dr. Ruth shares insights on two Liberian Lutheran Hospitals, their role and GHM’s support.

## Liberia, Ebola and GHM Today

*By Dr. Ruth Goehle, GHM Partner Advocate*



In March 2014, Liberia’s future changed significantly. Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) arrived. More than 10,600 people would be infected in Liberia, with over 4,080 deaths, including 192 health workers. More than 5,900 children lost one or both parents.

On May 9, 2015 Liberia was declared “Ebola-free” (meaning 42 days with no new patients or known contacts). Then there was another case. In September 2015, again Liberia was declared “Ebola-free”. But a new case continued the cycle. Again in February 2016 Liberia was “Ebola-free” until April 27, 2016. Ebola continues to infect small clusters of people, not just in Liberia, but across West Africa.

International health reviews of reasons for this West Africa outbreak stress inadequate health infrastructure and insufficient supply of health workers.

Two Lutheran hospitals in Liberia have played vital roles in fighting Ebola. Phebe and Curran Hospitals are important health facilities for Liberia, and both include training programs for health professionals. Both have been partners with Global Health Ministries for

decades. More than 30 GHM containers of medical equipment and supplies have been shipped to Liberia since 1989.

Phebe Hospital, with an EVD-diagnostic laboratory in place, is designated to serve as a regional referral center, to be prepared to receive patients for isolation with any future outbreak. Curran Hospital will also be on the front line of future responses. Neither of these GHM partners receives the level of support they had from other international partners during the Civil War and the first years after peace.

Supplies sent in GHM containers are essential for their support; funds are also needed for the additional laboratory and diagnostic equipment required to provide the services of a regional referral center. Both hospitals are seeking international volunteers to work alongside current staff in the hospitals, especially now for emergency and intensive care. Please consider volunteering! And please continue to support GHM’s vitally important shipping ministry!



*Dr. Jefferson Sibley, Medical Director at Phebe Hospital in Liberia, visited GHM in April and filled his suitcase with supplies for the hospital.*

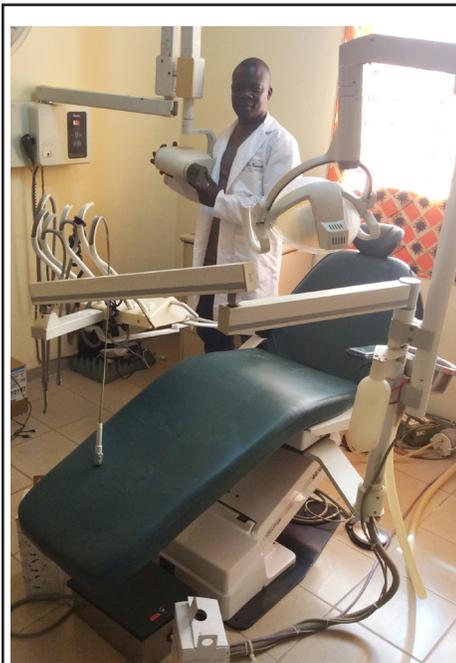
## Shipping News

The next container for Liberia leaves the warehouse the first week of June – an answer to prayer! This shipment sends key items to equip Phebe Hospital for its role as a Regional Referral Centre, including items for the Eye Clinic and microscopes and a centrifuge for the lab. A surgical table, anesthesia gas machine and patient monitors for Phebe, as well as items for Curran Hospital, will help build the capacity of these health facilities to serve our brothers and sisters in Liberia.

During her recent visit, Dr. Ruth Goehle noted Dr. Sibley's request for a washing machine for Phebe. Throughout the Ebola outbreak, laundry at Phebe had to be hand-washed because the hospital's washing machine was bro-

ken. How difficult, and dangerous! The situation continues until this container arrives. Instead of sending one machine we are sending three commercial grade washing machines with mechanical controls plus two dryers to accommodate the hospital's laundry needs. This solution also provides back-up and parts if a machine needs repair in the future. A floor-scrubbing machine for Phebe is also on this container. Not "sexy" medical equipment, perhaps, but critical to running a hospital that is safe for both patients and staff.

Other shipping news to celebrate – a 20' container is on its way to the Cancer Care Center at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in northern Tanzania. Hurrah!



Dental equipment installed in Voinjama at Tellewoyan Hospital in the northern part of Liberia, bordering Guinea. The equipment was organized by Dr. Lew Berge and John Schilling and shipped by GHM a few years ago. It's wonderful to see these dental suites and teams serving patients in Liberia!

## Come Volunteer!

Do you know a group or individual looking for a way to make a difference? Now's the time to introduce them to GHM! We are hosting **Volunteer Orientations on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.** Come and learn about GHM and explore what it's like to volunteer in our warehouse.

As we kick off the summer season, we're excited to welcome youth groups to sort and pack donated medical supplies, or help with quality control

checks on rolled bandages, for example. Some congregations send adult groups regularly to help sort and prepare items for shipment. All are welcome – no medical expertise required, just a heart for service! Contact John Scheck at 763-586-9590 to schedule a time to come in, or stop by for Orientation on the first Tuesday of the month!

*Right: Vacation Bible School activities at GHM!*

## The B-line



*By Bea Haagenston*

We have been encouraged to provide a review regarding supplies for kits and linen donations. Up-to-date handouts and instructions are also available on our web site ([www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org)).

**Bed Sheets:** We are in great need of sheets! White, twin-size sheets (flat and fitted, without stains or rips) are urgently requested by our partners overseas.

**Towels in Kits:** When assembling Newborn or Hospice Kits please include towels that are new or *gently* used. Towels should ideally be 48-52" long. Bath sheets and "fluffy" towels take up a lot of space in shipping, and don't dry well in warmer climates.

**Newborn Kits:** After much discussion, we have decided to remove the piece of muslin in future kits. If you have muslin pieces already prepared please send them on, but in the future please consider sending the sheets whole (especially useful for hospital beds), or using them to make rolled bandages.

**Reminder:** We love complete Hospice and Newborn kits, but if you have extra supplies, please send these as well and label as "kit supplies." We use them to "fill out" incomplete kits.

As always we want to provide the best we can for our partners. Thank you for all you do to "Help the Hands that Heal."





## Where in the World is GHAP?

GHAP's next three consultations all occur in Tanzania.

Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) will host Magdeline Aagard and summer intern, Meghan Howell, from the Masters in Healthcare Administration program at the University of Minnesota. Meghan will be working with KCMC to put in place the final plans for opening the Cancer Care Center this fall. Magdeline will be supervising her work from an operational perspective.

Southeast of Moshi (home to KCMC), GHAP will once again be working with Empower Tanzania to continue the health education of the Community Health Workers in the Pare Diocese. In addition to health topics, we will be introducing finance topics to both the CHWs and selected men in the villages.

At the end of June and into July, GHAP consultants Barbara Daiker and Eugene Bayiha will be conducting an assessment of the Central Diocese's dispensaries and health centers.

## Save the Dates!

**Volunteer Appreciation Picnic!** If you have volunteered with us in the last year, we want to celebrate you and your guest by hosting a picnic at our warehouse on **June 24, 2016** from 4-6pm. Enjoy dinner served by the GHM staff, music by Ole and the Icescrapers and fellowship with your fellow volunteers. RSVP to Wanda at 763-586-9590 by June 10. We hope you can join us!

**GHM's Fall Conference** will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, Minnesota on **October 8, 2016**. Save the date!



## A Great Gala!

Global Health Ministries is celebrating a successful Spring Gala! Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we raised \$35,428 (after expenses) to help the hands that heal.

At the Gala we made a special appeal to support the training and education of over 400 health leaders in 2016. Many generous responses are working together to provide tuition assistance for specialized training of Tanzanian medical officers, education for nursing students in Madagascar and Ethiopia, consulting in Cameroon and Tanzania, and training for community health workers in El Salvador and Nigeria. Empowering these leaders creates "change that lasts" - the theme of our Gala.

It's still not too late to help! While 178 people joined us at the Gala, we also sold out very early. Please consider helping us fully fund this need with a gift for "Education, Training and Consulting" online or in the envelope enclosed with this newsletter.

Thank you for the incredible support you offer around the globe through GHM!

## Meet Bart Oothoudt, the new Director of Finance and Administration

Bart grew up in Minot, North Dakota and received his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of North Dakota. He lives with his wife and three children in Woodbury, MN.

Bart moved to Minneapolis/St. Paul in search of his first accounting job. After working at accounting firms in Edina and St. Paul, he accepted the position of Controller for a nonprofit client of his firm. He served there for 8 years before returning to Johnson, West & Co where he worked as an audit manager until he left in 2015.

"I left the position knowing that what I did provided a needed value to clients," Bart said, "but also feeling that God wanted me to do something that was more Christ and mission centered.



"The position at GHM was the only position that grabbed my heart. There were three times that I wondered if this position would be the right fit for me. Each time just when I thought the position was not going to work, God opened the door. I am excited that I am able to work in a finance position that allows me to be on mission for Christ and serve people in countries around the world."

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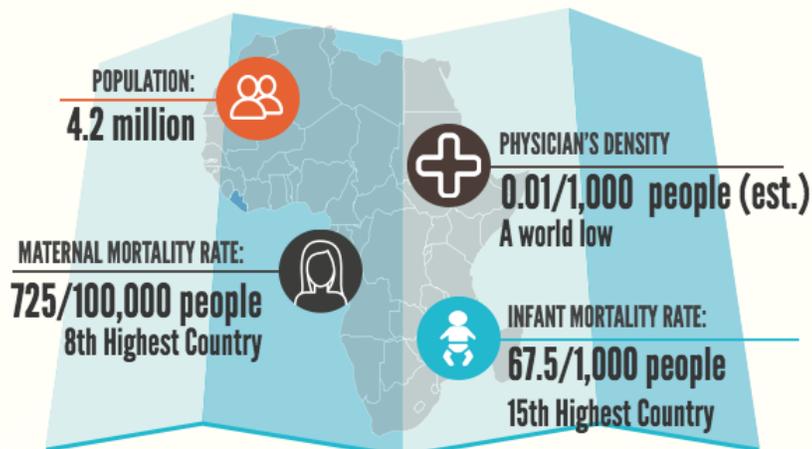
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## FAST FACTS:

# LIBERIA



Facts from the CIA World Factbook: 2015

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