



# Global Health Ministries

*Helping the hands that heal*

Sharing news with our partners

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April-May 2019

## Imagine Change

*By Pastor Doug Cox, Executive Director*

Change begins with imagination. Imagine a world – a just world – where everyone has access to a healthy life. A world where every person, in every village, has access to a trained health worker, knowledge that prevents disease, technology that saves lives, medical equipment that works, clean water and nutritious food. For more than 30 years, Global Health Ministries' (GHM) mission has been knit together by communities of imagination and faith around the globe who partner to make this vision real.

I'd like to share just one such story here.

At the close of 2018, following 33 years of mission service in Arusha, Tanzania, Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson officially retired. Their vision has woven together the imaginations and faith of thousands of people from many nations, and continues to bring positive change.

The early years were focused on community health. Eventually, needs for clinical care brought their focus to two mission hospitals – Selian Lutheran Hospital (first founded as a dispensary in 1954 and then as a hospital in 1993) and Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC – opened in 2008). Shipments from GHM played a vital role in providing both hospitals with the initial equipment and supplies they needed. For over 30 years, and still today, GHM plays this role as a capacity-builder.

Today, ALMC is recognized as one of only two hospitals in Tanzania with the highest rating from international accreditors, and last year it was recognized again as the cleanest hospital in the country.

Perhaps most significant has been the rise of Tanzanian leadership to sustain and grow these hospitals. As Dr. Mark retires from the position of Executive Director of ALMC, both hospitals are led and governed by skilled Tanzanian professionals. Of course partnerships don't end with retirements, so Dr. Mark, and GHM as well, will continue to walk alongside these partners long into the future.

This is just one story of change, first imagined and then realized gradually through years of faithful partnerships. Partnerships like this are why GHM exists, and hopes for sustainable impact are first imagined and then worked for in everything we do. GHM's 30+ year history is filled with "dreamers" like Mark and Linda whose lives create ripples of change.

Please join me on May 4th, 2019, to discover more at GHM's "Imagine Change Gala." Dr. Mark Jacobson will be among our guest speakers. It will be an evening of inspiration and participation, as we too create ripples of change.



*Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson at their retirement celebration*



*Dr. Amon Marti, Medical Director at Selian Lutheran Hospital*

"One of the amazing things about God is that when God is working there's a ripple effect; materials go a lot further and people that weren't connected get more connected."

~ Dr. Steven Friberg  
Missionary to Tanzania

## Selian Hospital

What began as a dispensary in 1954 captured the imagination and efforts of many to become what is today Selian Lutheran Hospital, “a hospital with a mission to serve the poor and the sick in the name of Jesus Christ.” From its original single building, Selian has grown into a 120-bed hospital serving a population of over 400,000 people.

Like most mission hospitals, Selian’s mission to serve the poor means that many patients cannot pay for services. Last year, concerned staff collected multiple offerings during morning worship services at the hospital in support of charity funds. GHM partnered with additional contributions for charity funds for Selian in 2018, as well as gifts of equipment and supplies, like the new ultrasound pictured here.



Hospice and palliative care are important ministries of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and Selian has a robust program. Every Saturday, Selian Hospital’s Palliative Care program organizes a “Children’s Club” at the hospital where children, including children who are HIV positive, can play together and learn through play. One of the children



Selian’s Children’s Club

who comes every Saturday is Dorcas Mollel. Dorcas is 14 years old and she and her mom are both HIV+ (her father and 3 siblings have not agreed to be tested). Before coming to “Children’s Club” Dorcas rarely spoke and it was very hard to assess her needs or teach her important self-care. But in the context of playing with other kids, she learns many things including the proper use of her medication.

Selian’s Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) is another example of the power of imagination to lead change. This NICU is rapidly becoming a leader for Tanzania in the area of neonatology. In 2018 the NICU team from Selian (led by missionaries Dr. Steve and Jodi Swanson) taught participants from 40 hospitals across Tanzania in the first-ever conference on neonatology in that country. Titled “Every Breath Counts,” the conference raised awareness of the special needs of premature babies and simple interventions that can save lives.



Today we celebrate the amazing work being done at Selian Lutheran Hospital and other mission hospitals around the globe. The vision of our partners - vision that starts by imagining change - is an inspiration.

## The B-line

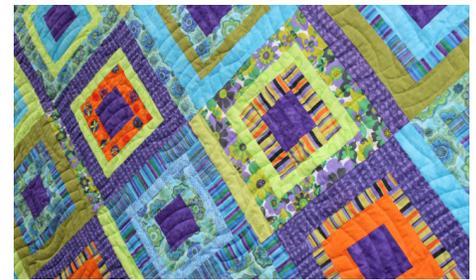
By Bea Haagenson



The B-line recently received these questions about quilts:

- How are the quilts used by GHM’s partners?
- Are there any requirements for the quilts?.
- Are quilts still needed?

Yes, quilts are still needed and appreciated. Although not an official GHM project we have received many very beautiful quilts over the years. When visiting overseas we have seen them on hospital beds, in maternity wards, in homes and just about any place where a warm and pretty blanket or quilt can provide comfort. Although the quilts come in all sizes, single adult (twin size) and baby and children’s sizes are especially useful.



**Urgently needed: Hospice and Newborn Kits!** We continue to receive a steady supply of kits but the B-line is told that the kits are requested and shipped as soon as we receive them. More are urgently needed. Guidelines for the kits can be found on the GHM website at [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org) under “Take Action.” ~ Bea

## Hospice Kit Grants

In 2018, GHM shipped 6,143 Hospice Kits to international partners. One of the people who received a Hospice Kit last year was Dorcas Mollel, the 14-year old girl who is HIV+ and visits Selian’s Children’s Club every Saturday. “Thank you for this gift,” said Dorcas after receiving her kit. “I thank God for the people who gave themselves to help us.”

We want to do more! So we are pleased that GHM is able to offer Hospice Kit Grants again in 2019. These grants provide up to \$250 reimbursement for supplies purchased for Hospice Kits in 2019. For more information or to apply, contact Kim Dickey at [kimdickey@ghm.org](mailto:kimdickey@ghm.org), or 763-586-9590. We hope these grants inspire you to help us bring comfort, needed supplies and God’s peace to people like Dorcas.

# Shipping News

By Scott Lien

**Madagascar.** Three 20' containers for Madagascar! Even now, two are en route in support of Ejeda and Manambaro Hospitals, plus Rural Health Clinics in their respective regions. The first container will arrive late March, and the second late April. We worked closely with Dr. Justin at Ejeda Hospital and Dr. Heuric at Manambaro, along with Dr. Sahondra, Director of SALFA (the Health Department of the Lutheran Church in Madagascar), to send a number of significant items on these shipments. A digital x-ray for Ejeda, ultrasound, sterilizers, patient monitors, surgical tables, surgical lights, electrocautery machines, suction pumps, mattresses with covers, and more will soon be helping the hands that heal in beautiful Madagascar.

A third 20' container will load end of March in support of Ambohibao Hospital and other SALFA projects. Dr. Franck, Medical Director and surgeon at Ambohibao, has been working hard in the GHM warehouse, alongside our regular volunteers, to identify surgical instruments, equipment, and supplies most needed. What a blessing to have partners present in this work!

**Liberia.** A 40' container arrived in the Port of Monrovia on February 5, cleared Customs and arrived at Phebe Hospital on February 11 for distribution to six hospitals and five health centers, plus solar equipment for several rural clinics. Six days from port to hospital! This process can take one month, or longer, in other countries. This was the fourth container to leave GHM for Liberia in 2018.



Dr. Franck and his wife with Dr. Sahondra in GHM's warehouse



Bart with a Joy-in-a-Box for Pare Diocese, Tanzania

**Tanzania.** A "Joy-in-a-Box" for Pare Diocese highlights a 40' container loaded at GHM end of February. Bart Oothoudt, GHM's Director of Finance, and Dr. Magdeline Agard, GHAP Consultant, traveled to Tanzania to spend time with staff at Gonja Hospital and visit several rural dispensaries. They came back with a list of urgent needs. On loading day, volunteers quickly pulled the requested items, used colored tape and assign stickers, and finished just in time! A bonus to other items already included in this container, including medical equipment and supplies for ALMC, Selian, Bumbuli, Bulongwa, Machame, Nkoaranga, and Iambi Hospitals.

**Zimbabwe.** ELCA Global Mission has been faithfully supporting shipments to Zimbabwe for ten years, and in 2019 offered a significant grant to purchase two ultrasounds and anesthesia gas machines. The container will load after Easter and include these items plus other critically important medical equipment and supplies in support of 4 hospitals, 1 health centre, and 2 community outreach programs of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ). Praise God!

Please pray that we may continue these shipments in support of our partners overseas. And please join us as we imagine a healthy life for ALL in the name of Christ! Helping the Hands that Heal!

# Welcome, Rob!

It is our joy to introduce GHM's newest team member, joining us as the Interim Director of Global Health Administration Partners (GHAP), our consulting department. Mr. Rob Thames, FACHE, FHFMA, comes to us with over three decades of experience in healthcare administration and consulting in the USA, and volunteering and travel experiences in 21 countries. Most recently Rob served as CEO of Northern Arizona Healthcare.

Rob joins us as "Interim" in order to begin his duties by performing an analysis of GHAP, and share a vision for how to improve and enhance GHAP to best serve our international partners. Rob recently shared some thoughts on his new role.

*"I am blessed by this opportunity to work together with wonderful, dedicated people on a great mission. While GHM's shipping and supply service began three decades ago, Global Health Administration Partners only began in the past decade, thanks to the great work of many people.*

*Because all believed it was time for a refresh, my initial charge is to assess our situation and discern with the broader GHAP team, partners and stakeholders a unified vision that integrates with and strengthens GHM - and ultimately our partners."*

At least five consultations are anticipated in 2019, including two in Madagascar, and one each in Nicaragua, Nigeria and South Sudan.



Rob and Kathy Thames at the tip of South Africa



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## Gala!

Create ripples of change around the world through Global Health Ministries 2019 fundraising Gala!

Minneapolis Marriott Northwest  
7025 Northland Dr N  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Doors open for a silent auction and reception at 5:30, followed by dinner, a live auction and program starting at 7:00.

Funds raised at the Gala support the important work of GHM as we work for a world where every person, in every village, has access to quality healthcare. Your gifts given that night or in advance help us create ripples of change.

Register online at [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org),  
or call 763-586-9590.



I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.  
- Mother Teresa