



Global Health Ministries

Helping the hands that heal

Sharing news with our partners

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Neighbors, and Angels

By Pastor Doug Cox, Executive Director

When I was a boy, my parents trusted our neighbors. Even though we differed in religion and politics, we were in this life together. If mom and dad weren't around, we kids were instructed to go to a neighbor if we needed help.

In many of our partner countries, neighbors are still there for each other. Some have been trained with knowledge about first aid, common diseases, sanitation, and how to reach the closest clinic when necessary. At Global Health Ministries (GHM) we call neighbors like these "village health workers" or "health promoters."

Maria Esperanza is one of hundreds of neighbors like this in El Salvador. A member of an isolated community of about 300 families, Maria recently told me, "I've learned things I never imagined I *could* learn. I feel so gratified when people can come to me and receive help. I don't do this for money, it is a blessing to see that I can help people ... I only have a 3rd grade education!" Jana told us a story of carefully washing and cleaning a neighbor's wound from a dog bite. Nine days of attentive cleaning brought closure to the wound. Meanwhile she had learned the importance of referral to a clinic for rabies shots.



In Nigeria, Tanzania, Madagascar, Zimbabwe and many other countries, our partners are living as these kinds of neighbors. They witness to the love of Christ daily, with little or no pay, because they sense a call from God and a deep joy in being a good neighbor.

Sometimes the mission and witness of being a good neighbor is shared by a doctor like Dr. Simon Aroga, a Lutheran surgeon in Cameroon, who is often the only resource a family can turn to when ill or injured. Today roughly 60% of his patients are Muslim, and local Muslim leaders encourage everyone to approach him as a trusted neighbor.

The mission of our Lutheran partners around the globe is to be a good neighbor, by "loving your neighbor as yourself." Global Health Ministries shares that mission. At times, however, we can do most from across the ocean by sharing funds, counsel and prayers. For all who read these words I prefer the metaphor of "Angel," and that's why GHM cultivates an "Angel Fund." For neighborly projects that transform lives, but come up a bit unexpectedly, gifts to GHM's "Angel Fund" can make all the difference. In 2018 "Angel Funds" helped those without money pay for treatment at Selian Hospital in Tanzania, helped renovate a maternity ward and construct a lab at mission hospitals in Cameroon, provided training for 125 health promoters in El Salvador, and shipped critical medical supplies to remote locations in Zimbabwe. Your gifts to GHM's "Angel Fund" empower the healing witness of good neighbors around the globe. Thank you!

A Good Neighbor Prayer

Lord, we thank you for good neighbors and we ask that we too may be good neighbors today.

Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all people. Inspire me with your Spirit of joy and gladness, and help me to become a cup of strength for those who suffer, in the name of the good Neighbor who inspires and strengthens us all, Jesus Christ. Amen

Shipping News

By Scott Lien

It's here! On October 16, we heard from George Barbu, materials manager for Phebe Hospital in Liberia, that the third 40' container for 2018 had just arrived, loaded at GHM on July 27.

"I have already issued Phebe and Curran Hospitals' portions of the supplies while awaiting Ganta, CH Rennie, Kolahun Hospital, Redemption Hospital, and Zolowo, Kondesu, Palala and Sanoyea Clinics to take delivery of their supplies in keeping with the manifest. Thanks ever so much for your great support to Health Care Delivery to Mama Liberia."



Updates from our partners are always appreciated, especially stories like this: *"The guy that received the wheelchair is over happy and cannot stop saying many thanks to the GHM family!"* Praise God!

As we celebrate, another 40' was loaded at GHM on October 25 and is en route to Cameroon now. Highlights for this shipment include large sterilizers for Ngaoundere and Ngaoubela Hospitals, 7 birthing beds, 60 hospital bed mattresses, 3 complete dental suites, 3 "Joy-in-a-Boxes" for rural health centres, medical supplies, newborn and hospice kits, rolled bandages, quilts, and more!

Before year-end, containers for Tanzania, Liberia, and Madagascar will leave GHM. God is good! Thank you to everyone who supports GHM's Shipping Ministry! From wheelchairs to sterilizers to "Joy-in-a-Boxes", together we make a difference working with our partners overseas.

Welcome!

GHM is blessed with a talented, committed Board of Directors. We welcome two new members in 2019.

Dr. Jim Buhr returns to GHM's Board after a several-year hiatus. Jim has been a family physician with Sanford Health Clinic Valley City, ND, for more than 30 years. He has worked at a number of mission hospitals before and during that time: in KwaZulu, Natal, South Africa; at Curran Hospital in Liberia; and Garoua Boulai and Ngaoubela Hospitals in Cameroon. Jim also travelled with the first survey team to assess the potential of a new medical center in Gallo, Central African Republic. Emmanuel Health Center grew out of that visit. Jim's wife, Sharon, MPH Nutrition, has leant her talent and skills to many of these overseas assignments.



Suzanne Simonett has an MBA in International Business from the University of MN, and has recently retired as Vice President of Information Technology, General Mills Global Business Solutions, where she oversaw a staff of more than 900. Suzanne currently mentors seven senior executive women from three countries in business management, and is a consultant for strategic planning and information technology. A life-long Lutheran, Suzanne brings a wealth of experience and a heart for global mission to GHM's Board.

We also are grateful to Chuck Hayes, Dr. Nesa Joseph, Bea Haagenson and Karen Plager for their service on GHM's Board of Directors. Their wise counsel, strong leadership and deep commitment to this ministry have been invaluable.

The B-line



By Bea Haagenson

Since July 2004 (that's right) the B-line has addressed many issues in the Global Health Newsletter, mostly related to project questions.

Because projects may change over the years, and new volunteers have joined our amazing volunteer force, we thought it might be useful to ask if any of our current readers have questions and if it would be helpful to revisit prior updates.

Below is a list of some of the B-line subjects. Please let us know if you wish to see clarification in a certain area.

- White rolled bandages
- Newborn kits, content and shipping cost
- Hospice kits, content and shipping cost
- First Aid kits
- Baby caps
- Baby blankets
- Cloth diapers
- Towels for kits
- Gloves for kits
- Bed sheets
- Pillow cases
- Needed supplies and expiration dates
- Warehouse volunteer days and hours
- VBS and Sunday school materials
- Thrivent action grant for kit supplies

Please submit questions for the B-line to: office@ghm.org. GHM's office staff will be glad to forward your questions to me (Bea).

A physician visiting recently from Madagascar confirmed what some of our readers have been wondering about. More and more women receiving Newborn Kits are using diapers for their babies, or fashioning diapers out of what is available to them. That is especially true in cities and towns, but women in more rural areas are also encouraged to cover their babies. Many people buy "onesies" instead of the harder-to-find 0-3 or newborn-sized t-shirts that go in GHM Newborn Kits. When sending onesies to GHM, please send them "whole" without cutting off the bottom. The young moms will appreciate receiving something so nice and "new."

GHAP Among the Maasai

By Kim Dickey



Magdeline Aagard's most recent trip to Tanzania was to the Same district, where she has worked as a GHAP consultant over the past five years with the Community Hospital Alliance Program (CHAP), in partnership with Empower Tanzania. CHAP is in its fifth year of having Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Maasai villages. Since GHAP's initial training of 30 CHWs, both the number of CHWs and the number of villages in the program have increased. About 8,500 Maasai live in these villages.

Magdeline has visited with the CHWs yearly to talk with them about their work, visit with other village members, and talk with staff at area dispensaries and health centers. CHWs have been collecting data from their villages over the life of the program, and report many successes.

Since the beginning of the program most of the villages show a significant increase in the number of women who deliver their babies in health centers instead of at home. The CHWs are proud of this fact, and that their health education has helped lead this change. One of the dispensaries, Kombo, has had the same staff in place since the program began. In 2015, only 10 women delivered their babies at Kombo. In September of 2018, already 34 women had delivered their babies at the dispensary. This data includes deliveries for all women, not just Maasai. But the dispensary goes on to report that none of the women delivering their babies at the dispensary in 2015 were Maasai. This year, 75% of the women delivering at Kombo have been Maasai – significant change!

The CHWs also report that women are asking for prenatal care in all of the villages, and all children are vaccinated, although most often these things happen later than they should. One of the CHWs reported that 16 women were pregnant in her small village last year but none received prenatal care. She said this is because although the women want prenatal care they are not allowed to go for a visit without their husbands, and the husbands are away with the cattle. Family planning continues to be a challenge in most of the villages, and many women who use it are doing so in secret because their husbands are not supportive.



In 2016 there was an outbreak of cholera in several Maasai villages, with almost 400 total cases and 3 deaths from the illness. Since then, there have been no cases of cholera, and this has been attributed to the increased number of latrines in the Maasai villages.

During Magdeline's visit, CHWs were receiving training on the signs and symptoms of tuberculosis so they could share that information in their villages. TB is a particular issue in the Maasai population because it is an airborne disease that is easily transmissible. Maasai live in close proximity to each other in their bomas.

CHWs and village leaders said they need to have men CHWs, too, pointing out that men won't talk to women about their health. And they would like to have more CHWs. The CHWs and village leaders are enthusiastic about the CHAP program. "The CHAP program is good and is making a difference in the health of the Maasai people. It should be extended to all Maasai villages everywhere!"

Vudee Dispensary

Vudee Dispensary serves a large catchment area in the mountains in eastern Tanzania. It's challenging to go anywhere else for healthcare if you live near Vudee. The Dispensary was closed for a time, and people had to travel to Same, which is several hours down the mountain by vehicle. Vudee has reopened but very few patients come to the Dispensary now because there is no midwife (a big draw for dispensaries). A midwife's salary is 450,000 Tsh/month, or about \$150. The dispensary needs more patients to cover staff costs.

GHM is planning a GHAP assessment of all of the Pare Diocese Dispensaries in 2019, including a return visit to Vudee, as well as a shipment that could help equip some of these Dispensaries. Many struggle with old equipment and old facilities in need of renovation, as well as lack of supplies. A "Joy in a Box" shipment from GHM to Vudee and dispensaries like it provides vital consumable supplies recommended by the World Health Organization for a rural clinic serving in the developing world.

GHAP Director

Global Health Ministries is seeking a health administrator to join its leadership team as "Director of Global Health Administration Partners (GHAP)". This position directs and provides consultation services for faith-based health systems in low resource countries to enhance their governance, leadership and management. For more information please visit GHM's website, www.ghm.org.



Maasai CHWs in Tanzania are loving their bicycles, provided by Empower Tanzania! The bicycles are making their lives and their work easier.



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Save the Date!

For Global Health Ministries'

Spring Gala

Saturday, May 4, 2019!

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