



Global Health Ministries

Helping the hands that heal

Sharing news with our partners

Vol. 31 No. 2

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Joy in a Box

By Pastor Doug Cox

Thank you for spreading joy in 4' cardboard cubes! Thanks to you a 2017 GHM pilot project made it possible for remote rural clinics in Tanzania, Liberia and Cameroon to receive 4' cardboard cubes filled with "treasures" of medical supplies! Scott Lien (GHM Dir. of Operations) and I travelled in Jan/Feb 2018 to follow up on some of the 29 cubes, and personally evaluate their impact. Places like Zolowo, Liberia where 63 pregnant women received newborn kits and the clinic's stock-room was filled with bandages, dressings and so much more, all from one 4' box. The clinic staff couldn't have been filled with more joy.

In Galia, another Liberian village, we were welcomed with flowers, kola nuts and even a drama put on by their youth, acting out the benefits of sleeping under a bed net to avoid mosquitos carrying malaria. A clinic nearby, highlighted by the national church as a partner, was all too happy to share their list of needs (most of which we had in stock at GHM). At that very moment, back in Minnesota, a GHM sea container was being loaded for Liberia and there was still room for one more 4' cube. A few emails later our dedicated GHM volunteers and staff were filling a 4' cube. It was on the way to Liberia even before we returned to Minnesota.

How does all this come together? Volunteers and donors are making GHM more nimble and more effective at efforts like this all around the world. Today, for \$500 you can sponsor a 4' cube that carries joy to one of our partners overseas. These 4' cubes help the hands that heal in some of the most remote areas. We call it a "centralized shipment" when a large sea container includes some 4' cubes filled with life-saving treasures to be delivered to remote areas across the country.



Youth act out a play in Liberia teaching the benefits of mosquito nets. The boy crawling is pretending to be a mosquito!

GHM has been sharing "joy in a box" since our founders first gathered in a garage to send medical supplies overseas. We've grown over 30 years, and today we send a large sea container almost every month, but remote areas often can't handle more than a smaller box. Thanks to your support, even these partners can now receive a box of joy! Thank you for making it all possible.



They Gave Us Names

Scott and Doug received a traditional Liberian welcome from the Village Health Workers and the community of Galia, Liberia. The greeting included the sharing of several meaningful gifts, wonderful symbols of partnership.

Flowers = joy

Sticks wrapped together = togetherness

Split kola nut = open heart

Money = abundance

They also were given Liberian names. Scott is "Namara" (Fine Man) and Doug is "Nagra" (Strong Man).

The Lifting of Our Hands

By Scott Lien

Psalm 141:2 May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. (NIV)

God is good! Shipping Ministry has much to celebrate! Three special containers have arrived at their destinations since the last newsletter.

The eagerly-anticipated 40' container has finally arrived in northern Nigeria! After much prayer, planning, gathering, hard work, generous donations, and more prayer, Demsa Health Centre will now be equipped with a new surgical theater, portable x-ray and diagnostic ultrasound, laboratory equipment, hospital beds and IV poles, blankets and sheets, gloves and dressings, newborn and hospice kits, rolled bandages and more! Over \$190,250 worth of life-saving equipment and supplies for this important and critical work of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN).

We celebrate and lift up two 40' containers that arrived in Cameroon in support of OSEELC, the Health Department of the Lutheran Church in Cameroon. Over 3,000 boxes, each packed with much love and dedication by our warehouse volunteers, and each assigned to one of 3 hospitals, 17 health centres, eye clinic, dental clinic, palliative care, and other outreach ministries. A new x-ray machine and digital scanner is on order for Ngaoundere Hospital, along with many other items, as we prepare for another shipment to Cameroon in April. The work continues and we give thanks!

We pray for the work in South Sudan at the new Juba Health Centre; pray for the health staff as they unpack the two 40' containers that have arrived and set up the minor surgical theater, examination rooms, laboratory, pharmacy, stockroom; pray for GHAP consultations and training of health leadership as they are lifted up and empowered to continue this work.

We give thanks for two 40' containers now en route to Liberia, arriving on Easter Day! The Lutheran Church in Liberia is a strong and vibrant church, and has deep healing, reconciliation, and peace-building roots in that country. Thank you for your generous gifts to General Shipping that cover the costs of shipping, door-to-door, for these partners and others. Thank you to all the volunteers who gather, sort, pack, load and ship these items. And thank you for your prayers. May they be like incense, and may the lifting up of our hands be like the evening sacrifice to you, Lord. Amen.



Container arrives, Cameroon



Prayer Circle, Cameroon



Initial clinic set up, South Sudan

The B-line

By Bea Haagenson



Baby Caps follow-up:

Yes, the 5-inch styrofoam ball is the right size.

This is a sample of some caps that we recently received. It is knitted from baby yarn, and as the picture shows, it fits the ball so it is a right size, it is soft and just perfect for a newborn baby.



As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, a container has arrived safely in Nigeria - cause for great joy and thanksgiving. As a nurse and former missionary to Nigeria, the writer of the B-line is especially thankful that it is possible to provide so many needed medical supplies to an area of the world that often lacks resources.

On a personal note: when I saw the email that the container had arrived, I felt homesick, as so many missionaries would. It is a joy to be part of an organization that is always looking for the best ways to help the hands that heal"

Welcome!



All of us at GHM look forward to welcoming Rev. Dr. Musa Panti Filibus, Archbishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, to our home town in May. The Archbishop will be in Minneapolis for the Synod Assembly of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA. Archbishop Filibus is also currently President of The Lutheran World Federation.

GHAP in Action

By Stephanie Smith



It is an exciting time to participate in GHAP! We're so very proud of our skilled volunteers and the ways they are helping our partners build capacity for sustainable, thriving Lutheran health care systems! Here are some highlights from the first quarter of 2018:

CAMEROON: Steve Laible just returned from Cameroon with good news of continued improvements in transparency and financial administration of the Lutheran Health Care System (OSEELC), plus developments in by-laws progress on their strategic plans.

SOUTH SUDAN: In South Sudan the GHAP consultant team of Magdeline Aagard and Peter Getts were in Juba during Jan/Feb 2018 to assist the administrator of a new Lutheran clinic to define procedures and administration goals relative to materials management, staff and finance. GHM is also collaborating in South Sudan with the Fistula Foundation and the ELCA for an obstetric fistula outreach camp this summer, designed to train local doctors in the procedure.

MADAGASCAR: In March, Nesa Joseph and Elizabeth George are back on the ground in Madagascar continuing a GHAP consultation with the CEO of the national Lutheran Health Care system (SALFA). This visit to Madagascar will include an opportunity to review a 4 year audit of SALFA recently completed with a grant from GHM.

Notes from the Shelves

By Kim Dickey



GHM is blessed to receive donations of a wide variety of medical equipment and supplies, from crutches and catheters to very high-tech medical equipment. Most of these are regularly available to overseas partners, and doctors and medical directors "place their orders" for items they need. Sometimes, though, there are other treasures on our shelves.

Dr. Ruth Goehle has championed a project to share photos and descriptions of items that have been received in the warehouse but are rarely requested, sometimes because they are not yet in our inventory, or perhaps because they might require specialized training for use. Sending this publication to partners can help us learn if an item would be of interest to them. A former medical missionary who has served in Cameroon, Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia and Liberia, Dr. Ruth knows the tremendous

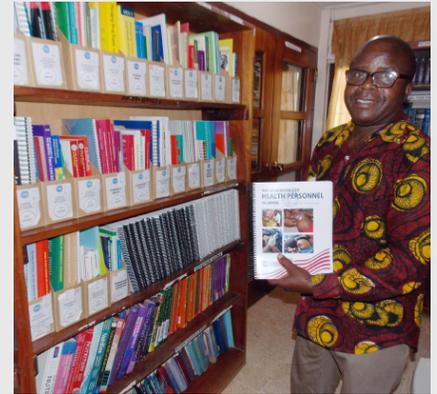
value these items can have for a doctor with too few resources, struggling to care for patients. Some of these items can literally save a life.

Our partners have told us they love to receive *Notes from the Shelves*. Partners in Tanzania and Liberia enthusiastically shared the value of this publication for their hospitals with Pastor Doug and Scott when they visited in February, 2018. The photos help them imagine how they might use these items in their hospitals and clinics.

So thank you to Dr. Ruth for helping the hands that heal in this particular way, and for helping us be responsive to the needs of our partners and good stewards of items we receive. And thank you to everyone who donates much-needed medical supplies and equipment to GHM. Our inventory is continually turning over, because our partners continue to need our help. And sometimes we find a treasure that makes all the difference for someone on the other side of the world.

Expertise in Context

By Scott Lien and Pastor Doug Cox



"It is explained well in a Liberian context with simple language!" exclaimed Dr. Humphry Lowel, of Phebe Hospital's Nursing School. He was holding a copy of the newly printed "Health Handbook" by former missionary Dr. Paul Mertens. In a recent visit we heard so much about how valuable this is in the life of the school and for everyday reference in healthcare settings. The school uses this manual as their primary textbook/curriculum for two courses and 5 other institutions use this resource for education as well! Thank you to Dr. Paul and all who donated for the printing and for the distribution of hundreds of copies!

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Missionaries Still

By Brenda Moore

Like many missionaries, Pastor Donald and Grace Flaten spent sparingly and saved wisely so that they could live generously. Following his ordination in 1956, the Flatens moved their family to Cameroon. For the next 38 years across various parts of West Africa, they would train pastors, direct primary schools, and build and staff medical dispensaries. Don and Grace often recounted the life-saving, life-changing hope that would arrive in a container shipped from Global Health Ministries.

During their retirement years, the Flatens lived out their missionary zeal as faithful volunteers and generous donors for GHM's shipping ministry. It brought them great joy to be of continuing witness and service to their West African neighbors.

In their most senior years, the Flatens discovered a way to continue their ministry in West Africa, even beyond their lifetimes. Confident that God would continue to provide for their own physical needs, the Flatens gifted some of their savings investments to an endowment fund that would make quarterly gifts to GHM in perpetuity. The Flatens' estate plans provided an additional gift to this endowment fund following their deaths in 2011 and 2013.

Then, still, and always, the Flatens' commitment to mission continues to help the hands that heal. To learn more about ways your own gift plans could benefit Global Health Ministries, contact Kim Dickey, Director of Development, at (763) 586-9590 or kimdickey@ghm.org.



Pastor Don Flaten, Cameroon, 1966



Grace Flaten, Cameroon, 1966