



Global Health Ministries

Sharing news with our partners

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GHM calls new Executive Director

GHM Scholarship Recipient



Global Health Ministries is pleased to announce that Rev. Douglas Cox will serve as its next Executive Director, following Pastor Tim Iverson's retirement in July, 2015.

Doug has served as an ELCA missionary consulting with the Malagasy Lutheran Church on Christian/Muslim relations, primarily within the context of primary health care and hospital facilities. These engagements raised his

awareness of many aspects of health care as a ministry in the context of extreme poverty. Currently Doug is serving as the Pastor of Worship, Mission and Outreach at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Excelsior, Minnesota. Mount Calvary has been an important partner in the work being done at Demsa Health Center of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, a joint project of GHM, Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry and the Minneapolis Area Synod.

Pastor Doug will begin in his new position on June 11th, and Pastor Tim will officially retire on July 31st. It will be a blessing for the two to be able to work together as Doug transitions into his new leadership role with our organization.

Doug believes strongly in the importance of health care both for humanitarian reasons and its role in witnessing to the love of Christ. We are delighted he will be joining us.

Last month, GHM provided a scholarship to a third-year medical student at the University of Minnesota to help her participate in a 6-week rotation at Ilula Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania. Jessica's particular interest is in Fetal and Maternal Health Care, and she was able to do Obstetric and Maternal rounds at Ilula. She learned how to give a prenatal exam at the mobile maternal health clinic, measuring fundal height, checking for anemia and learning the schedule on which anti-malarial and anti-parasitic medications are given. "Nothing in the world is like examining a pregnant mother or a newborn baby," she said.



Jessica was one of several students at Ilula from the University of Minnesota. This is an interdisciplinary global health elective for Medical and Pharmacy students. She participated in general rounds, and described the problem solving skills needed as Tanzanian physicians are often required "to treat a differential instead of a diagnosis." Limited resources at Ilula means fewer diagnostic tools – the lack of x-rays and chemistry labs makes it hard to get very far down the diagnostic tree.

The students also participated in a two-day medical education conference while there. Teams of a doctor, pharmacist and nurse from 29 participating hospitals came for the conference, up from 40 participants last year. The Shoulder to Shoulder program of the ELCA's Saint Paul Area Synod supports this interdisciplinary continuing education opportunity as part of its relationship with the Iringa Diocese. Jessica contributed two presentations, one on violence against women by intimate partners and the other on the treatment and etiology of OB Brachial Plexus injuries.

Some days were difficult. It was especially hard to confront the realities of domestic abuse and high infant mortality rates in this region. But it was also, according to Jessica, a "truly amazing and life changing experience" that reinforced the medical competencies she brought to the opportunity, and challenged her to learn more.

GHM is pleased to be able to provide scholarships for students like Jessica, as well as continuing education opportunities for health professionals overseas.



These women and children are served by a mobile maternal health clinic, Iringa Diocese, Tanzania

Mission Alive in Madagascar!

By Rev. Tim Iverson

During my tenure at Global Health Ministries, our mission in Madagascar has been one of our most significant in terms of funds allotted, array of programs supported, and depth of collaborative relationships. It was a privilege to make one last visit there as GHM's Executive Director in order to express my appreciation for our years of partnership in Christ's healing ministry, to engage our partners with a lengthy agenda of on-going matters in mission together, to say good-bye, but also to celebrate a vision of mission yet to come.

SALFA, the Malagasy church's health department, has been the subject of extensive consultation and support through our GHAP (Global Health Administration Partners) program since 2009. Our main objective in these years has been to build SALFA's capacity to manage a drug distribution program for the church's hospitals and health centers that is competitive with commercial vendors of pharmaceuticals. A final evaluation of this effort will be completed later this year.

This visit afforded the opportunity to focus discussion on other valuable SALFA functions, including developing training programs for medical professionals, researching and obtaining grants in support of health initiatives, management consultations, national and international communication and promotion for the health care system, biomedical services, centralized research and data collection, and IT services. All of these functions are appreciated by the church's medical center directors in serving to strengthen the health care system, and as such, harmonize perfectly with the mission of GHM. SALFA's recent response to a crisis at Manambaro Hospital exemplifies the impact we can make as we work together toward shared goals.



Dr. Heuric Rakotomalala

As previously reported, Dr. Heuric Rakotomalala and his wife Dr. Mireille have been called by SALFA to serve at Manambaro following SALFA's in-depth assessment of the hospital's leadership and services. During my visit, I was impressed by what they had accom-

plished in less than a month. Good leadership is precious in mission, and already the Manambaro compound and hospital has been cleaned, patients are returning, staff paid their salaries, surgical teams from Germany attracted by Dr. Heuric had arrived to serve, and a local mining company that heard about Heuric's arrival has begun negotiations for surgical services for their employees. At the same time, housing for the medical director and guest physicians is badly in need of renovation, drugs need to be purchased, and Heuric dreams of having a TURP unit to perform revenue-generating surgeries that can revive Manambaro as a center of healing and restore the hospital's sustainability. Heuric and Mireille believe that God has called them to this service, and the Lord will provide what is needed to prosper it. GHM will answer some of their prayers in coming months when a shipment of supplies and equipment custom-designed by Heuric will be delivered, but expect additional appeals from us soon.

The new leaders of Manambaro answered some of our prayers when they enthusiastically agreed to monthly consultations with AVIA, GHM's village-based health education, disease prevention and development program, now in its sixth year. Recently, AVIA won a grant competition for sanitation projects because of the program's positive

reputation for delivering on community-developed plans and priorities to improve village health and well-being. The progress being made by AVIA is something to celebrate, but the full potential of a com-



*Agnes Rasamimampianina (AVIA),
Dr. Mireille, Dr. Heuric, Rev. Tim Iverson,
Lalaina Ramarolahy (AVIA)*

munity-based primary health care program requires that it be integrated with the operation of hospitals and health centers. The commitment of Drs. Heuric and Mireille to do so promises an excellent, mutually supportive, collaboration between AVIA and Manambaro that will demonstrate and probably expand on the ways that such integration can serve to improve community health.

At the completion of its five-year demonstration period in 2013, planning for the expansion of AVIA began, and villages and regions were added to the program's area of service. An additional approach is now under development through which AVIA will become a training center for others who will take its empowering, outreaching and preventive approach to their own settings. AVIA lead staff Agnes (National Coordinator), Lalaina (Regional Coordinator), and Haniitra (Nurse), will go to Jamkhed, India for advanced training this year to prepare for this role. A new curriculum model has been developed with SEFAM, the church's

nursing school, which will expose nursing students to AVIA's principles and practices. On this trip, I met with Dr. Julie, SEFAM Director, and Dr. Sahondra, SALFA's Rural Health Center Coordinator, to begin planning for the integration of AVIA in the operation of SALFA's Rural Health Centers, which have been supported by GHM for many years. We agreed to explore an approach through which Rural Health Center staff as well as new SEFAM graduates would undergo a six month residency with AVIA through field and class work to master the skills needed to operate as leaders of village-based primary health care.

There were many other important conversations held during my eleven-day visit, but the above gives a good summary of the substance and depth of our working relationship with our partners in Madagascar. Mission in Madagascar is very much ALIVE!...vital, innovative, changing and adapting, and effective in bringing healing and hope in Jesus' name. The visit impressed upon me the importance of such personal and in-depth engagements to advance our mission, but also the many reasons why our mission is important and successful in that country, beginning with the wonderful leadership God has called to this partnership. I came home grateful for the part that I have been able to play in the on-going history of GHM mission in Madagascar, to the glory of God.



The Excellent Staff of AVIA at their Fort Dauphin Office

The B-line

By Bea Haagenenson



Bed pillows are always needed overseas and GHM needs help collecting NEW PILLOWS IN THE ORIGINAL WRAPPINGS. Used pillows cannot be shipped overseas due to the risk of contamination, especially upper respiratory conditions. As always we want to provide the best we can for our partners. Good quality pillows are inexpensive and can be purchased at any department store. This is a great project for VBS or Sunday School. A Bible story or an activity can be built around the pillow theme, and children - or adults - can be encouraged to bring a new pillow. Or it can be a project for any person or group that is looking for a mission project.

Pillowcases are needed too. They can be included with the pillows but separate. Do not put them on the pillows.

Reminder: Kits, hospice and newborn, must be complete kits. Extra supplies that you would like to donate can be shipped to us as kit supplies.

A special Lenten blessing to our faithful readers. May your Easter season be one of renewed joy in our risen Savior.

uration Lutheran Churches were joined by members from Ebenezer Community Church, the church home for many Liberian immigrants in the Minneapolis area.

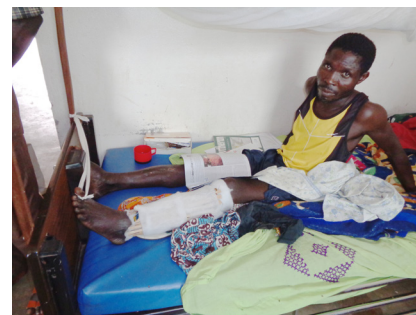
The container is expected to arrive in Monrovia May 2nd. It carries supplies for Phebe and Curran Lutheran Hospitals and the Liberian Ministry of Health. A beautiful communion set is on the container, a gift for the Lutheran Church in Liberia.

The cost of shipping these items from GHM's warehouse to the port of Monrovia is about \$8,500, not including port fees, customs clearance and in-country transportation. None of these congregations could sponsor a shipment on their own, but working together, and with a small shipping grant from GHM, they were able to make this happen. We can do so much more in partnership with others than we can on our own. Our friends in Liberia certainly feel this. They are grateful for this shipment, and we celebrate with them the generosity and compassion of these Bloomington congregations, and all involved with this gift.

Another GHM shipment is at sea on the way to Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania, and spring shipments are planned for Madagascar and Cameroon. If your congregation would be interested in partnering with others to help sponsor a shipment, please let us know.

News From ... Central African Republic

Jim Noss, retired missionary to Cameroon, was recently able to cross the border to visit Emmanuel Health Center at Gallo in Central African Republic. Tensions persist in the CAR. It is estimated 250,000 refugees have fled the violence and are now in Cameroon, all along the border. It is not easy to get to Gallo, but once there it is relatively quiet, despite signs to the contrary. The patient in this photo is at Emmanuel Health Center recovering from injuries sustained in a recent rebel attack. Notice the make-do splint, and what looks like a rolled bandage used for traction. (We noticed, too, the copy of *The Lutheran* on his mattress.) The work at Emmanuel Health Center continues.



Jim took advantage of a small window of opportunity to enter the country, and was concerned when the Consul asked to see him before granting his visa. Instead of withholding his visa, the Consul wanted to personally greet him. He thanked Jim warmly, "for all you are doing in the CAR, not just sending money but for standing with us. Our country has been destroyed, and what you are doing means so much to us." He asked Jim to "convey his thanks to your people." That's you. The work of GHM and our partners at Emmanuel Health Center, Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry and ELCA Global Mission, is vitally important. Thank you for your continuing support of Emmanuel Health Center, and our struggling brothers and sisters in the Central African Republic. They continue to need our prayers.

Jamkhed

GHM is finalizing plans to send a team from Nigeria and Madagascar to spend three weeks at the training institute of the Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP) based in Jamkhed, India. A pioneering program in the area of integrating health and development, CRHP works among the poor in rural India, mobilizing and building the capacity of people and communities to address root causes of illness and poverty, fostering change that leads to sustainable improvement in community health. Their approach begins at the village level, training Village Health Workers, and integrates community programs with mobile health teams and a hospital, as well as development initiatives. The GHM group looks forward to applying their learning from this experience to their work with the Community Based Primary Healthcare Program in Nigeria, and AVIA and rural clinics in Madagascar.

We invite your prayers for this team, that they may be granted visas quickly so this good work may begin! The group will be led by Dr. David Thompson, GHM Project Manager for work in Nigeria. If his schedule permits, Rev. Douglas Cox, who will become GHM's new Executive Director later this year, will accompany Dr. Thompson to Jamkhed as part of his orientation to this key part of our developing mission.

Shipping News



On the last Saturday in February, a group of volunteers gathered at GHM's warehouse to load a 40' container, now bound for beautiful Liberia. It was a labor of love, and so many gathered that the labor was light. The Bloomington, Minnesota conference of ELCA congregations was moved to do something to address the Ebola crisis in Liberia, and joined together to sponsor a shipment of much-needed supplies, and also food donated by Kids Fighting Hunger. Volunteers from Christ the King, Grace, St. Stephen and Transfig-



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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New Donation Hours

GHM has developed guidelines to better process the flow of donations to our warehouse. We are staffed to accept donations Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., and Fridays by appointment. If the amount of donated items exceeds the average capacity of a car's trunk space, we ask that you contact us to make an appointment. You can reach us at 763-586-9590, or email us at office@ghm.org.

We expect this to result in less wait time for donors. It will also better ensure there will be a volunteer present to assist, especially with large loads.

Thanks for your continued support of GHM through these donations, and for playing an important role in bringing health and healing to people around the world.



Mark your summer calendar for Saturday evening, August 1st!

Music Serving the Word Ministries presents The Bob Ravenscroft & Dwight Kilian Duo, performing a special benefit concert for Global Health Ministries. Plan to join us for this special event celebrating Pastor Tim's ministry among us!

Kairos Mission
Appeal

... an invitation to support Global Health Ministries with financial gifts that build our capacity to support and enhance the healthcare programs of our overseas partners. Sustaining these programs is vitally important to ensuring access to quality health care for some of the world's poorest people.