



Global Health Ministries

Helping the hands that heal

Sharing news with our partners

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Access to Health

By Pastor Doug Cox

*Imagine...*walking into a clinic with a broken arm, but there is no x-ray machine. The closest x-ray is 8 hours away by ox cart and it will cost you more than your family makes in a month. *Imagine...*growing up believing it's "normal" for babies and small children to die of diarrhea, malnutrition and malaria. What if it were "normal" for every neighborhood to have a mother die in childbirth? *Imagine...*living where there is no doctor, no nurse, and no money to reach any health care when you or your children are sick or injured.

Every day at Global Health Ministries (GHM) we partner with people for whom this is not imagination. Yet, we believe all people should have access to a healthy life. As we begin a new year, your partnership helps make this possible for tens of thousands of people in over a dozen countries.

After 30 years of partnering there is so much to celebrate, yet mountains more to do. In this newsletter you'll meet six new partners, GHM Directors on our Board; find a tribute to a beloved partner in Madagascar; peek inside the "travel-log" of grown missionary kids plus a GHM staff member during a recent visit to Madagascar; discover how biomedical students are sneaking into the GHM warehouse at night, and much more!

You are part of a community that makes a difference larger than any one of us could imagine. Thank you!

Madagascar Visit

By Kim Dickey

When you arrive in Madagascar it is clear you are on the other side of the world. My November trip was also a trip back in time, as I traveled with a group of missionary kids who were first graders there in the 1960s. What a privilege to see this island nation and some of GHM's work through their eyes.

First stop for some of us was the city of Antsirabe, to witness the graduation celebration for SEFAM, the Lutheran nursing school supported by GHM. On Nov 10 a group of 28 nurses, midwives and lab technicians became part of the total 489



SEFAM scholarship students

SEFAM alumni to date. Some received scholarships through GHM, and more scholarship requests will come in 2018. In honor of Dr. Julie, the beloved Director of SEFAM who died just weeks before graduation, GHM has established the "Dr. Julie Memorial SEFAM Scholarship Fund" - we welcome your gifts. SEFAM graduates serve across the island, sharing their knowledge and skills so that more Malagasy people have access to health care.

I was struck by changes to a recently struggling mission hospital in Manambaro. Today it is a busy place, with many of its 80 beds full, much equipment replaced or added (including a GHM-shipped x-ray machine), and strong leadership in place. People come from as far away as 250 km to Manambaro for prostate surgery, and in the last two years, Manambaro has changed the lives of 250 young women through fistula repair surgery. Manambaro turns 65 in 2019 and GHM hopes to be there for the celebration. Let Kim know if you might be interested in joining us!

At Ejeda Hospital there is no x-ray machine. Patients need to travel 300 km to Tulear for that. Ejeda's needs are great - medical equipment, renovated facilities, so much. When asked about his hopes for Ejeda, surgeon Dr. Justin recalled when Ejeda was famous, and his dream to make Ejeda a famous center for healing again. GHM is committed to help, and it's exciting to see that the work has begun.



Dr. Justin, Ejeda Hospital

“I Will Bless the Lord at All Times”

By Carol Berg and Patricia Bentsen

With Gratitude for the Life of Dr. Razaonandrianina Julie Olga



It is with heavy hearts that we report that our dear colleague, Dr. Razaonandrianina Julie, Director of the SEFAM nursing school of the Malagasy Lutheran Church for over 30 years, died on Oct 27, 2017 at age 59. Julie touched many lives through educating hundreds of young people in the health care ministry.

Under Dr. Julie's capable leadership, SEFAM achieved many milestones, including moving the school in 2004 from Manambaro

(southeast tip of Madagascar) to Antsirabe to enhance access to additional faculty and educational resources. Other milestones:

- In 2005, the Malagasy government completed a nursing education curriculum analysis and granted government equivalency to private nursing schools including SEFAM. According to evaluations from three government ministries, SEFAM has always ranked first among nursing programs.
- Raised funds to purchase land and construct their own school building, rather than rent. GHM was a significant donor for the building that was dedicated in April 2013.
- Expanded nursing school facilities to allow the addition of both a second and third class of incoming students for the first time, increasing revenue resources and decreasing financial dependence.
- Developed curriculum for training midwives and community health nurses.
- Re-established the training program for laboratory technicians in 2014.
- Facilitated continuing education for nurses working in SALFA (Lutheran Church Health Department) facilities.

Dr. Julie consistently lived out her Christian faith and exuded the joy of Christ whether in the classroom or in the community as a “mpiandry” (“shepherd”) of the Fifohazana (Awakening movement in the Lutheran church). She also cared for the mentally and spiritually ill patients at the Toby of Ambohimahazo, up until the recent commencement of the community health program there.

Dr. Julie is survived by her husband, Dr. Randrianandrasana Jean Richard, who worked alongside her, their three children, and many extended family members. She will be deeply missed by countless colleagues and friends in the Malagasy Lutheran Church, SALFA, SEFAM, GHM, and the communities in which she lived. Her funeral service scripture was Psalms 34:1, “I will bless the Lord at all times.”

We pray for Dr. Ralaitafika Hanitra, the new director of SEFAM, and the faculty, who will continue Dr. Julie's excellent work through the competent training of students who are vital in addressing the persistent nursing shortage in Madagascar. Your spirit continues to inspire us, Dr. Julie!

Santa's Helpers

By Rich Lien, CMSgt, GHM volunteer

In GHM's warehouse, volunteers in the equipment repair room ensure that all sorts of medical equipment is functional and ready to perform their medical mission “right out of the box.” Everything from blood pressure cuffs to dental chairs has to be thoroughly inspected and tested, accessories sourced, then boxed or crated before shipping overseas. These modern-day Santa's Helpers are able to work their magic and operationally certify highly specialized and often very expensive equipment, so that lives can be saved at each of our partner's hospitals and clinics.

The equipment repair room is making progress with testing and repairing medical equipment GHM receives throughout the year. I've often felt as if the small team of technicians were very similar to Santa's legendary helpers. Many of these volunteers go about their work unnoticed because of the days and times they help out at GHM.

On a recent Wednesday evening, Dr. Eric Grutzner and Dr. Lew Berge invited nine dental students from the University of Minnesota to assemble dental instrument trays and inspect equipment. Roy Johnson and Tom Reid with Anoka Technical College are teaching a Spring semester biomedical class at GHM with seven students enrolled, meeting every Tuesday evening.

The next time you hear someone joke about Santa's Helpers, just remember that at GHM they really do exist, and they are some of the least known of our legendary team of volunteers.



Growing GHAP

By Stephanie Smith

GHAP's strategies for 2018 continue to focus on strengthening our capacity to be a valuable resource to our international partners.

This past year GHAP helped lead the charge to develop contextually relevant metric standards to improve and communicate GHM's impact on health compared to baseline measurements. I love metrics because it can provide real-time information that allows organizations to make adjustments, which both improves stewardship of our resources and reinforces our good choices. I'm also excited that my coursework in epidemiology, biostatistics and public health have a tangible application in our work! We are always moved by the stories of individual lives being changed, but metrics will also help us find ways to make system-based changes that will impact even more people.

I'm also pleased about our focus on increasing opportunities to engage with our international partners, as expert consultants and as interns. After sending an intern to Madagascar last summer, we are welcoming Phalen Land for the spring term. Phalen is completing her Masters in Public Health through Liberty University. I envision how mobilizing the next generation of young professionals for service under our umbrella will be mutually beneficial. Stay tuned for their reports!

We give a huge thank you to our stellar GHAP consultants who are engaged in multi-year relationships: Steve Laible who is the lead for work in Cameroon with OSEELC; Nesa Joseph and Elizabeth George in Madagascar; and Magdeline Aagard, Peter Getts and Mark Jacobson starting a new relationship in South Sudan. We're also looking forward to reports back from Anne Jensen who served as faculty at the Ilula Medical Conference in January in Tanzania.

As we increase the number of GHAP consultations and increase the number of consultants participating in preparation and follow-up meetings, GHAP has several postings that we hope you will prayerfully consider and that you will share with your network. To whet your appetite, we are working on applications from Nigeria, Tanzania, Central African Republic (CAR), Ethiopia, India, along with several applications that have been submitted for review. Thank you for your prayers and ongoing support of GHM that allows our consultants' good work to continue!



Priceless

GHM has turned 30, and we think Dale Adolf must have been rolling bandages for just about that long. Dale has rolled more than 42,000 bandages for GHM's partners overseas! That's almost **50 miles of bandages**, enough to stretch from Dale's home in Evely, Iowa past Worthington, Minnesota.

Granddaughter Kim says friends and people in the community donate the sheets and fabric samples and what can't be a bandage becomes a quilt! Grandma Shirley, the quilter in the family, gets the sheets ready for Dale to roll. Kim says he likes to have something he can do, even if his sight is failing. She describes a little plywood "machine" her Grandpa made that helps guide the bandage while he rolls it, and helps keep it taut – a GHM bandage roller! Bandages are critically important for patient care and a blessing for the mission hospitals and clinics who receive them. Kim wrote *"thanks for all that you do at GHM, for the recipients overseas and everyone here at home as well! Thanks for letting me brag about my grandparents, they're just the best!"* We think so, too!

Dale labeled his box "No Value" for mailing. Not true! Thank you to all our friends, including those at Dale and Shirley's church, Hope Lutheran, who roll precious bandages, make quilts and share their time and talents to help the hands that heal.

The B-line

By Bea Haagenon



To all our busy knitters, we thank you wholeheartedly for the many beautiful **baby caps** we have received over the years. Truly a blessing. And we still need more, but need to remind everyone of the guidelines.

The instructions can be found on the GHM website under projects. Or a hard copy can be requested from our office. In summary, the baby caps should be knitted from light yarn, such as baby yarn or similar quality and weight. As a guide, the size for a newborn cap should be close to the size of an approximately 5-inch styrofoam ball that can be purchased at a craft store.

Muslin Square.

Also a reminder: The 36x36 inch square piece of muslin is no longer included in the Newborn Kit.





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WELCOME A-BOARD!

GHM is blessed with a talented, committed Board of Directors. We welcome six new members in 2018!

Connie Lien Adams is a clinical laboratory professional with experience in a variety of settings, including international laboratory development programming, and a focus in transfusion medicine. Connie recently retired from her position as Director, Global Health Partnerships, Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. **Prosperity Eneh, PharmD** graduated from the College of Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota in May, which is when she also accepted her first job as a staff pharmacist. A native of Nigeria, Prosperity is continuing her education at the UofM in the Social and Administrative Pharmacy Graduate Program. **Rev. Roger Livdahl** has been a parish pastor, served with Church World Service and also as Director for ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeals in the 1990s. For the last six years he has been a GHM warehouse volunteer. Roger is also on GHM's Shipping Committee, and plays a mean harmonica. **Jon Moe, MS, RN, CNE** brings a strong background in nursing to the GHM Board, both in clinical practice and in the educational field. A member of his congregation's global ministry team, Jon has been involved in GHM's Village Health and Development Program in El Salvador. **Miriam Monson, RN** is an operating room nurse, and volunteers on her days off in GHM's warehouse, sorting supplies and surgical instruments. Mim grew up as a missionary kid in Tanzania and is currently an OR nurse at North Memorial in the Level 1 Trauma Center. **Daniel Olson, MHA, FACHE, CMPE** has served on the Senior Leadership Teams of a number of medical centers and clinics, including in Bemidji and Thief River Falls. He is currently an Executive Director with Sanford Health, responsible for performance of owned, leased and managed hospitals and clinics in a three state region.