



Global Health Ministries

Sharing news with our partners

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Oct - Nov 2014

News from Liberia ...



Harriette Dolo, Director of the Esther Bacon School of Nursing and Midwifery in Zorzor, Liberia, visited GHM recently. She shared a first-hand account of the impact of the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, a country that continues to be ravaged by the virus.

Just this May, 64 nursing students celebrated their graduation from the school, which is located next to Curran Lutheran Hospital in Lofa County. 85% of Esther Bacon's students are from Lofa County, which has been particularly hard hit by Ebola. One of the school's students, infected while providing care to an Ebola patient, has died of the disease.

There is no known cure for Ebola, so containment is key. Esther Bacon, like all of Liberia's schools, has had to temporarily close, and it is possible this year's graduates may not be able to complete their degree requirements before the school year ends. This is particularly concerning because nurses are urgently needed in Liberia.

Curran Hospital, which has not lost staff to Ebola, has remained open but many hospitals have closed. Four nurses at Phebe Lutheran Hospital have died after being infected while caring for Ebola patients, and Phebe has just recently resumed providing full services after operating on a very limited basis for more than a month. Staff has been reassured by containment measures, including the opening of a treatment center nearby and the promise of a separate holding area for patients who may or may not have Ebola but have symptoms of the disease. Protective equipment sent by GHM has also helped.

On August 6th, the Liberian government announced a 90-day state of emergency, quarantining some areas and restricting transportation to reduce the movement of people. With some hospitals closed and transportation limited, more people are dying of malaria and other illnesses and injuries they could survive under normal circumstances. Food scarcity, a growing concern, further undermines health. This crisis threatens to undo much of the progress Liberia has made since civil war ended a decade ago, and ongoing support will be needed. GHM will continue to walk with our partners in Liberia after the Ebola crisis has passed.

Harriette gave God the glory for being able to be in our midst to share her story. We are grateful for her presence and for her work, and ask God's continued help and guidance for her and all of our partners dealing with the situation in Liberia.

GHM's Response

GHM was one of the first organizations to respond to the health crisis in Liberia. We have supported the healthcare system of the Lutheran Church in Liberia for 26 years, so our partners knew we could help. GHM quickly sent one air freight shipment with 5 pallets of supplies. Another 5 pallets followed on the last flight out of Brussels to Monrovia (airlines have become increasingly reluctant to fly into Liberia). A 40' container arrived early October and supplies are ready for a second container. These shipments are bringing Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), which include gowns, gloves, facemasks, eye protection, DuPont protective suits and more to protect healthcare workers caring for people sickened by the Ebola virus.

A Letter from the Bishop

Reverend Seyenkulo, Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL), sent this email to Global Health Ministries on September 17th, 2014.

Greetings,

A lot has happened since I last communicated with you on the Ebola situation. The good news is we are physically fine. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. We feel the impact...

... We are grateful to Global Health Ministries for the second consignment of medical supplies brought in by air. We took delivery of the five pallets that were scheduled for August 30. In consultation with the Ministry of Health (MOH), a team from the central office of the LCL delivered a pickup load of supplies to a government hospital in Gbapolu County last week. Unfortunately, the supplies to Curran and Phebe have been delayed, due to the shortage of MOH vehicles. We have agreed with the hospitals to share the cost of a truck rental to get these items in their hands immediately. Arrangements are now being made.

Phebe Hospital is opened! Well, the hospital has been functioning all along since July but on a limited basis as they were treating emergency as well as critical obstetric cases. The hospital officially opened at full scale on Monday, September 15. Dr. Sibley is happy with the situation. We are happy about this because the workers returned to work despite the fact that the Ebola Holding Center being constructed by LDS/ACT Alliance is incomplete. The good news is the government-owned Ebola Treatment Center, near Phebe, is now in operation.

Curran continues to operate although we still have only one doctor on duty. MOH has promised a transferred doctor but that has not yet been actualized.

Thanks for your prayers.

*D. Jensen Seyenkulo
Bishop, Lutheran Church in Liberia*

Called to Serve

The B-line

We've had many questions about the changes to the Newborn Kit that we reported in the last Newsletter. Please know that these changes are being made in response to requests from the doctors and nurses who use these kits with their patients. Please know, too, that GHM is grateful for all that you send, and we will make good use of your gifts.

At one time, these kits were primarily used by midwives and birth attendants to assist them in their work. Today, these kits are primarily used by nurses and doctors to encourage young women to seek prenatal care during their pregnancies.

We are changing these kits to include two cloth diapers and two diaper pins. No worries if you have kits to send without these diapers – we will add them. We also will no longer be asking for muslin squares for these kits, but if you have collected these please send them along. We know they are always useful, and will gladly include those we receive.

We are developing instructions for how to create a cloth diaper out of an old t-shirt, another fun and helpful hands-on service project idea. Please let us know if you or your group are interested in this. Instructions will be posted on our website soon.



The gift of a Newborn Kit delights this young woman waiting to give birth at a Lutheran Hospital in Zimbabwe.



Drs. Heuric and Mireille Rokotomalala, husband and wife physicians from Madagascar, have been called by the Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic to serve at Emmanuel Health Center in Gallo. Even before the recent wave of violence, access to health care was an issue in CAR. Emmanuel Health Center is a joint project of GHM, Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry and others to address that need. The clinic has continued to function despite continuing violence, and neither staff nor patients have been harmed. Emmanuel is secure today but the problem is an uncertain future – will the current sense of safety hold? Drs. Heuric and Mireille say that “if the door opens we will put our foot through it because we know it is the call of God.”

Dr. Heuric has been building up the surgery unit at Antanimalandy Lutheran Hospital in Madagascar. Mireille is working on her Masters in Public Health and is particularly drawn to work with HIV/Aids. They also have experience serving at Garoua Boulai Hospital in Cameroon, across the border from Emmanuel Health Center. Both are eager to return to this part of Africa and use their skills to help the people of CAR. Until the security situation improves, however, they will remain in Madagascar. During their recent visit to GHM, they advocated for continued improvements at Antanimalandy and did some shopping for medical supplies in GHM's warehouse.

Searching for our next Executive Director ... Pastor Tim Iverson, Executive Director of GHM since 2002, is planning to retire in July 2015. Applications for the Executive Director position are being accepted until November 14, 2014. A description of the position and job requirements are below.

Global Health Ministries (GHM) is now accepting applications for Executive Director. We are a highly volunteer 501(c)(3) organization supporting Lutheran-based health care in over 30 countries. Twenty five years ago GHM started shipping medical equipment and supplies to international partners as well as granting funds to projects for Lutheran health programs. Increasingly, we are expanding our focus to help our partners build their capacity to sustain their health programs and deliver lasting, measurable improvements to community health. We have an annual income of over 3 million dollars from our donor base. Employee salaries and benefits, administration, and fundraising costs are a small percent of our income. With a paid staff of 6, we rely heavily on volunteers to accomplish our mission with 2,981 volunteers contributing nearly 13,000 volunteer hours in 2013. There is a board of 24 elected members. GHM has a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.

Primary Functions: The Executive Director's primary functions are to lead GHM, its volunteers, and board into effective relationships with our Lutheran partners around the world to bring about measurable improvements in the health of the populations they minister to in Christ's name. This role includes overall administrative and financial oversight, outreach and communication with partners and donors, fundraising, and advocacy and development of collaborative efforts with national and international partners to advance Lutheran health care ministries around the world. International travel is required.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree required, master's or doctorate preferred, in Public Health, Health Care Administration, or related fields; experience in management and international health and/or the mission field.

Ideal Candidate: Will be a person of faith supportive of Lutheran values and able to work well internationally across cultures and religions. The successful candidate will be an outgoing and inspirational leader with ability to be creative and respond effectively to change; able to manage people (including making and nurturing relationships) and manage finances effectively. Strong verbal and written communication and familiarity with non-profit organization management, fund development, and technology will be critical to success in this position.

Salary commensurate with experience; full benefits. Start date second quarter of 2015.

Application deadline is November 14, 2014. For further information, contact Gary Gronert at garyg@usfamily.net or 1-952-831-1287. For more information about GHM go to www.ghm.org.

Tanzania Travels...

Kim Dickey, Director for Mission Development

I recently had the opportunity to travel to northern Tanzania to meet partners and visit projects supported by GHM. What a privilege! I was joined by retired dentist Dr. Lew Berge, retired orthodontist Dr. Mel Dale, and John Schilling, an equipment specialist at Henry Schein, Inc., a dental equipment provider. They were in Tanzania to visit sites that have received dental equipment from GHM, to observe how those facilities are functioning and to identify how we can better support dental practices in Tanzania. John's equipment expertise was invaluable, and he was often asked by the hospitals we visited to look at dental chairs, sterilizers and even x-ray machines that weren't functioning. Many photos of malfunctioning equipment were taken, so we can source parts for needed repairs.

There is commitment to providing dental care in Tanzania – the government requires that all hospitals and health centers offer these services. Continued shipments of dental equipment and supplies will make a difference for our partners' practices. Many specific needs were noted, and you are invited to contact GHM if you have access to dental items you might be able to donate. Hand instruments, lab equipment, x-ray units, forceps and miscellaneous dental supplies are in great demand.

Remarkable work is being done in Tanzania – more reports from my visit will follow in upcoming newsletters.



Dental team with Dr. Frank at Nkoaranga Hospital.

Where in the World is GHAP ...



CHWs taking pulse rates

did not know how to read watches, so the instructors focused on teaching them to read the second hand. Now they can count pulse rates but, even with their new watches, they will continue to use traditional ways to tell "time."

CHWs have connected with staff at clinics and hospitals in person and via cell phones, and they have made several referrals for patients with health problems. The CHWs believe they are making a difference in the health of their communities, especially in the lives of women and children. One of the things they focus on is prenatal care, and encouraging women to deliver at a health facility instead of at home.

GHAP/GHM is partnering with Empower Tanzania to conduct this project over the next three years. The project is funded by the Peterson Family Foundation and Wheat Ridge Ministries.

The GHAP program works with our partners overseas to enhance their governance, leadership and management practices, building their capacity and viability. Learn more at www.ghapartners.org



Continuing education scholarships are an important way GHM supports our partners around the world. A shortage of healthcare workers is a significant challenge in many countries where we work, and partner hospitals and clinics often lack physicians with specialized skills. With additional training talented young doctors are able to increase the level of care they provide patients. There is also an acute shortage of nurses in many countries. Lutheran Schools of Nursing in Madagascar, Tanzania and other places are doing a wonderful job training young people to serve in this capacity. Gifts to GHM's Education Fund help address this need, and raise up a young person striving to develop needed skills.

Global Health Administration Partners (GHAP) recently returned from their second consultation in the Pare Diocese of Tanzania. The purpose of this ongoing project is to improve community health by building a network of Community Health Workers (CHWs) linked to established health facilities. The CHWs were trained in May and have begun providing health education and collecting data from local Maasai communities.

The CHWs were provided supply kits from GHM to help them in their new roles. Kits included watches for taking pulse rates. Most of the CHWs

Lutheran Global Health Volunteers

Reverend John Lunn is actively seeking volunteers to serve overseas alongside health care partners of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA). Volunteers are needed to serve as co-workers with staff overseas, providing primary services and serving as mentors and teachers. Volunteers usually serve in short-term roles (1 – 3 months), and should be open to continuing the relationship by offering access to information, resources and mentoring via electronic means after returning home.

Current needs in Tanzania and India include physicians and surgeons, nurses to teach at various schools of nursing, an ENT specialist and more. Positions in Liberia are currently on hold at the request of the bishop there.

Reverend Lunn is coordinating this effort for ELCA Global Mission. If you are interested in learning more, contact him at John.Lunn@elca.org.



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There is still time to register!

Global Health Ministries'
Conference on Global Health
Saturday, October 18th
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
4100 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Register online at www.ghm.org
or call 763-586-9590

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.