



GLOBAL HEALTH

Celebrating Twenty-Six Years in Christ's Healing Ministry

An independent Lutheran ministry enhancing the health care programs of Lutheran Churches in other countries

Vol. 27 No. 1

December-January 2014

Annual Conference Charts New Era in Mission

This year's conference at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Excelsior, MN, "*From Dependency to Sustainability: A New Era in Mission*," coincided with the conclusion of Global Health Ministries' year-long strategic planning process. The key findings of the board's new plan were highlighted in keynote presentations by outgoing president, David Page, and GHM Executive Director, Rev. Tim Iverson.

Our faithfulness in mission is bound up with our capacity to work for the sustainability of our partners' health care programs

"The subject of dependency and sustainability," Iverson said, "was chosen for this year's conference theme because of the growing conviction that our faithfulness in mission is bound up in our choice and capacity to work for the sustainability of our partners' health care programs. They have served our Lord in being known for gracious care for all without distinction. They have been the hope of the poor. They are precious to God and God's people as lights in darkness, as vessels for the proclamation of the Gospel."

Over our 26-year history, Iverson noted, GHM has done many things well to "enhance the health care programs of the Lutheran Churches in other countries." "Today," he said, "more than 13 annual shipments are sent from our warehouse to our Lutheran church partners overseas

valued at \$1.5 million. Project grants have grown to a total in excess of \$2 million. But we have also been humbled to see growing signs that, despite our best efforts, some of our partners are struggling to maintain their staff, services, and deteriorating buildings and equipment.

With a decline in resources following the withdrawal of missionaries, mission hospitals and health programs began to decline, and many closed. Patients who can pay now often choose to go to newer facilities. And mission hospital leader--those who have remained rather than leave for higher-paying private or government service--have often lacked the skills needed to successfully respond to these challenges. No amount of shipments or project grants will overcome this deficiency, and now the survival of mission hospitals and health programs is at risk.

In recent years, as we have seen these problems grow, we have engaged our partners in trying to understand these challenges and exploring ways of overcoming these threats to their survival and our mission.



GHAP consultation with OSEELC, the health department of the Cameroon Lutheran Church

Global Health Ministries' on-going collaboration with Ngaoundere Hospital of the Cameroon Lutheran Church has helped us to see that overcoming these challenges was not only achievable, but imperative if our partners in health care are to continue to serve in a competitive and resource-scarce world. GHM's capacity-building program, called GHAP (Global Health

New Era, continued page 2

Special Appeal to Support Manambaro Renewal

"What is the status of the Madagascar shipment?" In a recent email, Dr. Gustave Andrianandraina, Director for SALFA, asked this question. In particular, Dr. Gustave was interested in an urgent request for a fixed x-ray machine, diesel generator, steam sterilizer, and water pump for Manambaro Lutheran Hospital. And the answer is that the shipment is on hold pending additional funds to purchase this equipment. Calling all Madagascar supporters! The challenge of a long-overdue renewal of the church's health facilities in southern Madagascar is now before us!

Following a thorough assessment of needs by retired missionary Jim Noss, who was in Madagascar to do a GHAP consultation on SALFA's pharmaceutical program, work began on building a customized shipment for Manambaro and Ejeda Lutheran Hospitals that would include these priority items and more, plus over 1,200 newborn kits for the Rural Health Clinics, and three complete dental suites for Vangaindrano, Toamasina, and Manambaro Dental Clinics.

Madagascar Shipment, continued page 2

Warehouse Manager Position Open at GHM

After seven years of faithful service, we say goodbye to Warren Westvig, as he and his wife Sue move to Tanzania to serve as program directors for STEMM, a Christian ministry based in Sioux City, IA. Warren's departure means GHM is now looking for a new full-time warehouse manager. If you love to work with volunteers, to be challenged by the range of medical supplies and equipment we receive, to organize and maintain an accurate inventory, to prepare and stage for shipments to our partners overseas, and to know you are making a difference by helping the hands that heal, we need you! An application and job description are available online at www.ghm.org, or by calling GHM at 763-586-9590.



Direct Lines *from the* Director

This issue of *Global Health* gives focus to Madagascar, a country with one of the oldest American Lutheran mission fields, where, by God's design, an abundance of Global Health Ministries' fine leaders served. Akland, Borge, Carlson, Quanbeck, Toso, Dyrud, Lellelid, Stolee, Halverson (Berg), Wright, Beck (Olson), Ranaivoson, Vaagenes, the honor roll of names goes on and on. Today, largely because of their leadership of love, Madagascar mission continues to be strong, though not without challenges.

Madagascar was one of the first countries I was privileged to visit for GHM. As I accompanied former missionary kids Carol Berg, Carolyn Akland, Margit Carlson and John Helvig, I sensed their emotions as they revisited mission sites, particularly the cemetery in Fort Dauphin (below) where friends and loved ones



slept. We were conducting a survey to make plans for a new program called AVIA that symbolizes the enduring life of our mission in Madagascar. We have experienced setbacks that have brought us to the edge of an end to mission there. But the ensuing engagement of our GHAP team with SALFA helped restore trust and their capacity to manage effectively with accountability, and laid the foundations for what has become the "New Era in Mission" we celebrated at this year's conference.

With thanks for all that has been, is now, and will be in mission, we revisit the founding days of Ejeda Hospital with Dr. Alf and Ella Borge, touch on the significance of the GHAP consultation, and then present a new initiative to begin renewal of the historical strength of Manambaro and Ejeda Lutheran Hospitals and the associated SALFA health centers. The mission continues. May God bless our efforts!

Madagascar Shipment, continued

Much progress was made in procuring most of the items for the shipment except the priority items for Manambaro. A donated x-ray machine was found but later determined by a volunteer biomedical technician to be unacceptable to send overseas. After much discussion and consultation with other mission organizations that specialize in x-ray equipment, GHM is now considering the purchase of a new x-ray machine at a cost of \$30,000; a Q-Rad Floor Mounted System from Quantum Medical. The system would be purchased through Samaritan's Purse, whose biomedical technicians would receive, assemble, convert for use in Madagascar, and send to GHM ready to ship.

In order to power the x-ray machine and other critical equipment, a new diesel generator will need to be purchased at a cost of \$35,000. A manual steam sterilizer with boiler is \$5,500, and a submersible water pump is \$3,000. Total cost for all four items is \$73,500. Funds are available to cover the shipping costs of the 20' container, but not for these four priority items. To significantly enhance this shipment, and respond to the urgent needs at Manambaro, we ask all those who love and support Madagascar to please consider a generous gift so that we may purchase and include this equipment.

Donations can be made to **Madagascar: Shipping and Equipment Purchase #48-S0000**. Thank you for making a difference!

"God's Work, Our Hands" Helps the Hands that Heal

On Sunday, September 8th, Lutheran congregations across the country joined together for a dedicated day of service to mark the 25th anniversary of the ELCA. Zumbro Lutheran in Rochester, MN assembled 500 hospice kits and 800 rolled bandages, and River of Life Lutheran in Minneapolis, MN assembled 132 newborn kits. Thank you!



Volunteers delivering hospice kits and rolled bandages from Zumbro Lutheran

New Era, continued

Administration Partners), has provided five years of training and consultation with the health department of the Cameroon church in governance, financial management and information systems. With a recently acquired grant for upgrading revenue-generating surgical services, the foundations for a competitive hospital are now being established.

Through another five-year GHAP consultation, SALFA, the health department of the Malagasy church, has acquired leadership, skills and



The successful GHAP consultation with SALFA in 2011

an information system that have revitalized its pharmaceutical program and enhanced the sustainability of one of the world's largest Lutheran health care systems. These experiences have helped us to update and define what Global Health Ministries now needs to do to truly fulfill our mission. In this new era, we will provide support through extended relationships that will promote sustainability and effectiveness in management to achieve measureable improvements in community health.

"In the end," Iverson said, "we pursue sustainability because we are bound to our partners in the body of Christ. Sustainability happens through living, committed relationships. It is a mutually beneficial process through which participants complete what is lacking in each other. Sustainability is not something we achieve independent of one another, but rather through interdependence.

We cannot side with those who say, 'what difference would it make if those deteriorating remnants of the days gone by pass away because they cannot compete in today's world?' To do so would be to deny our calling and the gifts God has given us to share in the body. It would be to abandon the poor whom our Lord holds so precious. It would be to silence the means God has established and used to proclaim Christ's love, grace, and healing in word and deed."

GLOBAL HEALTH, published 6 times a year, is a publication of Global Health Ministries. Subscriptions are free upon request. GHM, 7831 Hickory Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432 (763)586-9590. Rev. Tim Iverson, Editor

The B-line

by Bea Haagenon



Gloves for Hospice Kits

We have recently received a number of hospice kits with the wrong kind of gloves included. What is needed is the heavy duty kind, sometimes called household gloves, utility gloves, rubber gloves, or something similar. The gloves for the kits will be used over and over again. Therefore the heavy kind. Please call or email if you have questions.



First Impressions

A new volunteer walks into GHM on a Tuesday morning and joins the volunteers already at work in the rough sorting area. The B-line asks, "How did you hear about GHM? And what made you decide to volunteer?" "That's simple" he says. "A couple at our church are always talking about GHM and about the wonderful mission. I decided to check it out - and I like what I see." Are you reading the B-line and thinking of joining us? Please stop in for a visit and maybe you will also like what you see and decide to join our dedicated - and fun and friendly - volunteer crew.

Planning your Spring mission program?

Think of including a presentation by one of our knowledgeable staff or volunteers. Or include a GHM display and some informational brochures on your mission table or booth. Just give us a call or e-mail and we will make every effort to provide what you need.

Thank you!

As 2013 draws to a close we thank the many volunteers and donors as well as our dedicated staff who are committed to bringing the mission of Global Health Ministries forward. Each new year presents new challenges. Together we can meet those challenges and serve the Lord in all we do.

Prayer Corner

God said to Abraham, "All nations will be blessed through you."

-Pray for the many people and nations that are touched by our shipments and other services.

-Pray for safe arrival of shipments.

-Pray for volunteers, supplies and funds to support our ongoing and expanding mission.

Dr. Alf Borge and the Story of Ejeda Hospital

-as told by Ella Borge

There had been discussions at the Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Conferences in 1958-9 regarding the need for a second mission hospital in the southwestern part of Madagascar. For people of that region, the distance and hardship of travel to Manambaro, the lone mission hospital at the time, was too great. Ejeda was chosen as a likely location, and the "wheels started turning" regarding how this could be done.



Dr. Alf Borge at dedication receiving medal from Vice President Tsievo

In 1960, my husband, Dr. Alf Borge, and I were on furlough while he studied surgical and tropical medicine. At the same time, he was speaking in many churches regarding the medical needs of the Malagasy people, and the hopes for building a second mission hospital to aid the suffering of so many. When we returned to Madagascar, we realized how much money it would take. Many requests were made, and funds were received from Bread for the World in Germany.

I know that many of the missionaries from the area were very helpful in planning and building the hospital. Rev. Art Shultz had some knowledge in architecture, and so was helpful in the planning stages. Alf drew the plans for the hospital. Our children Carol and David remember making several copies by hand, tracing the originals as needed. Bricks for all the buildings were made by hand. Alf trained the workers how to make the bricks. One of the first buildings completed was the small guest house, a place for mission personnel. I believe the next to be built was the laundry building, which became a multi-purpose room.

Word spread that a hospital was being built, and the sick folks began coming. Every morning, a large group would sit on the lawn, wanting medical care. One of the missionary nurses in the area, Sister Alene Smith, came to Ejeda to help set up a temporary clinic.

The laundry room served that purpose. Every morning people were treated and sent on their way. The next morning a new group would appear in need of care.

The building of the hospital, doctors' and nurses' houses, and the other necessary buildings continued. Julie Shultz's father, an electrician from the United States, came as a volunteer to wire the hospital. He had to leave before he finished, so he spent time explaining the procedure to Alf so he could complete the work. With a Malagasy helper, Alf supervised the wiring when the construction was far enough along to require it. I don't remember exactly when the well was dug, but it was certainly one of the first jobs by the builders.

Our family had hoped to move to Ejeda by Christmas, but it was not yet ready. The children and I remained at Manambaro while Alf spent his time at Ejeda. I was pregnant with Richard, our youngest. When I went into labor, Alf came home for the delivery. I was thankful to Dr. Curt Stolee for his excellent care! Alf soon returned to Ejeda to accomplish as much as possible before furlough home.

We moved out to Ejeda when there was a place to live—the two-room guest house! It was vacation time from school for our three oldest, and since the guest house was a bit crowded, those three slept in one completed room of the doctor's house. They enjoyed their time at Ejeda before returning to Fort Dauphin for school. When one of the houses was finished, we moved in and thoroughly enjoyed those last weeks in Madagascar. Ejeda needed trees, so Alf obtained many, had them planted and hired someone to water them daily. Though I have never seen them as mature trees, I have heard that they were beautiful.

Dedication of the hospital was on a Sunday in June, 1966, with the first medical staff including Dr. Stan Quanbeck, Sister Alene Smith, Corrine Nielsen, Dr. Curt Stolee, and Alf. Also attending the dedication were Rev. Vern Toso and Rev. Amos Dyrud. The Vice President of Madagascar was there to present an honorable medal to Alf for his service to the Malagasy people.

We left on furlough the following Thursday. Because of health reasons, we were unable to return. Alf was diagnosed with polycythemia vera, which led to leukemia. He died on September 11, 1981.



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New Director for Mission Development Joins GHM

Kim Dickey recently joined the staff at Global Health Ministries, serving as our new Director for Mission Development. She looks forward to sharing the story of our work overseas and reaching out to others to educate them about our ministry. She especially looks forward to meeting many of the individuals and congregations who already support GHM.

Kim first became aware of Global Health Ministries' work when she was looking for a project to engage senior high students traveling from her church to South India several years ago. The group visited one of the mission hospitals supported by GHM, and brought supplies they collected and packed with the help of Scott Lien, GHM's Director of Operations. Scott worked with doctors at the hospital to design a special kit that would provide eye-surgery patients with needed supplies for recovery.

Since seeing the transformative power of this experience on the students she traveled with, and witnessing the important role that the hospital assumed in providing healthcare to some of that country's poorest people, Kim felt called to be in-

involved in global mission work here at home. "I'm delighted to be at Global Health Ministries. It's a joy to be able to work with an organization that's making a difference in God's world, and to support that important work."

Kim comes to Global Health with a background in marketing and public relations. More recently she has



New Mission Developer, Kim Dickey

worked with her husband growing their small family-owned business, which specializes in senior

modifications and disability remodeling.

Kim lives in south Minneapolis with her husband and youngest daughter, who is a senior in high school. She is an active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, currently serving as chair of their Outreach Team as well as their Women's Day of Service, during which women of the church gather to roll bandages and assemble Hospice and Newborns Kits for Global Health Ministries.

Still Want the Newsletter?

This coming year, Global Health Ministries will inaugurate a new system for recording information about our supporters, and we want to be sure that we start the year with a new mailing list that includes only those who want to continue receiving our newsletter, *Global Health*. There are people now receiving the newsletter from whom we have not heard for nearly ten years. We plan to stop sending them the newsletter unless we hear from them. We really want everyone to continue receiving the newsletter and being our partner in prayer, so please let us know if you want the mailings to continue. Otherwise, if you are removed from the list and come March you're missing *Global Health*, let us know, and we will get you back on the list.