



Global Health Ministries

Helping the hands that heal

Sharing news with our partners

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A Pillar of Mission

By Pastor Doug Cox, GHM Executive Director

“Healthcare in the LCCN (Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria) has been one of the pillars of the mission work of the church from the beginning,” said Rev. Dr. Musa Panti Filibus, Archbishop of the LCCN and President of the Lutheran World Federation. Addressing a gathering of GHM supporters in Minnesota on May 6th, 2018 he noted that, “the coming of Global Health Ministries has opened a whole new approach to health ministry for us.”

Together the LCCN and GHM began a Pilot Project just eight years ago, focused on community-based efforts at prevention and health promotion. In 2018, this bottom-up approach already serves 25,000 people...and a dramatic expansion is on the horizon.

With a sparkle in his eye, the Archbishop shared this story, “Just before I came here one of our retired pastors was in my office...He was just full of joy that his community today has been transformed! They are no longer running helter-skelter when it comes to malaria, when it comes to child delivery, when it comes to some basic complications. They are able to deal with it at home!”

Archbishop Filibus underscored how important water is as a fundamental building block for health, commenting, “The water dimension of our work is seen as part of the comprehensive healthcare approach.” Today 46 Nigerian communities have new or improved wells thanks to the partnership of GHM and the LCCN. Partly as a training center for well maintenance teams, GHM supported the construction of a training and referral center in Demsa, Nigeria in 2017.



“Demsa Referral Center is, for us, one key example of our work together,” said the Archbishop. Early in 2018 a GHM sea container arrived in Demsa with an x-ray machine, surgical table and lights, and much more. The Demsa Medical Director wrote earlier this month that, “We have been having many patients and more success stories since our equipment arrived! We’re able to handle more difficult cases ... Just four days ago we had...an 8-year-old boy (with severe gangrene) that other medical facilities could not handle...we almost lost hope, but to God be the glory, he is good today.”

We at GHM praise God for this partnership with the LCCN. It is a good example of GHM’s vision to partner in multiple ways: shipping medical supplies, supporting grassroots efforts, and leadership training to “help the hands that heal” toward increasing access to healthy lives and sustainable health systems in the name of Christ.

The newly-equipped OR, Demsa Referral Center, Nigeria

Shipping News

By Scott Lien

"Our partners in Christ Healing Ministry. We just received two containers loaded with very needed medical supplies from you for several hospitals and health facilities across the country. There seems to be a big rush by all the hospitals to pick up their stuff. This tells you that we all are in urgent need for these materials. Million thanks for the great job!"
Dr. Jefferson Sibley, Medical Director, Phebe Hospital, Liberia

Indeed, a million thanks to all who support GHM's shipping ministry, the volunteers who sort medical supplies, repair medical equipment, inspect surgical instruments, fold hospital linens, pack newborn and hospice kits, build the crates, load the containers, pray and give generously, and much more! Thank you for making a difference.

We celebrate and look forward to the arrival of a 40' container to Tanzania at the end of June. An x-ray machine for Iambi Hospital, anesthesia gas machine for Selian Hospital, laboratory equipment for Arusha Lutheran Medical Center, equipment for a new eye clinic at Dodoma Christian Medical Center, orthopedic supplies for Machame Hospital, mobility carts for the Iringa Diocese, medical supplies for Ilembula Hospital, newborn and hospice kits for the South Central and South-western Dioceses ... Praise God for these "centralized" shipments and the opportunity to include specific, targeted items for multiple partners in that country.

We celebrate and look forward to the arrival of a 40' container to Cameroon in September with a new x-ray machine for Ngaoundere Hospital, a digital film scanner for Garoua Boulai Hospital, several "Joy in the Box" gaylords for rural health centres, plus 2 for Bohong and Emmanuel Health Centres in the Central African Republic.

We celebrate and prepare to load a 40' container for Zimbabwe now, in support of 4 hospitals, 2 community-based programs, rural health centre, HIV/AIDS and Malaria programs. GHM has been shipping to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe (ELCZ) in partnership with ELCA Global Missions since 2009, and we are grateful for the continued support. However, additional funding is needed to continue these shipments and cover the total costs, including the purchase of surgical equipment to renovate the operating theater at Masase Hospital. Please consider a generous gift in support of Zimbabwe Shipping, or General Shipping, so that we may continue this support and strengthen the capacity of our partners in beautiful Zimbabwe. Thank you!

GHAP at Work

By Stephanie Smith



Our new Monitoring and Evaluation Committee is meeting monthly to stay abreast of the latest updates on the Nigeria KPC pilot project on community based health. We aim to develop indicators and methods that help our partners monitor and evaluate progress toward mutually agreed upon health outcomes. With data collection underway and communication touchpoints with our partners almost daily,

the team is getting real time information and helping troubleshoot challenges as they arise.

Currently LCCN staff are learning to use the Knowledge, Practice, and Coverage (KPC) standardized survey, a scientifically verified instrument used worldwide to capture a series of community health indicators. Once interviews are complete, the data will be compiled and analyzed, providing a baseline "snapshot" that can be used for comparison over time. When LCCN conducts a "re-test" in the same target area, they can evaluate the effectiveness of grassroots intervention programs like distributing bed nets, water projects, and educational resources.

LCCN staff conducted the first set of 94 interviews ahead of Ramadan and the rainy season. After a brief review of the software, the LCCN-trained staff will complete all interviews and then transition to data analysis. We praise God for this learning process.

Have you remembered GHM in your Estate Planning?

When you make or revise your will or trust, or review your life insurance contracts or retirement funds, please consider naming Global Health Ministries among your beneficiaries. The use of the following language will ensure that your gift is directed appropriately:

"I bequeath ____ % or \$ _____ of my estate (or my fund) to Global Health Ministries, located at 7831 Hickory St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432, EIN #363532234."

For more information call us at (763) 586-9590, or email us at office@ghm.org.

Suitcase Ministry

By Scott Lien

Are you traveling overseas soon? Need a suitcase or two of urgently needed medical supplies and equipment?

GHM's Suitcase Ministry has been busy lately with 50+ suitcases packed since January. Recent groups carrying GHM suitcases include students from the University of MN traveling to India, high school students traveling to the Dominican Republic, and even Archbishop Filibus carried a GHM suitcase back to Nigeria.

If you're visiting garage sales this summer, please look for large suitcases, around 62" in circumference. We can always use more! Thank you and happy travels!



Vision Trip

2019 is a special year for our partners in Madagascar. SALFA, the health system of the Malagasy Lutheran Church, celebrates 40 years of ministry. Manambaro Hospital, where so many missionaries from America have served (and many missionary kids were born), will also celebrate 65 years in 2019. GHM intends to be present, and you're invited to join us.

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact Kim Dickey, Director for Mission Development, at 763-586-9590, or kimdickey@ghm.org. Timing for what is likely to be a two-week trip will be announced soon.

Fall Focus

If you're looking for a hands-on service project for your congregation or group this fall we hope you'll think of Global Health Ministries. Assembling Newborn Kits or Hospice Kits, Rolling Bandages or hosting a Global Poverty Experience directly supports Lutheran mission hospitals and health programs overseas. Visit our website (www.ghm.org) or contact us (763-586-9590, or office@ghm.org) if you would like information about how you or your congregation can do God's work in the world with GHM.



Footprints of Mission in Madagascar

By Doug Cox

From the late 1800s to the present day American Lutherans have been engaged in health mission in Madagascar. It was my privilege to accompany Dr. Stan and Kathie Quanbeck on a visit to some of the places where this engagement began and to witness communities of faith that still exist along that path today.

Almost 40 years ago the Malagasy Lutheran Church founded a health department called SALFA under the leadership of Dr. Quanbeck. GHM has partnered with SALFA for over 30 of those years and such partnership was what motivated many to begin GHM.

In anticipation of its 40th anniversary celebration in 2019, SALFA is currently writing its history. The history is shaped by hundreds of European, American and Malagasy doctors, nurses, dentists, administrators, mid-wives, lab technicians, nursing professors and so many more. Capturing this history is daunting, but much work has been accomplished already. If you think you can help fill in names and dates in this timeline, please consider visiting the GHM website (www.ghm.org/SALFAHistoryProject) to review the timeline and submit your additions! Whatever we gather will be shared with SALFA, in hopes of honoring the footprints of faith and mission over these 40 years.



"Fanjahira Cemetery" near Manasoa Madagascar, where some of the earliest (turn of the 19th century) American missionaries are buried with crosses marking their graves. Dr. Stan and Kathie Quanbeck and a boyhood friend of Stan are pictured paying respect to Stan's grandfather, missionary Jakob Jerstad.

The solitary stones standing in the foreground of this photo mark the graves of babies born on taboo days. Traditional beliefs have led countless children born on the wrong day to be abandoned or killed. Faith in Christ has made this practice far less frequent today, where over 40% of the nations population is Christian. To God be the glory.

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“I will pour water on the thirsty land” (*Isaiah 44:3*)



South Madagascar, November, 2017

His “thirst quencher” is a muddy puddle. Southern Madagascar has suffered immensely for decades, most recently with 3 years of drought. In May 2018 a pilot project supported by GHM hit water under the parched land, with a hand-dug borehole. In addition, a drip irrigation technique developed in Israel is being introduced to local farmers. By combining drip irrigation and specific crop rotations, farmers currently struggling to survive can achieve multiple annual harvests with minimal water. This region, where 1.6 million people are currently starved and thirsty, includes an ancient lakebed containing 24,000 acres of extremely fertile land. One well at a time, GHM hopes to help unlock this potential and bring water and life to this thirsty land.

Across the African continent GHM is also partnering in Nigeria to make clean water accessible to remote communities. Already 46 new or improved wells have brought improved health to 22,000 in Nigeria. In 2018 we are partnering with the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria to dramatically increase the pace and hope for access to water.

Gifts of any amount to GHM for “Water” bring new life into parched lands like Nigeria and Madagascar.



Life-bringing water from a Nigerian well