



Global Health Ministries Newsletter

Because all people should have access to a healthy life.

Photo taken at the Cameroon/CAR border, 2018.

Together in Mission

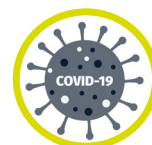


Perseverance is a byword for GHM in partnership with Lutheran Health Systems, like the one in Cameroon (OSEELC). A recent visit to Cameroon revealed successes to celebrate, and persistent challenges as well.

In the past 18 months we've seen a dramatic turn-around at

Garoua Boulai Hospital. Faced with growing debt, months of unpaid staff salaries and dwindling morale, a new medical director implemented change. Today, there is a single cashier and video surveillance throughout the hospital, staff has been reduced and salaries paid on time. Even back pay is being repaid, and debts to suppliers are resolved every month. After surviving multiple death threats, this charismatic medical director, Dr. Adrien, has quite a reputation. He even has a weekly radio program offering medical advice and population health tips over the airwaves. As he paved this new path for the hospital,

~ continued page 2



Coronavirus *As of March 1 ...*

Nigeria and India are the only GHM partner countries to have had a confirmed case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). A trusted source for information and advice is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.



In Cameroon *GHM partners ...*

to help equip 4 hospitals, 22 health centers, a Dental Clinic, an Eye Clinic and Foubarka Leprosarium, all part of the Lutheran healthcare system (OSEELC) in Cameroon.

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GHM persevered in building capacity with medical supplies and equipment, renovating maternal and pediatric units. Together we look with hope to the future. Garoua Boulai has become a leader for other hospitals in Cameroon to follow.

Ngaoundéré Hospital

At Ngaoundéré, OSEELC'S much larger flagship hospital, the challenges are deep and longstanding with larger debt and months of unpaid salaries. GHM is partnering with the national health board and Ngaoundéré directly to encourage video surveillance and enforcement of a single cashier. Solutions are coming from local leadership, but GHM's partnership can help it happen. In fact, GHAP, our consulting arm, has been working for improvement here for years, and the wheels of change are in motion. Meanwhile GHM's 32 years of perseverance are visible everywhere, in equipment, furnishings, and dozens of containers integrated into the hospital campus.

Ngaoubela Hospital

Ngaoubela has recently become a center for cancer testing and treatment, serving the entire northern half of Cameroon. This change became possible as GHM supporters funded the construction of a new laboratory in 2019. The new lab includes key equipment for their new role, and provides a service that is rare in Cameroon, and needed. This also means sustainable income for the hospital.



Together in Mission

Finally, in Cameroon GHM partners with the national board which governs OSEELC. We provide a voice and often counsel. In January, after years of debate and discussion, OSEELC's bylaws have been revised, approved by the national church and also the department of labor. These "small things" have huge implications across Cameroon at hospitals like those mentioned above. Thank you for partnering with GHM to stand together in mission with partners in Cameroon and a dozen other countries. Over the long haul, we are together in mission and there is much to celebrate.

WELCOME!

Two new staff members joined GHM in February! We're delighted to have Michelle Hoffart join us as our new Office Manager. Wanda will continue to show her the ropes until May 1, when Wanda retires (we think she will actually graduate to "volunteer"). Michelle comes to us from North Dakota, where she has been keeping a school district organized and functioning well for 16 years.

We are also delighted to have Ceallaigh Anderson Smart join us as Director of Philanthropy, a new position focused on fundraising and donor relations. Ceallaigh comes to us with development experience, having worked for non-profits in the Twin Cities for over twenty years. Both she and Michelle share a passion for our mission - welcome!



Michelle, and Ceallaigh!

SHIPPING NEWS

“ Dear Scott, Cc all

GHM latest 40' shipment full of materials and equipment safely arrived in Ngaoundéré, unloaded on Feb 24th. Big thanks and gratefulness goes to GHM staff and ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS! We feel ourselves blessed. Together in mission, Jérémie. ”



Every year since our founding in 1987, GHM has sent at least one container full of medical supplies and equipment to Cameroon. Jérémie, Materials Manager at Ngaoundéré Hospital, celebrates the arrival of the most recent container. This shipment

included 1,426 Newborn Kits, 787 Hospice Kits, 14,513 Rolled Bandages, 581 quilts and enough birth assistant kits to make delivery safer for 180 babies and their moms! From baby hats (thank you, knitters!) to blood pressure monitors, we are making a

difference in Cameroon. Three health centers also received portable x-ray machines, the Dental Clinic received a new dental chair, and two health centers in the Central African Republic were sent “Joy in a Box,” full of critically important medical supplies.

Urinalysis for a diabetic woman - on the spot in India!



Community Health Nurse students and leaders from Madagascar recently completed a two-week immersion training program in Jamkhed, India. You can see some of their photos and observations on our Facebook page.

More news from India ... Parkijuli Hospital, in northern Assam state, is virtually the only medical facility for a population of more than 100,000. We give thanks for the resumption of important laparoscopic surgery at Parkijuli. GHM recently replaced their broken equipment with a refurbished laparoscopic tower, sent via air freight with generous support from a number of partners.



TRANSFORMING HEALTH

What does a “Volume-to-Value” journey look like for a healthcare system in a low-resource country? SALFA is a Lutheran management system in Madagascar that includes 10 hospitals, 40 clinics and a nursing school.

The difference between resources in the U.S. and Madagascar is huge: 3/4 of Madagascar’s 26 million people live on less than \$2 a day. Contextual variables - social, political, environmental, religious,

cultural, tribal - require different partnerships.

But the difference in leadership challenges between American and Malagasy healthcare professionals is similar in this respect: how can we mobilize people to move from providing care to improving health?

SALFA’s evolving focus on a community-based primary healthcare approach through development of a Community Health Nurse training program that integrates

the nursing school, rural clinics and community residents, presents an opportunity for SALFA to pivot its purpose and business model to better align with health.

The combination of complex healthcare leadership challenges AND the lack of resources in partner low-resource countries makes us very proud of volunteer GHAP consultants who continue to commit their special talents to a profoundly worthy cause.

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

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GALA!

Registration is open for Global Health Ministries' 2020 fundraising Gala! Visit us on our website, www.ghm.org, or call us at 763-586-9590 to register.

Friday, April 17

Edinburgh USA Clubhouse
8700 Edinbrook Crossing
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

Doors and auction open 5:30 pm
Dinner seating 7:00
Program starts at 7:30

Contact us at:

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Ngat, Cameroon



During a recent visit to Cameroon, Doug Cox, Executive Director of Global Health Ministries, and Rob Thames, Director of GHAP, GHM's consulting arm, met a young mother who beamed as they arrived in Ngat, one of many small Lutheran health centers in rural Cameroon. She was exhausted, but didn't hesitate to introduce them to her newborn daughter. Global Health Ministries has donated newborn kits here that attract new moms. A GHM container sits on the property and

every room in the clinic boasts materials and equipment packed by GHM volunteers across the world in Fridley, MN. But the biggest success story here is the innovative and young professional staff of Ngat, committed to serving the people in Christ's name. More about our partnership in Cameroon in this issue.