



Global Health Ministries

Newsletter

Because all people should have access to a healthy life.

Photo, Phebe Hospital, Liberia, October 2023

The Wonders of God's Love



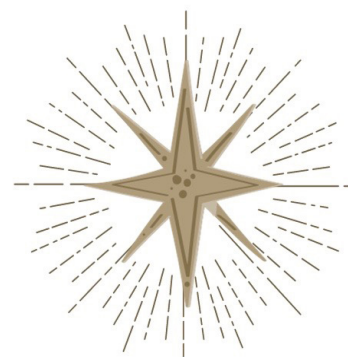
Dr. Minnie Ricks, Director, Phebe Hospital

I find myself humming, "Joy to the World" often these days. I love what it celebrates: the wonder of God's love, the hope God brings, and God's work in Jesus. I imagine Mary finding such a joyful tune for her words in Luke 1:46-55. She

must have been filled with wonder and awe, to sing these words about God who "lifted up the humble ...[and] filled the hungry with good things" on that first Christmas. The songs of wonder and joy at God's work still resonate every time we strive for equity by caring for the most vulnerable or seeking change in systems that plunder and oppress the poor. What began that first Christmas still continues today through all who follow Jesus.

At Global Health Ministries (GHM), you and I participate in this wonder and joy through partnerships that improve health for some of the world's most vulnerable people.

~ continued page 2



*Joy to the world,
the Lord has come
Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart
prepare him room
And Heaven and nature sing*

~ continued from page 1



Dr. Steve Friberg, Kitumbeine, Tanzania

On the Serengeti plains in Tanzania, staff in 8 remote Lutheran health clinics are available around the clock for deliveries, treating trauma from motorcycle accidents, infections, tropical diseases, and much more. GHM partners here by supplying medical equipment, renovations, and scholarships that help staff upgrade to new levels in medical training.

Missionary Dr. Steve Friberg recently shared, “Tanzanian doctors have told me that it has been the support coming through GHM that encouraged them, that boosted them in a way, where they kept working in that clinic for decades rather than maybe a half a dozen years and then moving on to something bigger and better.”

Thomas Matengwae works in this same community, as one of 32 evangelists cross-trained as a community health worker.

“Because people recognize me as a spiritual leader,” he shared, “they feel comfortable sharing private issues.” People know to call him when they have a problem. He spends four days a week walking to visit villages, and every week he brings people to the Lutheran clinics. The Tanzanian government, in fact, recognizes evangelists like Thomas as part of the health care system.



Evangelist Thomas walks miles every week, bringing spiritual and health guidance to Maasai bomas around Kitumbeine.

In Liberia, your partnership with GHM looks also like the compassionate new director of Phebe Hospital, Dr. Minnie Ricks. GHM staff, Scott and Kim, visited in October and witnessed her compassion even outside the hospital. Tarwaiyea Flomo, a young boy about 12 years old, had never been able to walk. Since birth, he was confined to his sleeping mat or the bench outside his home - if someone would carry him there. During a community outreach visit to his village, Dr. Ricks noticed the boy. She insisted he be brought to the hospital, knowing his family had no way to pay but also knowing Tarwaiyea needed medical attention. He went through extensive testing, was treated for malaria and gifted a wheelchair. The wheelchair had been shipped by GHM to Phebe in a recent container to Liberia.

These are just a few snapshots of profound ways that we get to express together the wonder of God’s love today. This Christmas, in thirteen countries around the world, tens of thousands of other “hands that heal” are empowered for their work, because of you.



Dr. Ricks (on the left) encouraged Tarwaiyea’s aunt to bring him to the hospital, despite their fears.

Thank you for your partnership this Christmas - you are filling many hearts with a song of Joy all around the world!

Rev. Doug Cox, Executive Director

Cheers To You!

It was late in December, and through the warehouse
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse ...
Well, maybe just one, but he was quite small,
And maybe another, but really, that's all.

In the aisles, where the dressings and gowns had been draped,
40 pallets were wrapped, the boxes all taped.
There were scalpels and forceps and sutures and gloves,
There were ultrasounds, microscopes - all packed with love.
Volunteers are our elves, they made this all happen,
With their very big hearts, their boundless compassion!

We count you among all our blessings, it's true
The wonder of God's love shines brightly through you.

Those pallets will soon be wending their way
Across the vast ocean to lands far away
With gifts that are precious, that help people thrive.
And if you were there when the shipment arrives,
You'd hear them exclaim, and send up a cheer -
"Thank you, dear friends, and Happy New Year!"



Welcome!

We're delighted that Mary Brown
has joined GHM staff as
Director of Philanthropy,
a role that she relishes.

A member of St. Andrew's
Lutheran Church in Eden
Prairie along with her
husband, Luther Johnson,
Mary is a graduate of
Concordia College,
Moorhead, and Luther
Seminary, and an ELCA

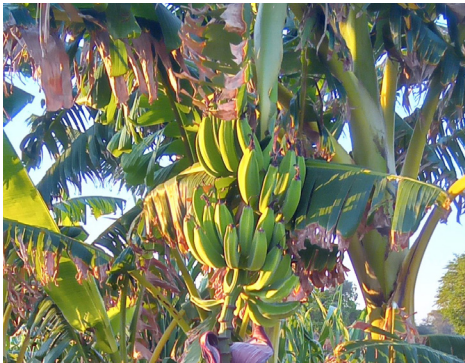


pastor, having served several
congregations in the Twin Cities area. Mary's heart led her into De-
velopment work, and she brings valuable experience with Luther-
an Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) and other national and local
nonprofits to her position at GHM. She's delighted to be working
with a faith-based organization again. Mary's focus will be on
fundraising and donor relations. She's excited to help us grow!

In fact, Mary's so excited she's already working on plans for **GHM's
spring Gala. Save the date for Friday evening, May 3rd, 2024!**

We'll gather at The Metropolitan in Minneapolis this year, to
celebrate the work of GHM and our global partners - work that's
made possible because of you.

Bananas!



Bananas in Androy! GHM consultant
Dr. Andry Ranaisonson shed happy
tears as he shared the news that the
Health and Water project in southern
Madagascar has brought enough water
in the desert to make growing banana
trees possible in 2023! "Seeing banana
trees in this region of the country is
exceptional ... I was born in the south
and have never seen bananas grown
there my whole life!"

Wow, Wow, Wow!



We were wowed by Dr. Amani, third from left, and his "Dream Team" at Curran LH

"Wow, wow, wow! This is your place! I check around and it's all GHM!" That
is how Dr. Seraphim Amani, Medical Director at Curran Lutheran Hospital,
greeted us when we arrived at the hospital in October. Staff were excited to
show the impact of GHM throughout the hospital, including with a new surgi-
cal table and lights, anesthesia gas machine, patient monitors, ultrasound and
digital x-ray received on a recent shipment. The digital x-ray is a game-chang-
er, improving the hospital's ability to identify when patients must be referred
to a Monrovia hospital, 5 hours away, for specialized care. Dr. Amani pointed
out that "Before, those patients would just go home and die." After bringing in
a senior biomedical engineer to install the machine and train staff, 50+ x-rays
had already been taken. Despite challenges, Dr. Amani and staff are working
hard to bring hope and healing to people in Lofa County. Our partnership
encourages and strengthens them. **"Seeing things from GHM all around, it
moves me to do my work," Amani shared.**

Scott Lien, Dir. of Operations

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

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From the Heart

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ~ Luke 12:34



We invite you to leave a legacy. Becoming a GHM Legacy Partner is one of the most powerful actions you can take to **give the gift of health for all.**

A legacy commitment is an investment in sustainable work that will **directly impact** some of the world's most vulnerable populations for generations to come.

To learn more, contact Mary Brown,
marybrown@ghm.org,
or 763-586-9590

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Big Belly Business

Hannah lives a 2 1/2 hour walk from Phebe Hospital in central Liberia. She's 23 years old, and pregnant with her second child. Hers is a high-risk pregnancy - high risk because she has malaria, she lives far from the hospital, and because her first child died during delivery. Hannah waited too long that first time, and although she eventually had a C-section, it was too late to save her baby. She's

determined that this time will be different. At 35 weeks, she came to Phebe's Maternal Waiting Home, where she lives while she waits. She's been there 5 weeks already, and hopes the baby comes soon! She worries about her family while she's away, and tension around the national election in Liberia is worrisome. It's keeping some women home, but Hannah knows she needs to do this. More than 3,000 women have used this waiting home since 2013. After delivery, they return for a few days to make sure all is well before going home with their newborn, and a Newborn Kit from GHM!