



Because all people should have access to a healthy life.

Photo, Mount Meru at sunrise, northern Tanzania

Global Health Ministries

Newsletter

Making All Things New



Village Health Workers with Birthing Assistant Kits, Nigeria

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'
Revelation 21:5

While we may not see ALL things becoming new until Jesus comes again, we believe that God is still

at work, and calls us to participate in making all things new through solidarity with "the least of these" - the same solidarity Jesus modeled for us - and to reverse injustices by offering hope in the face of afflictions, by mending the broken and bringing healing to the sick and downhearted.

At GHM, we focus on healing and health for the underprivileged and marginalized, and we partner with Lutheran efforts that make healthcare and wellness possible for people who have often been denied these basic rights for generations.

In **Cameroon**, generational poverty

~ continued page 2

*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?
I will make a way
in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.*

Isaiah 43:19



~ continued from page 1



The cooking pot “sterilizer” at Garoua Boulai Hospital, Cameroon

means that private Lutheran hospitals receive very small pay for healing services. Although the three main hospitals pay their employees on time today (a major achievement), none of them can afford to replace their worn-out sterilizers. Two use a cooking pot to boil and sterilize surgical instruments. But this is slow and requires expensive fuel. A large professional sterilizer would dramatically change the situation, consuming less fuel and efficiently sterilizing much, much more. Combined, these hospitals could average over 3,000 surgeries a year, a significant increase that would bring sorely needed revenue to each hospital. Poverty is the fundamental challenge, but in February, 2024, GHM is partnering to offer a new sterilizer to each hospital, creating new capacity to serve surrounding communities. Two containers a year, full of vital medical supplies, are also part of how GHM is partnering today in Cameroon.



GHM was pleased to participate in a recent gathering of FLM and SALFA leadership, aimed at shaping a more sustainable future.

Effective management is fundamental to having strong and sustainable health systems. To this end GHM has been invited to consult with national leadership in both **Cameroon** and **Madagascar**. In Madagascar, a conference in January, 2024, brought together almost 100 top leaders from the Malagasy Lutheran Church (FLM), the Lutheran health system (SALFA) and each of the SALFA hospitals. At the request of these local leaders, GHM is consulting to bring increasing sustainability and quality of care in that system. In Madagascar and Cameroon, and many other countries where GHM partners, the Lutheran healthcare efforts collaborate with government healthcare systems to deepen and extend healthcare beyond what the government can do alone.



VHWs are helping bring life-giving water to communities like this village in Nigeria

In **Nigeria**, over 62,000 people have Lutheran-trained Village Health Workers (VHWs) in their villages thanks, in part, to long-term consulting and financial support from GHM. In 2024, this number is set to increase dramatically as dozens of villages are requesting VHWs from the Lutherans. The VHWs share new ways to improve health and wellness with community members, from accessing clean water to disease prevention, prenatal care and more. Neighboring villages have seen the positive results. These growing investments by GHM are only possible through the generous and faithful gifts of people like you.

Together we are partnering in God’s work to make all things new. It is a privilege to work in solidarity with God’s good and faithful servants around the globe, to participate in God’s vision for a healed world, and to bring a taste of the final fulfillment of making all things new, in Christ’s name.

Rev. Doug Cox, Executive Director

Welcome!

GHM is blessed with a strong, 23-person Board of Directors, each member bringing valuable perspective, experience and insight to our work. In January we welcomed 8 new Board members along with ELCA representative, **Rev. Dr. Haemin Lee**, Director, World Hunger. **Arndt Braaten**, MD, MPH, MDIV, an active GHM consultant, brings 20 years experience as a primary care and emergency medicine physician, and as a Lutheran pastor of faith and health. **Diane Campeau**, RN, BA in Nursing Education, has worked in numerous health care settings and has embraced retirement by finding new purpose volunteering at GHM. **Mary Mertens**, MPH, was raised at Curran Lutheran Hospital, Liberia where her father was Medical Director. Her career has revolved around International Health, including work with Christian Health Association of Liberia (CHAL) and 20+ years with USAID. **Lilly Mukoka**, BS, MA, Certified Clinical Laboratory Scientist (ASCP). Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lilly brings global health experience in laboratory strengthening and capacity building. **Tim Rietz**, MD, retired family practitioner, was a founding member of GHM, moved by his experience serving at Manambaro Hospital in Madagascar. Former Manambaro Medical Director and a GHM founder, **John Toso**, MD, is returning to GHM's Board, where he was President before leaving to help develop Dodoma Christian Medical Center in Tanzania. **Michael Toso**, MS, brings 20 years experience in public health working and living in sub-Saharan Africa. He is focused on social behavior change related to malaria in his current work for Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs. Returning member and former President **Karen Plager**, PhD, FNP-BC, RN, retired faculty, Northern Arizona University School of Nursing, spoke for many, commenting she was "smitten" when she first heard of GHM!



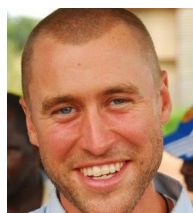
Arndt Braaten



Diane Campeau



Tim Rietz



Michael Toso



John Toso



Karen Plager



Lilly Mukoka



Mary Mertens



Haemin Lee

Slowing Diabetes' Rise



Diabetes is on the rise around the world, but increasing rapidly in Sub-Saharan Africa. In Madagascar alone, more than half a million people are known to have diabetes. Mary Oot-houtdt, a Diabetes Instructor with M Health Fairview, accompanied GHM to Madagascar in January, where she collaborated with the Lutheran School of Nursing (SEFAM), to lead sessions on symptoms and treatment, how to use a glucometer to test blood sugar levels, and gestational diabetes, helping equip tomorrow's nurses to prevent and treat this rising, chronic disease.

The Circle of Life

GHM's global partners provide compassionate care for people at all stages of life, from prenatal care to the passage from this life to the next. The safe and respectful handling of remains is critically important for public health as well as the emotional well-being of those left behind. A GHM grant is funding construction of a new morgue at Ngaoundéré Protestant Hospital, the flagship hospital of OSEELC, the Lutheran health system in Cameroon. This morgue will serve not only the hospital but the entire region, which has very little access to this essential service. Construction began in January with local media present and Rev. Dr. Jean Baguele, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon, leading staff in the groundbreaking - the project is that important to the community. By mid-February the building was up! Soon this service will start bringing new life in the form of much-needed revenue to the struggling hospital.



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Making All Things New

Celebrate with us the work of
GHM and our global partners!

2024 GALA

FRIDAY, APRIL 26
EDINBURGH USA
BROOKLYN PARK
MINNESOTA



FEATURING HOST AND VOCALIST
JEARLYN STEELE

TICKETS AT GHM.ORG

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10,000 Moms!

Naomi and her baby were in line, with about a dozen other mothers seated on the bench next to her and dozens more patiently waiting their turn. They were there for vaccines for their children. Like Naomi, they had walked to this village where a community outreach team from the nearest hospital was offering services that day. The outreach team had helped Naomi before her baby was born, letting her know when she needed to go to the hospital to ensure a safe delivery. Their promise of a GHM

Newborn Kit was enough for her to follow through, and once she saw what they could do for her and her family she was hooked. Now that she's made a connection with these healthworkers she keeps up on her son's vaccines, and makes sure with their help that he's growing well. Last year GHM sent 7,200 Newborn Kits to waiting partners so they could make connections like these, because perinatal care can save the life of a mother and her newborn. This year, the goal is to send **10,000 Newborn Kits** to help moms like Naomi. Learn more at ghm.org/service-projects.