



GLOBAL HEALTH

Newsletter of Global Health Ministries

Vol. 19 No. 2

March-April 2006



Volunteers at work in the new sorting room. More space allows for safer and more effective processing of supplies and donations.

New Warehouse Opening April 2nd

One year to the day after the Global Health Ministries' Board of Directors authorized the purchase and renovation of additional warehouse space adjacent to its present location, a Grand Opening Celebration is planned to dedicate the renovated facilities to a growing mission. The newly integrated buildings will have two additional docks for loading sea containers, and double the space allocated for storage of supplies and equipment.

Of special importance, according to GHM Executive Director Rev. Tim Iverson, is that there will now be secure and spacious work areas for the volunteers who come so faithfully every week to sort and pack supplies, evaluate and certify medical equipment, and prepare surgical and lab instruments for shipment.

The warehouse expansion project takes place as requests for support from the

health care programs of Lutheran Churches overseas have tripled in recent years, and major new donors of supplies and equipment from such health care systems as HealthEast in the Twin Cities and Alegent in Nebraska have chosen Global Health Ministries as their mission partner.

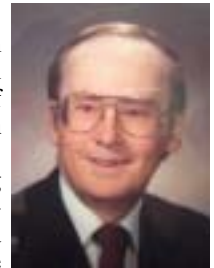
"We're so excited for the future of our mission," said, Bea Haagenson, board member and "Growing in Mission" capital fund campaign chair, "because so many more Lutheran health services and hospitals will now be strengthened, and so many more of the world's poor will have hope for healing. We wish that everyone will want to come out and celebrate this wonderful day with us!"

The festivities will begin at 2:00 pm on Sunday, April 2nd and will include guided educational tours, music, refreshments, and a special service of dedication.

Buhr to Lead CAR Medical Survey Team

Dr. James B. Buhr, former medical missionary to Zululand, Liberia and Cameroon, and currently on active staff in family medicine at Mercy Hospital and MeritCare, Valley City, ND, will lead a survey team on behalf of Global Health Ministries and the Eastern and Western North Dakota and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synods, ELCA, to finalize plans for a new health center at Gallo, Central African Republic.

Also with the team will be Gordon Olson, Director of Lutheran Partners in Global Mission, who is collaborating in developing the architectural plans and capital funds for the project, and three



Dr. James Buhr representatives from the companion synods in mission with the CAR Lutheran Church.

The trip, May 24 to June 5th, will take the team through a large and desperately poor area of the country where no health services currently exist. Since an earlier GHM trip to CAR nearly two years ago, plans to renovate an unused missionary compound at Gallo have been under development by church leaders in CAR, together with the country's Ministry of Health, Catholic and government health care providers in the region.

Designed to keep the initial costs low and the project sustainable, the concept emerged to develop a very basic, primary health care service on site as soon as possible, operating out of one of the houses on the compound with one doctor and a few support staff. Eventually, the hope is to convert available buildings into a full-scale clinic, and later to add a minor surgical suite.

Global Health Ministries will commit funds to the project's start-up in

SAVE THE DATE!!

Join us for the Warehouse Grand Opening Celebration!

Sunday, April 2, 2006 2 p.m. See insert for more details and directions.

Continued on page 3



Direct Lines

from the
Director

"A Matter of Faith"

There's something exhilarating about the roller-coaster ride we've been on these past months of building renovation. Most of the major work has now been completed, and our volunteers have already moved into their new work rooms, building shelves and work benches, arranging the space to make it their own. It's good to see that they seem pleased with what has been done. They are happy and chatty during their breaks, as always, but now they regularly invite friends to come and see what's happening here, many of whom are becoming new volunteers. Meanwhile, we continue to receive additional requests from overseas Lutheran hospitals for shipments, and large new donors of medical supplies and equipment, such as the Twin Cities' HealthEast and Omaha-based Alegent hospital systems, are coming forward for partnership with GHM.

We look forward now with excitement and joy to greeting you on April 2nd when we hold our Grand Opening celebration! I have no doubt that buying and renovating expanded space for our ministry was the right thing to do. When it comes to our mission of "continuing the healing ministry of Jesus," God appears to have a bigger job for us yet to do. In choosing to grow in mission, we stepped out in faith, and that faith is being affirmed. It helps a lot to have that confidence, because now, of course, we have to pay for it, and ask people like you to help make that happen. It is faith that has brought us this far, and faith that must be at the heart of our appeal.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote that in order to know what faith is all about, you have to dive into life, with the challenges and risks of our times, reaching out with your best to engage the people who populate our world, where failings and temptations abound, but also glory and joy, enough to be regularly thrown to your knees by the experience to seek and to celebrate the grace of God. Bonhoeffer could have written this about our commitment to grow in mission because, in every respect, it has been a matter of faith and a source of blessing. Have you ever wondered why



Newly expanded conference/break room showing ramp to warehouse on right side



Volunteer biomedics will evaluate and repair medical equipment in their new room

it is that people who return from mission trips regularly testify to the spiritual enrichment they have gained from their sojourns among the poor? "How is it," they often ask, "that I could have received so much from those who have nothing to give?" Well, the answer, it seems, is that those who have no worldly possessions or power are apt to offer great spiritual treasures precisely because, having nothing but faith to live by, they are natural and expert witnesses to the trustworthiness of our gracious God. They are often our joyful guides to life by faith as the path to abundant life. And it is above all the

poor whom we serve in Jesus' name; whose faith we can strengthen by our service. As it was when our Lord walked the dusty roads of Galilee and healed those who sought him out in faith, so also now may many more of the poor have their prayers for peace and healing answered because, in faith, we have chosen to grow in mission, to the glory of God!
--Rev. Tim Iverson

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, Executive Director; Rev. Jeanne Markquart, Editor

The Faces of Faithful Giving *by Bill Elmstrom*

Recently I was asked by a lady in rural Minnesota to help her complete her second Charitable Gift Annuity. She had just sold her home and wanted to take advantage of the great return a Charitable Gift Annuity offers. She also wanted to make a lasting gift for ministry. In talking with her we discussed who the beneficiary of her annuity should be. She shared with me that she wanted to help mission work throughout the world.

As I was writing the application I asked her what she was doing to keep busy now that she didn't have a home to care for. She said "I'm up at the church working two to three days a week." When asked what she was doing at church she shared that unlike many women she did not make quilts. She was making bandages. I asked her if by chance she was doing that for Global Health Ministries and she said yes and asked if I knew of them.

Of course you all know the answer to that. I then asked her with the relationship she has developed with Global Health Ministries if she wouldn't want to specify them as the recipient of a portion of her annuity that was going to missions. She thought that was a great idea. On my drive home she called me and asked if it was too late to change her mind on the gift annuity. Of course I said it was OK and wondered what change she would want to make. She shared with me that she had been up to Global Health Ministries in Fridley and saw first-hand what they did and was impressed. She also said she knew from that visit what it cost to send a container overseas. She then said if she were to direct all the proceeds from the Charitable Gift Annuity it would pay for three containers.

The change was made and a heartfelt gift was put in place for GHM.

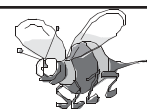
I'm sure many of you have a similar relationship with Global Health Ministries. Winston Churchill once said of the valiant flyers guarding the skies over England, "Never have so few, given so much, to so many." I believe the same can be said for Global Health Ministries. You know when you give your support to GHM their limited staff put your gift to work in the most efficient manner helping thousands of people throughout the world.

A Charitable Gift Annuity returns from 5 to 11% and is the most secure return on the dollar that you can get. For anyone interested in finding out what this type of life income agreement can do for you, Global Health Ministries, and other ministries of the church please give me a call (320-839-3326) or an e-mail (elmstrom@wat.midco.net). *Bill Elmstrom serves GHM by facilitating deferred and present gifting.*

Continued from page 1

CAR Medical Survey

collaboration with the North Dakota and Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast companion synods, and will provide needed medical supplies and equipment through its shipping program. It is envisioned also that the project will afford opportunities for important short-term mission service to enhance the medical care offered and assist in the project's early planning and development phase over the next three years. Contributions for this much-needed health care development project are welcomed (Gallo Health Center, project # 10GA-P0001).



The B-line by Bea Haagenon

Mailed packages

GHM has a policy of thanking everyone personally for donations of money and in-kind gifts. However, frequently something is mailed to us without the name and address of the sender. That is especially the case with donations sent via UPS. The UPS address is on the box and not the sender's. Therefore, please attach a note to the box or in the box so we can properly thank you.

Kits and Beyond

We are so blessed by the many gifts of midwife kits and hospice kits that make their way to the GHM warehouse and from there to countries where they are so badly needed. Now, in order to make the kit program more of a "full service project" we are faced with expenses to help cover distribution of the kits, training in how to use them, and care of the patients involved. We would like to bring this challenge to our faithful contributors of midwife kits and hospice kits and ask for your support if possible. It is estimated that the above services would average \$3 to \$5 per kit.

NOTE: There is **NO** change to the instructions for the midwife kits. Latest copies of brochure is dated August 2003. You may also check the website: www.ghm.org.

God's blessings as you continue to serve Him by "Helping the Hands that Heal" and consider being part of this expanded kit program.

Submit questions for the B-line to GHM, attention Bea Haagenon

Important Information for GHM Donors about Thrivent's Giving Plus Matching Program

Thrivent policy holders and *associate** members' gifts to GHM may be matched by **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.**

Donations of \$600.00 or more per year per policy holder will be matched with \$300.00 by Thrivent. Donations above the \$600 to GHM per year per policy holder will not be matched by Thrivent but are equally appreciated by GHM.

1. Make check payable to Global Health Ministries.
2. Complete a Thrivent "Giving Plus" form, available from GHM or it can be downloaded from the Thrivent web site: <http://www.thrivent.com/fraternal/churchcommunity/pdf/GivingPlusApplication.pdf>
3. Complete the reverse of this slip.
4. Mail the check, this slip and the Thrivent form to GHM.
5. Keep a copy for your records.

* If you do not have a Thrivent policy you can become an Associate Thrivent Member for a fee of \$10 per year. To apply online go to http://www.clubcolors.com/products/thrivent_join.jsp?selected_catalog=thrivent or call GHM (763-586-9590) for information



GLOBAL HEALTH

Mar-Apr 2006

What is Global Health Ministries? GHM provides a gift of life -- physical and spiritual -- through Lutheran health care work across the world by providing project financial support, locating and shipping urgently needed medical supplies, recruiting health care personnel, and funding the training of national health care givers.

email: ghmoffice@cs.com • Internet: http://www.ghm.org
763/586-9590 • 763/586-9591 (FAX)

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

7831 Hickory Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55432-2500

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Global Health Ministries “Growing in Mission” Capital Funds Campaign

\$200,000 raised so far!

Our Goal!



0	\$187,500	\$375,000	\$562,500	\$750,000
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Expanding our Borders: Growing in Mission

With thanks to God and in celebration of the mission God has called us to serve, I (we) are pleased to pledge the following contribution to Global Health Ministries' Capital Fund Campaign:

Name (s) _____	Year 2005	\$ _____
Address _____	Year 2006	\$ _____
_____	Year 2007	\$ _____
Signed _____	Total Pledge	\$ _____
Date _____	One-time gift	\$ _____

Please make your check payable to Global Health Ministries, enter Acct.#99-42100 GHM Capital Funds on the memo line. Be sure to return this slip with your contribution. - Your gift is tax-deductible

See reverse side for information on Thrivent matching funds opportunity.