



GLOBAL HEALTH

Newsletter of Global Health Ministries

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Dodoma Christian Medical Centre Breaks New Ground



Dodoma Christian Medical Centre—an innovative Christian healthcare project serving central Tanzania—is developing a new model for mission hospital development, operation and sustainability that may set important standards for the future. The project is the result of the vision of visiting members from Calvary Lutheran Church of Golden Valley, MN to Dodoma, Tanzania and Bishop Peter L. Mwamasika of the Dodoma Diocese-Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The 2001 visit revealed:

1. One of the highest rates of maternal and infant mortality in the country;
2. HIV/AIDS growing in its impact;
3. Much of the Dodoma region without any practical source of health care.

After this visit, a nonprofit organization was established in 2003 to raise support for the mission of “providing accessible and sustainable quality health care, through both community-based and a referral/ specialized health delivery system, with the compassion and love of Jesus Christ” in this central zone of Tanzania. A visit by the President of the new organization, Mr. Bobby Griffin, to share their vision led to collaboration with GHM

in implementing this model, including project grants and shipments of medical supplies, equipment and furnishings. Another gift from GHM was Dr. John Toso, formerly GHM’s board president, who was appointed as DCMC’s project director.

The fall of 2003 found John and his wife Joann in Dodoma. With the efforts of a veteran public health consultant, Janet Kenyon, RN, MPH, a baseline community health survey of the areas served by the Dodoma Diocese was underwritten by GHM. The results led the planners to design the project around three arms now under construction:

1. An eighty bed medical center with the following areas of excellence:
 - a. Orthopedic trauma management;
 - b. Complicated OB/GYN;
 - c. Cardiology with a pediatric focus;
 - d. ICU/ER graduate nurse training;
2. A full-service dental clinic and dental public health program;
3. A Community Health Department, including management of the Lutheran rural clinics in the Dodoma region.

Borrowing heavily on a study done in

India in the 1990’s of former mission hospitals to identify the factors predictive of success, DCMC’s governance follows these principles:

-Instead of operating under the ownership and direction of any one church body, DCMC will operate as a non-denominational Christian organization, albeit with strong Lutheran roots;

-The Christian mission, vision, and values of the organization will be evident throughout all the levels of DCMC.

-The trustees and the directors of this organization will be chosen to balance church, health, business, government, and gender representation.

DCMC has been pro-active in developing personnel needed to provide the services envisioned, and grants ‘upgrading’ from within to those employees who show promise and initiative. GHM has been impressed by the care with which DCMC has planned its development, including its staffing, and recently approved training scholarships for four staff, including Dr. Eunice Ketan’enyi, who will become Dodoma’s pediatric cardiologist. For more information about the Dodoma Christian Medical Center, go to their website, www.dthd.org.



Dr. Eunice Ketan'enyi pictured above left, giving GHM midwife kits to staff at Mpwapwa District Hospital



Direct Lines
from the
Director

As we look back on another good year in ministry just completed, I want to thank you. Because of your generosity and faithfulness, we were able to fulfill all of our commitments for shipping and project support made to our partners overseas; but more importantly, the prayers of the poor for hope and healing were answered. Looking ahead, we continue to experience a growing number of requests for grants and shipments of medical supplies and equipment. We are stretching to fill out the full potential of our mission world-wide.

Our newly-expanded warehouse facilities, dedicated last April, are now filled with donated supplies from new state-side hospital systems. New volunteers are coming to assist with the never-ending tasks of sorting and packaging the donations for inventory, and then packing those 20 foot and 40 foot sea containers for shipment. It's great to see the volunteers' enthusiasm, and hear their promises to bring back others to experience the same feeling of having served the Lord and those in need in a meaningful way. Countless and different gifts make this ministry possible, and we are bountifully blessed with our share of them.

I have been on a preaching/teaching/meeting blitz these past two months around the country at a marvelous variety of mission and capital fund campaign events from small home dinner parties to huge congregational mission banquets to even larger events like the now-famous Lutheran Seniors Assembly in Scottsdale, Arizona. It has been tiring at times, but the continual expressions of gratitude and celebration for Global Health Ministries have always lifted and energized me. My goodness, dear friends, how we are loved and appreciated for *lifting up and serving as a channel for your involvement in Christ's healing mission; for standing with the poor whom Christ called us to serve; for prudent stewardship of gifts so that your donations go where desired to successfully accomplish what was intended; for opening people's eyes and hearts to the meaning and joy that awaits those who*

share their gifts that others might have life!

One delightful expression of people's devotion to our mission has been the support we have enjoyed to date for our "Growing in Mission" capital funds campaign. We still have a ways to go, and we still need the help of those of you who have not, as yet, pledged or contributed, but we are well on our way! At the half-way point of our three-year campaign, we are more than half-way towards the goal of \$750,000 and finally securing the expanded warehouse as the new foundation for our growing mission, now triple the size of our shipping program that we had five years ago!

Of course, the parallel story to our growth in shipping is the growth in number, giftedness and passion of medical mission teams around the country who are partnering with GHM in support of new Lutheran mission hospitals and health initiatives overseas. The outstanding work of the Nigeria and Central African Republic GHM medical teams described in this issue of *Global Health* exemplify how GHM is fostering growth in the number of people with a heart for global mission. Did you know that during the last three years, more than a third of the 65 ELCA synods have become mission partners with us? As outgrowths of collaborations in this network, there have been 36 shipments to partner hospitals, more than \$2 million raised in mission support, more than 500 new and passionately involved individuals have come forward to give their gifts to medical mission, and more than 30 visitations for assessment, training and support to their partner hospitals have been completed by teams of medical professionals recruited from Lutheran Church members in each synod.

The Spirit is busy at work calling, equipping and sending new people to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. To me, one of the most enjoyable parts of the Christian life, and of this ministry, is in chasing after the Spirit, providing God's people with creative opportunities to use their gifts in service, knowing that in our combined efforts to be faithful, by the Spirit's design, we will be keeping the Gospel Light Shining. That is what we are about at Global Health Ministries, and while I take a moment to catch my breath, let me thank you for making this ministry such a joy!

Rev. Tim Iverson

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The B-line

by Bea Haagenon



IMPORTANT NEWS

Regarding AIDS/Hospice Kits

Due to recent changes in overseas government policy and regulations regarding the importation and management of medications, which include ibuprofen and multi-vitamins normally included in hospice kits, we have **decided to discontinue the inclusion of these medications in the kits.** The kits are still valued by our partners for use in the care of terminally ill patients, but now our partners themselves will purchase and insert the medications in the kits before they are distributed. To help cover these expenses, along with the costs of shipping and staff training, we are now asking our faithful supporters to consider contributing the cost of these medications (about \$5.00) with each kit. Please do not include the money with the kit, but send it separately to GHM, marked "Hospice Kits."

The updated instructional handout is available from GHM and can also be downloaded from our website. Just click on "hospice kits" at the bottom of the homepage.

For quick reference, here is a list of the items to be included in the revised kit:

New or gently used items:

- 1 regular size bath towel
- 1 wash cloth

New items:

- 1 bath size bar of hand soap (wrapped) - any kind
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 tube of tooth paste, medium or large (or two small sample size) - any kind
- 1 "pick" comb (see illustration)
- 1 nail clipper
- 6 Band-Aids
- 1 jar or tube of petroleum jelly
- 1 pair heavy duty household gloves (kitchen type). Size medium
- 1 small devotional booklet such as "Portals of Prayer" or "Christ in our Home" - (does not have to be current issue)

We truly appreciate the many kits we are receiving and pray that this revision will generate even more kits.

It's a wonderful way to
"Help the Hands that Heal."

Questions for the B-line can be addressed to GHM, attention Bea Haagenon.

Nigeria Medical Survey Team Issues Report

The GHM health care survey team that visited Nigeria in December as part of the larger Minneapolis Synod, ELCA companion synod delegation has finished its report and recommendations. Global Health Ministries helped recruit the survey team, led by Gary Sande, GHM's new Project Manager for Nigeria and staff Tom Duke. The report gives observations and recommendations developed by the team as they visited health care personnel and facilities of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria.



GHM Team members, L-R, Linda Van Ryn, Gary Sande, Yakubu Bulama (LCCN), Dr. David Thompson, Rev. Tom Duke, Jay Johnson, Dr. Maynard Jacobson

The team found a strong sense of urgency from LCCN leadership to develop the church's health care program. While it

has several dispensaries in outlying areas, the Church is lacking in a central coordinating, training and administering staff function. One hospital (at Demsa) is now being developed to provide both more advanced clinical services/surgery and education, and coordination of community health workers staffing the network of dispensaries. The hospital has recently become operational, with the arrival of one surgeon and supplies and equipment received from a GHM shipment.

New initiatives recommended by the team include arranging for a well and electricity at Demsa, a new shipment of supplies and equipment for the hospital and dispensaries, and developing resources for an expanded wells/water program. While building in maximum sustainability and self-sufficiency, these projects will be pursued in accord with the plans and priorities of the LCCN and in coordination with other partners such as the ELCA and the Danish mission society, Sudan Mission.

Following the team's productive mission, the Minneapolis Area Synod

(MAS) has now authorized the formation of a Health Care Task Force to be part of its companion synod relationship with LCCN, and invited the participation of MAS congregations for on-going work to develop ways to be in partnership and support LCCN's health care program. These plans will no doubt include follow-up visits for face-to-face dialogue and planning for further project development. Team members are ready and willing to offer presentations with video/slide shows. Anyone interested in more information or arranging a presentation may contact Gary Sande at 651-224-9819, or sande973@msn.com



GHM's Nigeria Project Coordinator, Gary Sande, visiting hospital development project in Billi, Nigeria

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC GALLO PROJECT PROGRESSES

Last September, GHM sponsored a health care survey team to visit the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Central African Republic (EELRCA) to assess with Church leadership the prospects for development of a health center in a remote area lacking health care services. The Church there requested assistance to convert buildings at a largely unused former missionary compound near the village of Gallo, between Bouar and Baboua, into clinic facilities, with the possibility of further expansion, including surgical services. The clinic services and staff, including the first doctor in the immediate area, would be integrated with Village Health and HIV/AIDS programs that the church is already operating in area villages.

The survey team, led by Dr. Jim Buhr of Valley City, ND, and Phil Nelson, a former missionary to CAR from West Fargo, also included Glenice Hansen from Dickinson and Dr. Dick Herring from Lisbon. They came back enthusiastically supportive of moving ahead with the project, while realizing the challenges of doing so. The team has put together a report which has now

been shared with the three companion synods of EELRCA—Eastern and Western North Dakota and the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synods, the Global Missions department of ELCA, Lutheran Partners in Global Mission and other potential partners in the project. A project plan has been translated into French and transmitted to Church leaders in CAR by former missionary Rev. Sarah Tade of Walcott, ND, and her husband Noel, who is a native of CAR.

In January Tom Duke, Tim Iverson and members of the survey team met with bishops and global mission leadership from each of the three companion synods, as well as ELCA missions staff, to discuss the team's report and consider how best to work together to bring the clinic to reality and sustain it for many years. GHM and Lutheran Partners in Global Mission have developed construction plans and are raising funds for the clinic. Pledges have already been made that cover a significant part of the start-up and construction costs. Covering the cost of staffing, operating and sustaining the project, however, will be a challenge. Based on generous re-

sponses to date from individuals and congregations in the companion synods, GHM believes the request from CAR will attract the necessary new funding from people concerned about the serious health care needs of their sister Church. The survey team members and GHM staff are ready to make presentations to groups or individuals interested in this project. Plans are underway for a spring consultation meeting convened by GM/ELCA, at which all the companion projects and various partners' commitments will be considered and goals set for each.

The survey team reported instances of people literally dying on the road carrying loved ones to the nearest health care facility, too far away. Others used wheelbarrows to transport people too sick to walk the many kilometers. GHM is hoping that work can begin within the year to support EELRCA in their efforts to alleviate this appalling shortage of health care resources. For more information, or to arrange for presentations, contact Tom Duke at GHM, tduke03@earthlink.net, or 651-263-7031.



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

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7831 Hickory Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55432-2500

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Tools Needed for Biomedical Repair

To support the work of biomedical repair at the GHM warehouse, our volunteers need specific tools and supplies in order to repair and certify requested medical equipment. A comprehensive list has been identified and budgeted for \$1,000. Please consider making a donation so that our volunteers have the tools they need to help the hands that heal!

Stopwatch, Digital
10-piece T-handled hex key set
8-piece precision screwdriver set
Meterman multimeter
Skil 3.6v cordless screwdriver
Weller soldering gun
6" bench visa
12v 3/8" cordless drill kit
8" bench top drill press 1/2" chuck cap
204-piece socket set
6" cushion grip 15/16" crescent wrench
8" cushion grip 1-1/8" crescent wrench
10" cushion grip 1-15/16" crescent wrench
Solid joint journeyman pliers 9" side cutting
Tongue & groove pliers 12" straight jaw
Tongue & groove pliers 12" v jaw
3-piece locking pliers set 5" & 10"
 curved, 6" long nose
3-piece solid joint pliers set 8" long
 nose & lineman
Milwaukee cordless screwdriver 2.4v
 w/powerhead

DO YOU STILL WANT THE NEWSLETTER?????

We've been asking ourselves that question lately. There is quite a large number of you from whom we have heard nothing (no calls or letters or contributions of volunteer time, supplies or money) for a long time! We are guessing that you are still at home, because we haven't been informed that you have moved.

As you know, it costs something to mail out *Global Health*, and we want to be good stewards of the precious dollars donated to us by people who love our ministry. We truly want everyone to have the newsletter, but since we haven't heard from some of you for the last five years, we plan to take you off the mailing list in the next few months, unless you contact us soon.

If you think you might be one of these people but want to stay connected via the newsletter, let us know by letter to

Global Health Ministries
7831 Hickory St NE
Minneapolis MN 55432

or e-mail to ghmoffice@cs.com
or phone (763-586-9590).

Thank you!