



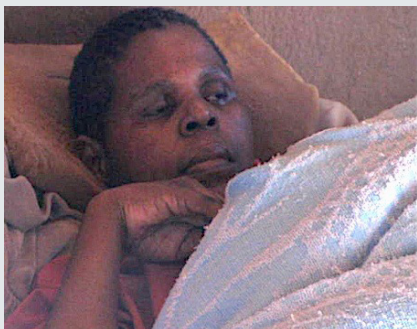
Because all people should have access to a healthy life.

Photo taken in Liberia, 2018. Community meeting, Galia.

Global Health Ministries

Newsletter

The Importance of Ordinary People



Do you know your neighbors? Do you know their names, or even better, do you ever talk together about more than just the weather? Why does it matter? One thing I've learned from people in villages around the globe is the importance of ordinary people working together.

Home-Based Care

Seven such unassuming people in Zimbabwe are making a difference. At 35 years old, Mary (name has been changed) was injured in an accident and paralyzed from the waist down. This day, seven volunteers visit Mary with songs, encouraging words, prayers and help with house cleaning and chores like getting water. In addition, they offer a hospice kit from GHM and a supply of incontinence pads. This visit is one of thousands around the globe where ordinary people connect and minister to neighbors while sharing one of the 2,295 hospice kits or 5,445 newborn kits sent by you through GHM to 6 countries in 2020.

~ continued page 2



The Home-Based Care team begins their day with prayer.

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others ..."

~ 1 Peter 4:8-10

~ continued from page 1



GHM Hospice Kits, made with love!

Mission Hospitals

I'm struck by how ordinary and approachable doctors, nurses and all levels of medical workers are in mission hospitals around the world. No matter the size of the clinic or hospital, it always feels like a small-town doctor's office where everyone is known by name. Clinics and hospitals like these in 13 countries are supported by you and me through GHM, as we send out supplies and equipment almost every month. Ordinary people gather in Minnesota every day to sort through supplies and make them available as life-saving gifts around the world!

Peace for a Village

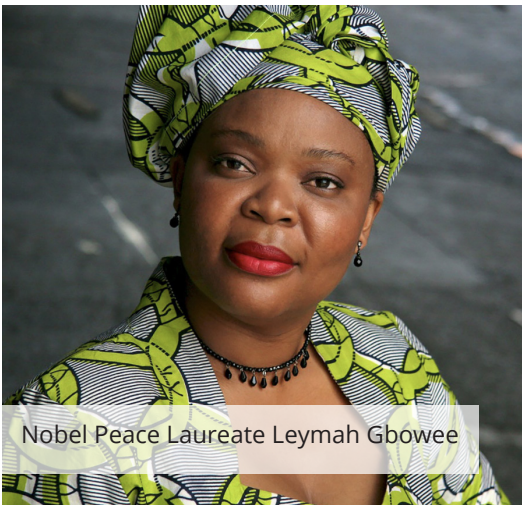
In northeastern Nigeria the presence of terrorist groups like Boko Haram and ISIS can escalate existing tension between Christian and Muslim neighbors. On my last visit to Nigeria, a young Christian boy had just been killed by Boko Haram in a village where GHM has partnered for a decade to empower volunteer health workers. In many villages, Christians would retaliate against Muslims after such an event. But in this case, the family of the boy carried his body to the center of the village, saying to everyone, "This was not done by our neighbors! This was done by foreigners! Leave our neighbors in peace!" Ordinary people, united through a decade of improving each other's lives through better access to health, were now a force for peace.



Christian and Muslim neighbors share the joy over a new well, Nigeria

Peace for a Nation

At 17 years old, Leymah Gbowee saw a brutal civil war ravaging her country of Liberia. Young Leymah's fear eventually turned to courage, and she was moved to rally ordinary women, Muslim and Christian alike, to stand up for an end to the war. These ordinary women became a non-violent "army" protesting for weeks on end, and ultimately barricading rebel warlords and the Liberian President in meetings until they made a peace agreement! These ordinary women tirelessly protested, and led their nation into peace. In 2011, Leymah Gbowee was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her role in ending the Liberian 14-year civil war.



Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee

Ms. Leymah Gbowee will join GHM as the keynote speaker for our 2021 Imagine Change Gala on May 6th at 7pm. She tells her own story of ordinary women having extraordinary impact in her book, *Mighty Be Our Powers*. Ms. Gbowee's inspiring story reminds us all of the power of ordinary people working together to make a better world.

Together, you and I are such ordinary people. As we read these pages, I pray that you might be inspired by ordinary people around the globe who make a difference in Jesus' name. I also pray with incredible thanksgiving for each of you. Together we are making a world of difference.

Rev. Doug Cox, Executive Director

EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT



SEFAM's first cohort of Community Health Nurses

Madagascar is anything but ordinary. A biodiversity hot-spot, 90% of its plants and animals are found nowhere else on the planet; it is the world's leading exporter of vanilla; and it is the 4th largest island in the world – over three times the size of Great Britain. But it is also among the poorest of countries, with nearly 3 out of 4 people living in extreme poverty (less than \$2/day).

Similarly, SEFAM is anything but an ordinary Nursing School. Part of SALFA, the Malagasy Lutheran Health System, SEFAM is one of the top-ranked nursing schools in the country. It just graduated and placed the first cohort of students in a new, progressive Community Health Nurse (CHN) program – during a pandemic! Graduates from this

post-graduate, 6-month certificate program are paired with SALFA Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) which are typically led by a nurse midwife. The CHN at each of the 5 pilot RHCs works with 3-7 villages in the area. SOFIHI, the acronym for this CHN program, loosely translates to “Basic Health Tips to Share.”

The CHN's role is to reach out to the community and engage members in addressing root causes of disease and poor health. These go beyond healthcare access to include water, hygiene, food security, education, and income. In short, they target how to reduce DEMAND for healthcare to complement the traditional focus on increasing supply of healthcare services. By collaborating with community leaders and CHWs (community health workers) to conduct a community health assessment, provide education and target behavior change interventions, they address maternal and child health, family planning, and how to reduce diarrhea, malaria, transmission of respiratory and sexual infections, etc.

A tenet of the SOFIHI approach is that **everyone** shares responsibility for the community's health. **Your** support is enabling GHAP consultants Carol Berg and Karen Plager to help SOFIHI provide that little “extra” that is turning ordinary healthcare into **extra**ordinary disease prevention...and transforming lives globally!

Rob Thames, FACHE, FHFMA, Dir. of GHAP



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

“It’s the people. And the need.” This is what draws Jim and Butch Foster, retired ranchers from Montana, back to Liberia again and again. They were remembering their first trip, in 2004. “When we got there, there was nothing,” they said. “We’ve never lived with nothing, we didn’t really understand that word.” How many of us would have to say the same?

Since then they’ve been all in, returning for months at a time, living and working with local communities on a variety of projects and sharing their skills to help rebuild structures destroyed during the war. They say it takes a village, and in Liberia they have experienced that first-hand. No backhoe? No problem. The whole community comes out, working together to help build.

In 2020, the Foster's received this newsletter and read about the generosity of Dr. Len Akland, who was providing a matching grant to encourage giving to GHM for COVID-19 relief. They had loved GHM for years, and when they read of Dr. Akland's commitment they were inspired to meet his challenge. They helped expand the match, and made a donation to GHM's Shipping program that is helping transform access to healthcare at Phebe and Curran Hospitals. They've seen the importance of those shipments. GHM could not accomplish our mission without the support of donors like the Foster's, and like you. You inspire each other, you inspire us, and your gifts - of any size - work together with the gifts of others to help us build a better world.

SHIPPING!

So many fingerprints on the container that recently arrived in Liberia! Praise God for the generous donations, financial and in-kind, that made this shipment possible. And praise God for the volunteers who sorted and inventoried supplies, folded linens, inspected and repaired equipment, built wooden crates ... 2,004 items from syringes to surgical tables and lights, and a digital x-ray scanner for Phebe! We give thanks for an exceptionally high-value, high-impact shipment!

Scott Lien, Dir. of Operations

Kim Dickey, Dir. of Communications

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

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SAVE THE DATE!

GHM's first VIRTUAL
GALA!

LIVE Program online
MAY 6, 7 pm - 8 pm
Silent Auction opens May 1

*Presenting special speaker
Leymah Gbowee,
2011 Nobel Peace Laureate.
Be inspired to imagine change
with us!*

Free! To receive the link,
Register at
www.ghm.org

Contact us at:

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES
7831 Hickory Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55432
763.586.9590
office@ghm.org

