

HMA Co-Hosted Peace Colloquy Reception for Dr. Bashir

October 23, 2009 HMA and the Peace Colloquy committee co-hosted a dinner reception for the Community of Christ 2009 International Peace Award recipient Dr. Halima Bashir.

Dr. Bashir is a medical doctor who has provided care for soldiers and civilians on both sides of the conflict in Darfur. She speaks out against the rape, abuse and murdering of women and children of her country. She lives in the United Kingdom and hopes that one day she and the refugees in Chad and around the world can return to their homeland.



Junia and Howard Braby greet Andrew Bolton and Dr. Bashir

Howard Braby, MD and HMA President welcomed Dr. Bashir and spoke of HMA's admiration for her courage to speak out even after atrocities were committed against her.

Attending the dinner were HMA Board of Directors and spouses, Church Presidents and their spouses, Graceland School of Nursing, Muslim community leaders, and other friends.

HMA also set up a booth in the Temple foyer during the event to promote HMA and its programs both domestic and international.

Numerous newsletters, health wallet cards and brochures were distributed at the booth HMA hosted at the Colloquy. Board members and staff were available to speak to attendees and encourage participation in HMA programs. Samples of bulletin inserts available to congregations online were displayed as well.

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT 2009 H&S WORKSHOP

This year's Health & Spirituality Workshop was attended by more than 150 people at the Temple August 21-22, 2009. Ward Foley, AKA Scarman, was the keynote speaker telling his life story inspiring others with problems to use the gifts God has given them. "God doesn't give us a good life or a bad life. He gives us life. It is up to us to make it good or bad," Ward explained.



Overwhelming positive responses were made about the skill-building sessions and the workshop. Twenty five nurses and

Ruth's Guatemala Report of Medical Clinics & Community Development

Nurse Maria Ambrosia Lares works for HMA and lives in Los Magueyes, a small, poverty-stricken community of approximately 200 families. Over the past ten months Maria has visited the homes many times and can tell you what challenges each of these families face. Maria began an interest group in March 2009. Recently they prioritized their list of problems they want to address: smoke in the homes, contaminated water, lack of bathroom facilities and poor housing conditions. During the October meeting they evaluated various types of stoves with chimneys to help address the first problem.



The second interest group that began in March worked together to obtain trees for reforestation from the local government at minimal cost. The group met with the Mayor, presented a proposal, and was able to obtain 840 trees. The trees which will provide firewood and lumber were delivered to the community June 2009.

Maria has been a leader of a group of 39 women over the past 9 years. She conducts classes with the women and children depending on the needs of the group. She also works with SIAS (a government-run clinic) once a month in the community in addition to the medical clinics with Ruth.

Nurse Jose Lopez works for HMA part-time and lives in San Antonio Choatalun, a community of 225 families. During village medical clinics, Jose identified the health need during medical clinics for accessible, safe drinking water in the homes. By walking the community and visiting with his neighbors, he was able to form their first interest group in April 2008. Working together they placed 40 water filters in homes. The obvious benefit has been nurses have not dispensed parasite medicines at the medical clinics since the implementation of the filters.



Jose began meeting with a second interest group in July 2009. The community identified additional challenges which include: open fires, poor economics, lack of healthcare, and insufficient classrooms for students.

A young man in a wheel chair came to seek **assistance in building a house for an extremely poor family who had a child with cerebral palsy**. This young man is the director of Transitions a Guatemalan organization which builds wheel chairs for the handicapped in Guatemala. He explained that he was working with a group from Presbyterian Church of Memorial Drive Houston, Texas coming at the end of July to repair the roof and build a retaining wall to keep a family's house from falling down the mountain. He knew HMA Guatemala had a lot of experience building houses and asked them to partner with the Houston group.

Amilcar went out the next day to assess and take the photo below. This house was in such horrible condition that it was beyond repair. With help from Transitions, the family was able to purchase land that would be safer and wheelchair accessible. Guatemala Director Ruth Humbert has had a lot of experience taking care of a severely multiple handicapped child in the US. She stated, "What was amazing to me was how dedicated his mother was in the care of this child. This family had little to nothing but this child receives a lot of love and care. Now it will be easier with a new house and stove."



Ways to Help Sustain Our HMA Programs

Health Ministries Association doesn't happen without you! Whether we're talking about our work in Guatemala, at reunions, in elementary schools, or with workshops, our ministry happens because of donors and participants who fund the necessary expenses. The HMA office is staffed 4 days a week with 2 part-time employees. We depend on volunteers and donations to keep the work going. This year donations are down. **Please consider the following ways you might be able to assist HMA. We need you!**

- Become a member of Health Ministries Association by contributing a "dues" donation
- Renew your membership now
- Donate a "Gift" to support the ministries we provide
- Donate an item for the silent auction fund-raiser during World Conference
- Be a monthly giver by credit card so we have consistent income
- Attend the World Conference HMA Celebration and visit the HMA Booth
- Purchase a silent auction item. (The next newsletter will include a list of items.)
- Become an HMA advocate in your congregation sharing news updates, utilizing bulletin inserts
- Volunteer at your reunion to teach a health class utilizing curriculum from HMA office
- Attend Health & Spirituality Workshops
- Keep current on recent happenings by **visiting the HMA website at www.HMACofChrist.org**
- Honor loved ones with a HMA donation for Christmas, Mother's Day, a memorial, birthday, etc

HMA WEBSITE

The HMA website is becoming an integral part of how we want to communicate with our members, donors, volunteers, and friends. Over 40 bulletin inserts are available to download and print for congregational use. You can renew your membership or make a donations using PayPal or credit card directly from the website or by calling the office (816)833-1000 X 1262 for Paula or X1418 for Diane. Keep current on the Guatemala program and the specific projects we are involved in. Please help us by sending your email address to HMA@CofChrist.org .

CONTRIBUTION AND/ OR MEMBERSHIP FORM

Information may be taken over the phone by calling 1-816-833-1000 ext 1262 Mon., Thurs., or Friday

Name _____ Phone _____ Occupation _____

Address _____

Email _____ Signature _____

Level of Membership: \$ _____ Member (\$25-\$99) \$ _____ Sponsor (\$100-\$249) \$ _____ Patron (\$250 & up)

Additional Contributions: \$ _____ Where most needed \$ _____ Guatemala Village Health Program
\$ _____ Mission Health Teams \$ _____ Domestic Health Programs

Payment Method: _____ Check *Mail to:* Health Ministries Assoc. 1001 W. Walnut Independence, Mo 64050
____ VISA _____ MasterCard # _____ Exp. Date _____ Amt. _____

Pledge amount: \$ _____ monthly, \$ _____ quarterly. Will make by check _____, Make by credit card _____

Health Ministries Association MISSION

Wholeness- *To be an organization that builds on our faith heritage, staying in the forefront in promoting wholeness of body, mind, and spirit.*

Health- *To provide health and wellness for the underserved and those in need, both domestically and internationally, through partnering to identify health needs and to empower self-directed care.*

Education- *To provide education and services with individuals, families, congregations, and communities which encourage the stewardship of healthy living.*

Networking- *To develop a network of health care practitioners and health promoters, working together and with other service organizations, in the advancement of health education, and wholeness.*

Upcoming Events

HMA Board of Director's Strategic Planning Meeting- January 9, 2010 11 AM Auditorium

HMA Board of Director's Winter Meeting- January 9, 2010 2 PM at Auditorium Indep., MO

(lunch will be served; picture of entire Board will be taken)

Health Team to Honduras – January 2010 led by Pamela Stewart, drpes@mac.com

Health Team to Honduras – March 2010 led by Ron Edwards, edwardsronaldj@gmail.com

HMA Open Membership Meeting- April 10, 2010 9 AM Independence, MO

HMA Conference Celebration- April 10, 2010 12 Noon Truman Memorial Bldg Indep., MO

(includes luncheon, keynote speaker, silent auction, and door prizes)

HMA World Conference Booth- April 10-17, 2010 Lower Assembly Room - Auditorium

Health Ministries Association VISION

We provide servant ministry with others through programs which are inspired by Christ's Love and way of life, in order to promote peaceful living and sustainable health and wellness for all individuals, families, and communities.