

# LIGHT

## IN THE DARKNESS



**MEDICAL  
MISSIONARY  
NEWS**

Supporting Christian Mission through Healthcare

2020  
Issue 3

# COVID-19

At the beginning of 2020, few of us could have imagined the chaos the world would be collectively thrown into by the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 virus (SARS-CoV-2). The coronavirus pandemic represents the biggest global medical challenge of the 21st century. The World Health Organisation has reported over 23 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 with over 800,000 deaths worldwide. The disease has led to societal standstill, exposing our vulnerability and forcing many to consider their own mortality.

From a medical perspective, this has been a disease like no other in recent history. A cousin of the SARS virus, COVID-19 leads to an equally devastating pneumonia but, unlike SARS-CoV, it is transmissible in asymptomatic individuals. At its peak in April, the UK pandemic led to near exhaustion of NHS capacity. Almost all routine NHS services were suspended for a period of time and most staff redeployed for COVID-19 ward duty. Operating theatres were repurposed as intensive care units and additional temporary hospitals set up to increase capacity.

Many staff themselves contracted the virus with over 540 health and social worker deaths recorded in England and Wales as a result.

Scientists and medical professionals around the world have worked tirelessly to better understand the virus and best medical treatments. Of particular importance is the work on vaccine development which appears to be making good progress.

How do we respond to the COVID-19 situation as a Christian? Psalm 46:1 says: *'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth is transformed and the mountains are toppled into the depths of the seas'*. We can cling to the character of God and the hope and certainty of an eternal future amid the terror and fear of death. Our God *'knows the end from the beginning'* (Is. 46:10) and *'all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be'* (Ps. 139:16). We have

this confidence that the Lord is in control. Furthermore we know we have a compassionate God, a high priest who is able to sympathise with our weaknesses and who wept when Lazarus died, despite knowing he would bring him back to life. Our model for responding to COVID-19 is from the Lord.

We should remember in prayer and action those affected by COVID-19 and lament for those who have lost their lives to the disease. Pray that as people consider their vulnerability and frailty, they would lift their eyes to heaven to trust in the Lord. Pray for our brothers and sisters in parts of the world such as South America in which the situation is less controlled and resources are more limited. The impact that coronavirus is starting to have in highly dense environments such as refugee camps is very worrying. Medical care for all other non-Covid work has been extremely limited until relatively recently and we are also witnessing the fall-out of routine care which has been suspended for several months.

Praise God that we now understand better how to manage the virus and are mercifully seeing fewer cases in hospital. We also have access to better testing and more rapid testing to help facilitate local lockdowns to prevent the spread of the virus. Please pray also for successful vaccine development as this is really the only 'exit strategy'. Practically we can contribute in whichever sector of society we find ourselves placed in. Public health measures are central to the control of pandemics, and as Christians we can protect the weak and vulnerable in society by being careful with social distancing measures and supporting those who are self-isolating. Our response is to rely on the Lord and His wisdom and although we may not have all the answers, we know there is One who does.

*"God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart."*  
- Charles Spurgeon

Editorial by Dr Jane Macnaughtan  
MMN Trustee





# RESPONDING TO COVID-19

This year has brought a time of great uncertainty, high levels of poverty, abuse and neglect, and families fighting to survive on a daily basis to provide a meal for their children. It has been difficult to understand the reason for this global pandemic and God's purposes have, at times, been hidden by this great darkness. Yet, like in all the darkest times of history, His powerful love has shone through and He is using His people to reach out to those in need to remind them there is still an everlasting hope.

Thank you very much for your generous response to the piece in the last magazine. We want to share with you how this support has been used by our partners as they have responded to the crisis and show how it has touched many lives for the glory of God. Please continue to pray for them.

## RICD - THAILAND

The RICD Wheelchair project in Thailand has been functioning for over 20 years to support those with disabilities. When COVID-19 hit, the economy became unstable and workplaces shut, forcing those with a disability to survive on an income well below poverty level. RICD were able to provide basic food items to these families in desperate need. Their aim was to reach 1,000 families through the local churches.

## NEW HOPE CLINIC

New Hope Clinic was built by Imaginelf Trust in 2018 to reach displaced people in North Eastern DR Congo. When COVID-19 hit, those in Kasindi had not only been forced to leave their homes due to infighting, they also encountered immense flooding. During these devastating times, Imaginelf Trust worked with local churches to

distribute food, bedding, farm equipment and face masks.

*"Our 'Love Congo' initiative has been partnering with churches to develop projects that meet the practical and spiritual needs of the people in Kasindi. The town has received over 10,000 displaced people, many of whom fled their villages with nothing. Our health centre is treating 300 patients per month, our feeding programme provides meals three times a week for 100 malnourished children, our primary school now has 300 pupils and the land we bought is providing allotments for 80 families.*

*When Kasindi was hit by a flood in May, we quickly mobilised some emergency funds to help those who were worst hit and with the help of MMN we have sent two further payments to provide emergency provisions for 200 families. Not only are the local pastors' faithful stewards of our donations, they also provide pastoral support to those who have lost loved ones or experienced traumatic situations. In all that we do, our prayer is that these people who have suffered so much will find their ultimate faith and hope in the life-giving gift that is Jesus Christ."*



## WUKWASHI - ZAMBIA

Wukwashi wa Nzambi exists to support children with disabilities and their families. In Africa, those with disabilities are marginalised and neglected, so Wukwashi offers them an education and skills training to give them a valid place in society. The majority of the families supported by Wukwashi are extremely poor and could not afford necessary items to protect them against the outbreak of COVID-19. Wukwashi gave around 500 families soap and bleach, as well as basic food packages. They also ran sanitisation programmes to show how to reduce the spread of germs. All of these opportunities opened up ways to share the gospel with these families in need.

## SHELTER OF HOPE

Shelter of Hope, Kenya, provide access to affordable quality education, and run two community health facilities that offer medical care at a subsidised fee for those who cannot afford basic health-care. During the pandemic, they have reached out to the most vulnerable to provide food parcels while sharing the message of Jesus.

*“Our relief efforts have touched the lives of about 600 households. Nyora residents were faced with the double tragedy of Covid-19 coupled with floods, as over 300 people were displaced when streams and rivers broke their banks. Our priority target groups include: local community, church community, orphans, and vulnerable children households, who benefited from food basket gifts.”*



SHELTER OF HOPE

*As parcels are distributed the village chiefs have allowed us to share the gospel with villagers and we thank God that some have put their trust in Christ. We long that more will as we continue to help these communities.”*

## RAPCD - UGANDA

Accomplish Children’s Trust seek to support disabled children across Africa. Rwenzori Association of Parents and Children with Disabilities (RAPCD) provide an education to those who are blind or deaf to open up more opportunities to them in society. In May, Uganda was hit by floods which destroyed many homes and most of the families supported by RAPCD are farmers who rely on the land to provide both food and income. RAPCD have provided basic food necessities to these families while sharing God’s love.

*“At a time where the coronavirus has brought hardship to people all over the world, the effects of lockdown were heightened in East Africa by many devastating floods. In the Rwenzori region of Uganda these floods have left hundreds of people displaced and gardens have been destroyed leaving people*

*with no way to feed their families. Thanks to the generous support of MMN, RAPCD have been able to work with 75 families who were affected by the flooding: providing them with mattresses, Bibles, hoes and some beans to enable them to start rebuilding their lives. Please pray for families affected by flooding as they rebuild their lives, for the impact lockdown is having on children being able to receive ongoing rehabilitation and epilepsy medication. Please also pray for relief of malnutrition caused by the effect of lockdown.*

## HEALTHCARE CENTRE - TANZANIA

This Dispensary & Palliative Care centre offers service to those who

are bedridden at home or who need medical attention at the centre for wounds. With the added pressure of COVID-19, their care for these people did not stop.

Dr Pully reports: *“We offer home visiting to those who are bedridden and we have about 15 palliative-care patients. For those who are not aware of COVID-19, we explain how they can take care of themselves and provide them a bucket and soap so they can wash their hands when entering their home. We advise people to continue praying, and give spiritual and psychological counselling to those people who have lost someone close to them or have been affected in other ways by COVID-19.”*



RAPCD-UGANDA

...pray for families  
as they  
rebuild their lives... 6





### CMIAID - MOLDOVA

CMIAid provides practical care for those living in the poorest part of Europe. When COVID-19 hit the country, they provided food parcels and support through their Soup Kitchen to reach many families. The economy in Moldova could not sustain lockdown so many businesses reopened despite rising cases of the coronavirus. The needs in this country grow daily and many have become dependent on the support of CMIAid.

### ABC FOUNDATION

The ABC Foundation, Albania aim to provide affordable and quality care for those who would otherwise not have access to the healthcare they need. The foundation offers basic health education programmes and offers training for doctors and nurses. Although other healthcare services closed due to COVID-19, ABC found ways of reaching its patients through

phone and video calls, providing online medical support and even providing food for some of its patients. They were also able to continue their free care for palliative patients to ensure they received the support they needed.

*“Through God’s providence, the state institutions required us to keep our doors open and provide care for people in our community. Even though it meant uncertainty, putting their health at risk, and facing their own fears, our team wholeheartedly continued to care for patients’ physical health as well as their mental health. While the staff was not able to treat patients in person, you would find them speaking on the phone with patients who needed medical advice or a comforting word. The team went above and beyond their means to also meet basic daily needs of our patients living in poverty.”*

**REDEMPTION VILLAGE**  
Redemption Village supports marginalised groups in the remote parts of Malawi through the provision of Bible teaching, medical camps and meeting the basic needs of the community. There are increasing cases of COVID-19 in the country and many have to walk for miles to provide food for their families. Redemption Village have provided families with flour as there has been no harvest, so having access to food has been near impossible. These families can barely source enough to provide food for their families, let alone protect themselves against the threat of COVID-19.

### EMANUEL CLINIC

Emanuel Clinic provide around 18,000 consultations in Moldova every year and, through its mobile clinic, has provided free treatment to over 1,000 people a year who

live in remote areas. During this pandemic, they have provided food packets, medicines and mental support to vulnerable people. They also provide training and support to medical staff serving through mobile clinics in the more remote villages via video conferencing.

### YEMEN

H, a trained nurse, has been supporting local people in this extremely poor country for a number of years. He provides medical care and support to all those that he can, but food and medicine is scarce, especially with the added pressure of COVID-19. He has received support to reach as many people as he can, to provide the support and encouragement they need during a time where numerous Yemeni’s are losing their lives to this virus.

### LIFELINE MALAWI

Lifeline Malawi health centre serves a population of around 200,000, most of whom are dependent on farming or local fishing to survive. There has been a surge in the number of people testing positive for COVID-19. Lifeline Malawi has endeavoured to teach the community how to protect themselves and others against the virus.



## DANCU VILLAGE

Breadline supports a number of churches across Eastern Europe, particularly in the poorest country of Moldova. Dancu Village is one project that supports those living in incredibly poor conditions who barely have enough to survive. Pastor Slavic and his team have provided relief to many families who were distressed, grieving, hopeless or forgotten by the authorities. The team have distributed food parcels or taken the elderly a hot meal.

## BETHANY HOSPITAL

Bethany Christian Hospital serves in one of the largest slum areas of Thane, near Mumbai. When COVID-19 hit, Bethany were forced to close its doors, but were able to reopen in May. *“It has now been three months since we opened our hospital to COVID-19 patients, and we have seen how the Lord has led us step by step, at first reluctantly, to what is now a fully-fledged COVID-19 hospital. We have a total of 60 beds, of which 15 are ICU beds have been set aside for COVID-19, with around ten patients at any given time on the ventilator.*

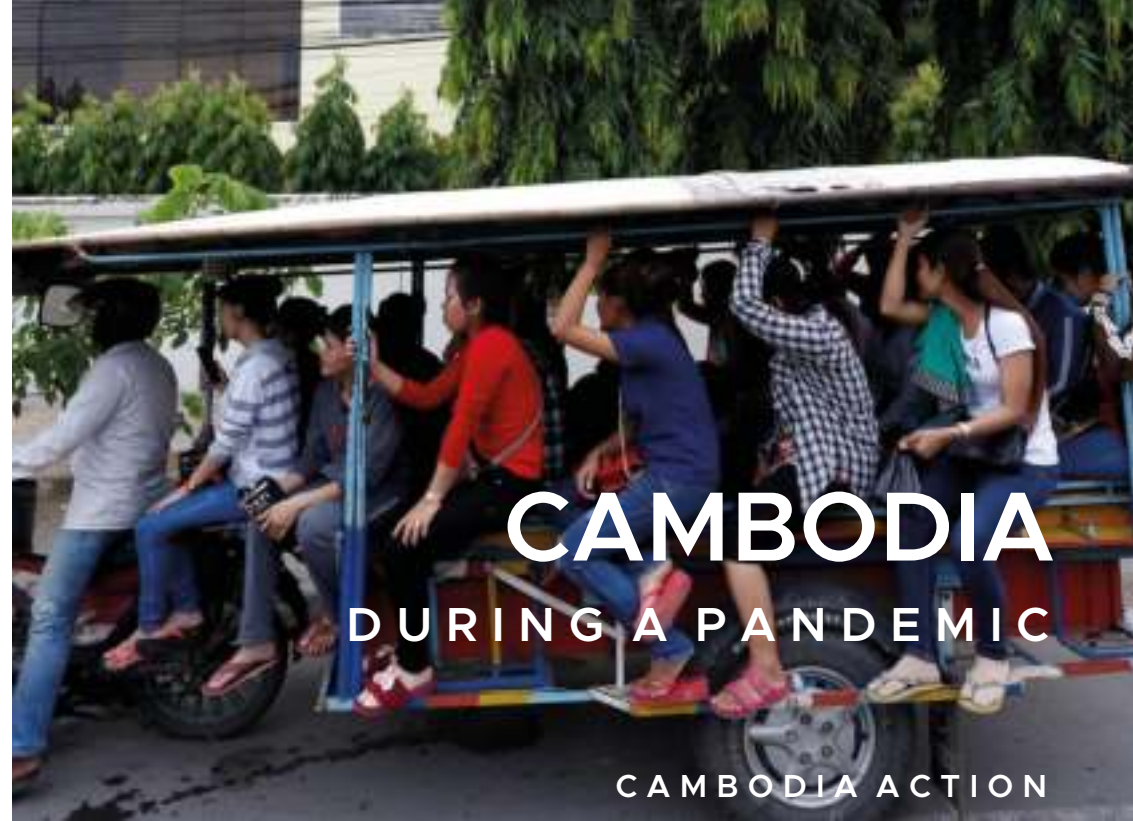
*So far, we have treated 462*

*COVID-19 patients. The area of Mumbai and Thane has been the most affected, with one of the highest number of cases in the country. The challenges are colossal, but so is the God that we trust in. However, often, at a human level, it has been quite daunting and depressing. Please do pray for: wisdom for our core management team of 6 people and safety, commitment for our health care workers. We have spent the last four months digging into the reserves of the hospital. The costs of treating a COVID-19 patient is substantially higher due to barrier nursing and the use of PPE’S.”*

The needs are still enormous globally due to the effects of COVID-19, so please continue to pray for these projects who are striving to improve people’s lives and offer them a hope that transcends all understanding.



DANCU VILLAGE



# CAMBODIA DURING A PANDEMIC

CAMBODIA ACTION

**T**he COVID-19 infection rate in Cambodia has been much lower compared to other countries around the world and for this we thank God. However, the knock-on effect on the Cambodian economy will be long felt, be it in absence of the thousands of tourists who will not visit the country or the loss of exports for the garment industry.

These industries, employing hundreds of thousands of workers, will suffer long-term effects of the disease despite the decline in infection rates or the relaxation of

shopping restrictions in the west. We live in a global economy and developing countries like Cambodia depend on healthy, well managed buying and selling arrangements, any hold-ups or failures in the system has a downstream impact. Many garment workers, already on a tight budget, have had their hours cut, some being suspended and others have been dismissed. As a result, they have tried to find other work around the city or returned to the provinces to live with their already burdened families.

The tourism industry has also



been hit hard with this virus and far fewer visitors are coming to see the sights of this beautiful nation. Whether due to fear or restrictions, people are not booking holidays to the Kingdom. Cities like Seim Reap, that normally see thousands of tourist flocking to see the temples, has been described as a ghost town. Added to the possible fear of travel are the formalities that are required by the Cambodian government for entry to the country. Visitors are having to produce prearranged clearance documents, are required to undergo tests on arrival and to place a large sum of cash as a deposit on arriving at the airport. While all precautions and provisions for quarantining in case of infection may be advisable, all factors and costs considered, this will result in a drastic reduction in incoming travellers. There has been a sharp decrease of budget airlines connecting flights into Cambodia from major airlines. *Thai Airways*, a popular carrier, are not taking any bookings until September.

Cambodia's largest jobs sector is in those businesses that support larger industries. It is estimated for every one person employed, two other people benefit through small enterprises.

The micro-economy is diverse, be it the lady that cooks cheap lunches, the man that searches for scraps of recyclable plastic to sell or the street water sellers making a few dollars on hot days, COVID-19 pays no respect to anyone, affecting thousands of household incomes.

All of this does not bode well for Cambodia. Recently, the *Asia Development Bank* published an article stating that over 68 million jobs could be lost across Asia with Cambodia standing to see over 400,000 jobs cut because of the impact of COVID-19. According to news sources, in 2020 the economy will shrink to a growth rate of 2.3% versus 7.1% in 2019. But thanks be to God, despite all of this we faint not.

#### OUR TEAM STAYED

Cambodia Action works in the country through partnerships that are already on the ground. We have always seen the importance of supporting local NGO's who minister to the poor and vulnerable. As a result of the outbreak of COVID-19, that same determination to help Cambodia guided the decision for our team members to remain in the country. It gave an opportunity to be of help and

advise those that need it the most. A lot of the focus has moved to the dangers of the virus, awareness and prevention of any further spread. Cambodia Action as a mission supports our partners and team through prayer and administrative support, and we applaud the hard work that is carried out in a difficult situation.

#### CHILDREN'S WORK

With the immediate closure of schools ordered by the government, parents were landed with the added issue of how to continue educating their children at home. For families living on the edge, using their children to earn some income is a constant temptation, especially if one or both parents have HIV or struggle with other serious health issues. Sunrise, one of the projects

supported by MMN, have tried to keep these young people engaged and their minds occupied. Firstly, they offer the children technical assistance in accessing e-school. Secondly, they give out phone cards with internet minutes so they can receive online lessons and finally offer follow-up visits from teachers to offer homework monitoring and encouragement. Added to this the Sunrise HIV programme helps in practical ways, by paying for school fees and study materials. They also want to see the creative side of the children activated, so they provide fun times and playful activities for the children in these poor neighbourhoods. They are doing a great job and are a great witness to God's love. Please pray for this ongoing work in Cambodia.





# GIVING BACK HOPE

VISION FOR CHINA

Scripture reminds us not to despise the day of small beginnings. Little did teachers realise what would happen due to their visits to abandoned babies in an orphanage or their provision for families struggling alone with the challenges of caring for special needs children: a pioneering work was about to be birthed!

Agape has been key in establishing a number of welfare-based projects, each with a clear purpose and vision, and has appointed project managers responsible

for their day-to-day running and finances, with oversight provided by the main Agape board and office. Some of the projects are registered as subsidiary NGOs and one, the Agape Farm, has been established as a small social enterprise business.

## H Z A G A P E

HZ Agape is made up of two programmes, employing 18 members of staff: Shekinah Shalom Childcare Centre and Eagles Wings. There are 48 children cared for in the childcare centre, of whom 80% have

cerebral palsy. There is a focus on rehabilitation and this year 2,257 rehabilitation sessions took place for these children. There were also various activities and outings for the children and staff. Eagles Wings has 16 students who are being taught life and social skills. It is hoped that some of them will be able to get jobs, and so they are being trained specifically for this. They have also been learning about traditional Chinese culture and what is celebrated in each different holiday. They have been on outings to look at nature and to find out about the world. These are young people who were previously shut away out of sight, either in institutions or in their home because their parents were too ashamed to let them be seen.

This year, a Disabled Sports Meeting was held where disabled young people could show their talents, raising their profile in the community, and showing the potential that these precious ones have. Staff are also being trained with professional courses. For those who live at home

with parents, a parents' group has been set up to help support them. A lot of this work involves coming alongside the parents, educating them about their children's conditions and what is possible with training and help, plus teaching them to continue with the rehabilitation and training at home. Most have never had these opportunities for support or teaching before. This work with the parents is as important as the work with the children themselves, as they seek to show the Father's compassion and love through their lives and attitudes.

## HOPE HAVEN

Hope Haven is a childcare facility for abandoned or orphaned children. It opened in 2001 and has grown and changed dramatically since then. Currently there are 24 members of staff, who work in partnership with the Main Welfare Centre, caring for 30 children from the age of 0-6 years. Staff training is important to them and 18 staff training programmes were run over the past year. They also had





...to provide  
**professional,  
loving care**  
to the children...

352 visits from teams and volunteers over the year. Partly due to these visits and the activities they do in the community, they are developing relationships with local businesses and groups, so that they now get resources such as milk powder and nappies from these companies. Excess items, or those they cannot use, are donated to other groups in the city. The plan for the next year is to continue to provide professional, loving care to the children in their care, including organising a variety of activities for them. Please pray as we continue to promote the sponsorship projects, Love Baby, within China, and the VFC Sponsorship scheme internationally.

#### WELL OF LOVE

Well of Love began life as the Qing Xing centre with its origins in the vision and prayers of two teachers. They wanted to share God's love in a practical way with families who struggled alone with the challenges of caring for children with special needs. The centre, which opened in 2000, gained

government registration in 2002. Well of Love succeeded to the work started by Qing Xing and gained NGO status in 2014; that work continues to this day, providing intensive sessions, both at the centre and in the home, enabling children with special needs to develop physically, cognitively and spiritually.

According to the latest statistics there are about 85 million people in China today with various kinds of disability, representing over 6% of the total population. More than a million babies are born with a birth defect every year. Well of Love aims to provide these children with appropriate and tailored holistic therapy, education, vocational training and rehabilitation, and to empower and train up local staff with the specialist skills and expertise they need. Over recent months we have had to adjust how families are helped due to COVID-19, this, along with complying with government regulations and changing premises, has produced unique difficulties. Please pray for this greatly needed work in China.



# TURNING LIVES AROUND

MOTHER'S  
HEART  
ORGANISATION

**M**arina was born into a poor family in a small village in Prey Veng province. She is the eldest amongst six siblings, and is smart and responsible. When life became more difficult in Prey Veng, her parents decided to move the whole family to live in a church compound in Takeo province. Being the eldest and the smart one in the family, her family's hope for a better life hinged on her frail shoulders. While she was studying in high school, she worked as a part-time English teacher in Cambodia Adventist School. The money she earned from teaching she gave to her parents to help out in their daily expenses.

She had set her sights on going to a university in Phnom Penh, a goal she had achieved. She met her partner there and started a four-year relationship that came to an end

when she got pregnant. Her boyfriend wanted nothing to do with her pregnancy and vanished. Due to shame and disappointment, her family did not accept the baby and refused to support her for being pregnant outside of marriage. Depressed, miserable, alone and pregnant, Marina had nowhere to go as she watched her world crumbling before her eyes. Until she found Mother's Heart Organisation.

Marina began with the Crisis Pregnancy Support Programme with the goal of being independent so she could raise her baby and still be able to achieve some of her dreams. When she entered the programme she was approximately four months pregnant and received pregnancy care right away. She was provided a safe place to stay by one of our partner organisations where she was immediately surrounded by staff

who supported and cared for her, and other young mothers. While there, there she improved her self-awareness and had the support and encouragement from the Mother's Heart's team, as well as from the young women facing similar circumstances to her. The social worker and counsellor met with her several times a month to provide all her needs, especially on her pregnancy and emotional well-being. She faithfully went to her health checks and other appointments with the midwife. Marina also began attending maternal education classes and other skills trainings needed to achieve her goal of independence. Throughout these classes organised by the social work and counselling team, she was able to navigate through her feelings and emotions and was able to make a plan for her and her baby.

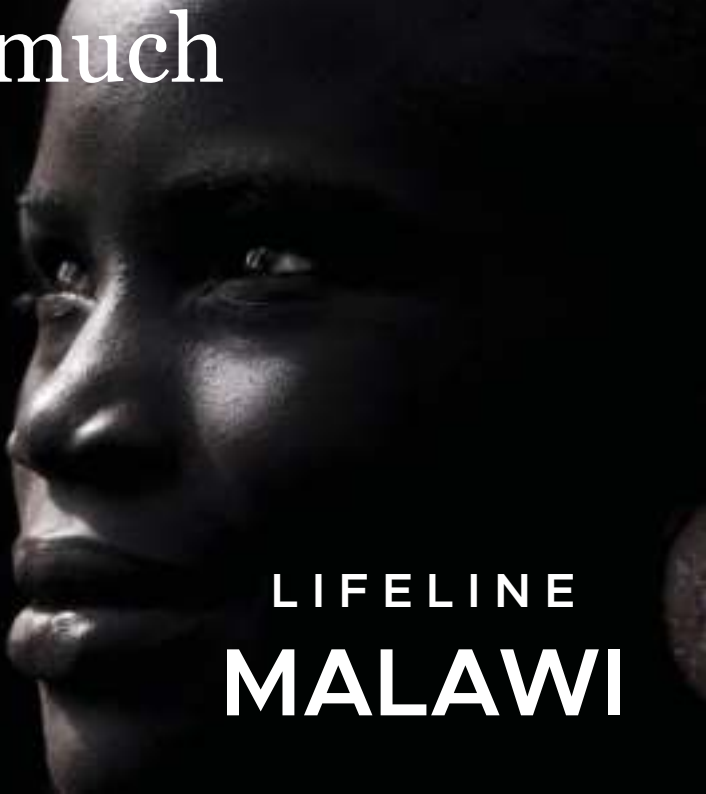
She is a smart young woman and, after several classes, she regained her self-esteem. She quickly absorbed the knowledge she gained

from attending these classes and counselling sessions and became better prepared for her new journey as she welcomed her baby into her life. During her time in the programme, Mother's Heart also provided counselling to her parents in the hope of reconciliation. Mother's Heart observed that Marina has shown strength of character and learned from her transgression. The Director of the shelter also agreed with the team that Marina is very determined to turn her life around and make a fresh start with her baby. Such was her progress that the Director offered her a job to work there when she graduated from the Mother's Heart programme. These days, you can find a different Marina at the shelter, not as a resident, but as one of the regular staff. She is confident and in love with her baby. She has a place of her own, a job to provide for her and her baby's needs, reunited with her family, and a new and promising life with so much opportunity ahead of her.

Marina has shown strength of  
character  
and learned from her  
transgression.



There is SO much  
fear  
throughout  
the country...



LIFELINE  
MALAWI

Malawi is now experiencing a surge in the number of cases testing positive to the coronavirus. At first, much of the COVID-19 cases came into the country by Malawians who were returning from countries like South Africa. The borders were closed to foreign travellers, except for essential workers, like lorry drivers. People have been tested as they came through border control. These first cases were easy to identify, isolate, and monitor. Slowly things got out of hand and the virus is now

spreading in the community. There is much fear throughout the country and communication about what is going on has been limited.

The President did try to impose a lockdown in April but thankfully the High Court blocked him from implementing this. A complication to the control of the virus spreading was the rerun of last year's annulled Presidential election. The President and other candidates still held political rallies throughout May and June, exposing people to the spread of the virus. Now the election is over, and a

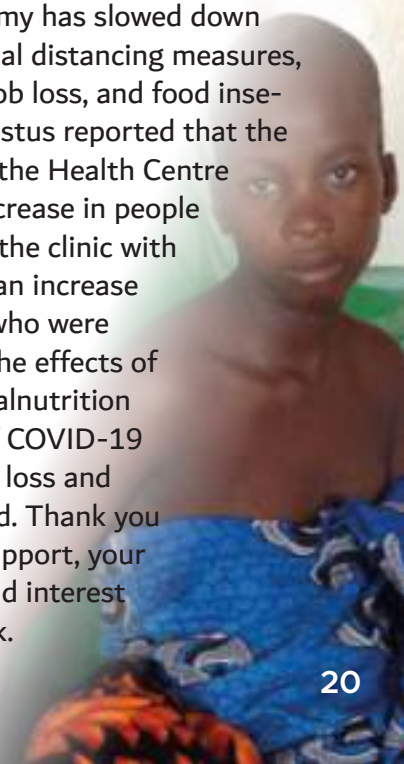
new President has been elected. He seems to be taking the coronavirus seriously, and cancelled both his inauguration celebration and the Independence Day festivities immediately after taking office. He is a Christian and we pray he will be good for Malawi.

The number of COVID-19 cases at the time of writing is 2,364, with sadly 38 deaths. The rate of cases and deaths increase with each passing day. The situation in the rural community of Ngodzi is worrisome. Although, they have been teaching the community about the spread of the virus and about how to protect themselves and others; many do not follow these precautions and control measures. The Head Nurse says that this is due to poverty and the lack of acceptance of the seriousness of the situation. So far, there have been no cases of COVID-19 in the community. There have been several people who have travelled to the community from South Africa via back roads and have not been tested. The community leaders then have notified health officials.

Justus, the Director at the Health Centre, said one of his biggest concerns was the increase in the

community of teen pregnancies. This is already a problem that is faced with 40% of the babies born at the clinic to teen mothers. Schools were closed early on in the pandemic. The youth and children's afterschool programmes were stopped because gatherings were limited. So now youth are idle and, for some, sexual activities have become a recreation. They have recently seen a big rise in the number of pregnant teens coming to the antenatal clinic. Justus would like to start a behavioural change initiative in the community. They have done this before and it made a difference.

The economy has slowed down due to social distancing measures, isolation, job loss, and food insecurities. Justus reported that the effects on the Health Centre were an increase in people coming to the clinic with STI's, and an increase of others who were suffering the effects of a rise in malnutrition because of COVID-19 related job loss and lack of food. Thank you for your support, your prayers, and interest in our work.



# PROJECT FOCUS

## LE PELICAN, AFGHANISTAN

### WHAT DO YOU DO?

Le Pelican provides quality primary school education, hot meals, sports and leisure activities, and vocational training to more than 300 very poor children.

In addition, it provides education through secondary school in sign language for 150 deaf young people. The deaf are also provided with vocational training and computer skills.

Le Pelican strengthens the daily nutrition of each of the 450 students it serves through daily nutritious meals. The project assists in getting deaf children examined to see if surgery or hearing aids can improve their hearing. Le Pelican also seeks to address physical deformities and other effects of disease that the children present. Children are taken to hospitals and treatment is paid for.

### HOW DO YOU DO IT?

Le Pelican employs qualified Afghan teachers, cooking staff, cleaners, and staff to assist Ariane Hiriart in this work. There are strict guidelines for performance and Ariane has maintained a culture which promotes excellence and care in all things. Le Pelican's main tools are quality education, training, love and care. These are making life-changing differences in the lives of all who are served.



### WHAT IMPACT HAVE YOU HAD?

Le Pelican has served the poor Hazara community of Afghanistan for 13 years. Its longevity and the trust that it has built with the community it serves has enabled Le Pelican to be accepted and protected by the community. Whole families have benefited from the improvement of their children's lives and the opportunities that has provided.

Though open witness is impossible in this context (proselytisation is forbidden in this nation), it is an open and accepted fact that this is a Christian organisation. The love and commitment demonstrated has a huge impact on lives and many questions are asked and answered. Holidays offer a unique time to explain why we celebrate.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES?

Security is the biggest challenge to this project. The project exists in an environment that is volatile and violent, and where organisations such as ours are routinely attacked savagely with many casualties. Le Pelican has invested in security improvements including strong walls, steel doors, safe rooms, etc, but we recognise that our ultimate protection comes from the Lord. A challenge ahead is finding qualified people who are willing to come and serve in this environment. We pray that there will be peace in this nation and that people committed to this work will be found.

### HOW CAN WE BE PRAYING?

We deeply appreciate your interest and support. Please pray for God's blessing and protection after re-opening in early August, after being closed since mid-March at the government's orders for COVID-19.





## MMN'S NEW LOCATION

### WE ARE IN!

Thank you for your prayers and support as we have moved to Swindon, especially as it took longer than expected. Please make a note of the new address and telephone number and use them from now on. We look forward to welcoming any of you who want to see the new office and warehouse; we will be on-site Monday to Thursday each week.



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