

# GOD IS OUR REFUGE



**MEDICAL  
MISSIONARY  
NEWS**

Making Jesus Christ known through healthcare

2022  
Issue 4

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful Christmas and blessed New Year.

This year has been a year of difficulties and unrest, yet it's been another year that God's beautiful light continues to shine in the darkness of this world.

*The glory of the nations,  
a light for all to see.*  
*Immanuel – Michael Card*



## PRAY *Steadfastly*

2022 has been a year of ongoing crises. This has been no less evident than in the conflict in Ukraine following the Russian invasion. From 24 February 2022, when the Russian Federation's armed attack against Ukraine began, to 30 October 2022, there have been 16,295 civilian casualties in the country of whom 6,430 have been killed (including 402 children) and 9,865 injured. Most of the civilian casualties recorded were caused using advanced military weapons. The conflict has resulted in many families being torn apart with women, children, and the vulnerable seeking refuge in neighbouring countries and further afield while many men have joined the military forces to defend their country. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres during a visit to Kyiv described the experience as "an epicentre of unbearable heartache and pain." In response to this conflict, MMN has supported organisations such as the Philadelphia Trust,

ChildAid, CMIAid and Breadline providing aid and relief to fleeing Ukrainians in neighbouring countries, as well as those who chose to remain in the country. In this issue, these charities speak of the work being done and ongoing needs both practically and in prayer.

In other regions of the world, natural disasters have been a source of much suffering. Redemption Village Bible Training Ministries, working to help the marginalised groups in the more remote parts of Malawi has been playing a key role in supporting families practically since the flooding in January and providing gospel opportunities. In Pakistan, 1toAnother has been helping to provide food, shelter and medical equipment to many affected by the severe flooding in August. They continue to provide support through the work of Bethel Ruffin School and the Victoria Memorial Hospital in Multan. We will hear more about

these projects later in this issue.

The theme of this issue is 'Families in Crisis' and speaks of how these events have impacted the lives of individual families and examples of how the broader family of God has helped to provide material and spiritual support. We are so grateful to God for the countless work that is being done to provide for those in need and pray that this may continue, and for a peaceful end to conflict. While the tragedy of war and natural disasters may seem so distant from our own lives, the Lord calls us to be part of that same family of God. Paul writes to the Corinthians saying, 'If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness' (1 Cor. 12:26). The writer to the Hebrews tells us to 'Let brotherly love continue' and to 'remember the prisoners as if chained with them - those who are mistreated - since you yourselves are in the body also' (Heb. 13:1,3). Let us pray therefore with a heartfelt concern for our brothers and sisters who are suffering. David's psalms written during times of intense suffering from the persecution of Saul are a rich resource for prayer. He laments the dreadful

nature of his situation and pleads with the Lord in Psalm 13:1-2 'How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?'. We need to pray for justice and defend the oppressed and victimised. 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God' (Micah 6:8). Jesus tells us that the Lord 'will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them (Heb. 6:10). Love towards God's people both practically and spiritually in prayer is one way in which we can show our love for the Lord, an expression of our faith and sacrifice which is pleasing to Him (Heb. 13:16). So thank you for all your support in whichever way you can help!

Ultimately, however, this work is the Lord's and in times of crisis, we as the Church, rely on the unchanging, perfect character of God. In the seemingly relentless succession of world tragedies, we must remember our God is a great and merciful God and, although the world around us may be changing,

He does not, His character is dependable and true and a haven of rest for the soul. 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever' (Heb. 6:13). Finally Psalm 31, from which Jesus Himself quotes on the cross, emphasises the absolute reliance of the psalmist on God, His rock and fortress, ending with the assurance: 'Be strong and take heart, all who hope in the Lord'.

Please pray for all of those caught up in conflict and natural disaster that they would know this truth that the Lord is their rock and salvation.

*Contributed by  
Dr Jane Macnaughtan  
(Trustee)*



Our campaign over the last few months has been to support 'Families in Crisis' to raise awareness of those who have lost everything this year.

We are raising support for three projects who are specifically caring for such families. Redemption Village Bible Training Ministries in Malawi continues to help those still suffering from the flooding in January; 1toAnother is supporting families who were left

with nothing after the flooding in Pakistan; and ChildAid is focusing on supporting families who have had to flee their homes or face conflict in Ukraine.

If you would like to join us in supporting these projects to help families in crisis, especially with the additional needs that the winter months bring, then you can find all of the details on our website, or please mark your donation 'Families in Crisis'.

**C**hildAid to Eastern Europe has worked exclusively in eastern Europe for 50 years. As Aid to Russian Christians, it saw persecution of the church across the Soviet Union. Then as Aid to Russia and the Republics, and subsequently ChildAid, it experienced first-hand the suffering and deprivations of vulnerable and disadvantaged families, young people and children. The light of hope and opportunity really was beginning to shine in many, but by no means all, areas of life in Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Russia. That light has been firmly extinguished with the war in Ukraine.

Whilst many millions have been able to leave Ukraine, substantially more remain. In most cases, for those who have become refugees in a foreign land their husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles had to remain and join the defence of their homeland.

A report for ChildAid from London Politica identified: “children experience multiple traumas because of family separation. The untreated traumas can have chronic effects on both adults and children. The traumas, especially among children, negatively impact their physical, mental, developmental, and behavioural health. They have higher rates of chronic medical conditions such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and premature death. There is also increased risk of psychiatric disorders such as anxiety, depression, and psychosis.

In addition, detrimental coping behaviours such as smoking and use of alcohol or drugs could become more prevalent. There is also a heightened risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation.” The report also stated that “change and uncertainty mean children feel as though they have no control over their lives. Many children have witnessed horrors such as the destruction of homes and dead bodies, this will undoubtedly have a negative effect on their future behaviours.”

At one ChildAid project in the Dnipro region, close to the front-line of the fighting and an area under frequent missile and drone attack, Kateryna and her siblings hide themselves between walls during the frequent sirens. She is scared to go to school (which are more often than not closed) as she is afraid of what to do when the sirens sound or rockets fall. Aged 11, she is psychologically very unstable.

ChildAid’s Little Lighthouse in Makariv opened its doors on 1 April 2021 and had very early successes. With faith, prayer and much volunteer support a new rehabilitation and children’s centre

was established in the basement of the local Baptist church. Being the only free-to-access rehabilitation facility for many miles for children with disabilities (including autism, physical and complex needs) it was instantly popular, but more importantly achieved miraculous results - such as young Bogdan with severe autism whose only communication was shouting and who had little control of his body. After a few short sessions his speech became clearer and his behaviour improved, so he rarely shouted and was able to kick a ball around with his father: a dream his father thought would never happen.

Makariv was on the frontline of the invasion and all Little Lighthouse families were evacuated. They have now returned and, despite the destruction around them, need to focus on the love and care their children need so much.

Nadia is 4 years old and with the war her rehabilitation had to stop. The family spent many nights in basements, becoming ill in the process. With thanks to God they evacuated, while under fighter planes and shelling. They lived in constant anxiety, often without money for food and



NADIA

unable to afford any help for Nadia. Upon returning home they found burnt out and destroyed buildings all around. The blessing they received was when Little Lighthouse re-opened where, as Nadia's mother said, "love and hope live and is a place where it is always warm and sunny". The centre has helped with emotional and psychological depression and, with the re-starting of the sessions, Nadia is once again improving her well-being, and again smiling. The physical and emotional development of Nadia is backed-up with parental skills to help in their child's development.

This summer a Christian camp was held for teenagers from families with children with disabilities. Such gatherings are, and will be even more so, vital to keep spirits high, aid confidence building and demonstrate that

God is still on the throne. Such camps will cost around £50-100 per young person.

The biggest fear, as for so many of us, is heating costs. Last year the Little Lighthouse was spending £90 for a tonne of pellets for their boiler, in July this was £190 and currently the cost is £385. Families such as Nadia's will also be experiencing this added trauma. Ukraine's food inflation rate is around 32%, so a £20 food hamper will make a significant difference in how they can feed their family in a week. Supplies of medical and hygiene products are limited and expensive: simple bandages or cleansing products are beyond a family's reach. Once again £20 will supply essential needs for a few weeks.

As ChildAid and their partners look positively to rebuild lives and communities, they are reliant on prayers for safety and security of their premises; strength of mind, body and soul of their workers and volunteers; and protection and resilience of parents, carers and the children having to live with constant sirens and actual or threatened shelling.



**"A**nd who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time

as this?" Esther 4:14b. These words indicated to Esther that the situation in which she found herself was one that God could use. This was the situation that Dr Abe Samuel and I found ourselves in after we had taken part in a medical conference in the east of Ukraine in September 2021. The conference provided continuing medical education to medical practitioners across Ukraine, where we were able to participate on COVID and the influence of ethics in medical decision-making.

The conference introduced us to a number of medics, some believers and others with whom we have been able to work with since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. We meet regularly with the group of Christian medics over Zoom, where

we pray together, talk about needs and as the Lord allows, we support them.

Dr Orest Kulenych, was instrumental in opening the door for us in Berdyansk and previously in Ternopil. He lives in Mukachevo, which is in the extreme West of Ukraine close to the border with Hungary. He is a General Practitioner in the city, is well respected in the medical community and is currently the Chair of the Academy of Family Practice, Ukraine. His work as a GP is only part of the service in which he is engaged. There are large groups of Roma people living in and around Mukachevo, and he and his family dedicate a great amount of time to working with them. He has established a number of clinics providing a free medical service for extremely poor people in addition to ministering to their spiritual needs. When the war began a



DR KULENYCH  
WITH FAMILY

vast number of people fled to the Mukachevo Region; Orest worked with believers from Hungary, Germany, Romania and Poland in the distribution of considerable amounts of aid. Please pray for Orest, his wife Lesia, and his children, the eldest of whom are involved in the medical or humanitarian work in Ukraine.

Dr Vadym Vus is a Christian from the Rivne area of Ukraine and a country GP who is significantly involved in running medical training courses. He mentors a number of medical students and junior doctors and works collaboratively with the Christian Medical Association, Ukraine (CMAU). It has been the Trust's privilege to provide him with equipment, particularly ultrasound equipment for service and training. His wife Olena is a nurse, and she supports

him in his tremendous ministry.

Dr Katarina Bliasyk is a young Christian GP who was celebrated as Ukraine's "Young Doctor of the Year" in 2019. She not only runs a GP practice in Lutsk but volunteers with the Christian mobile medical unit, working all over Ukraine assisting in areas of need. In recent months she has been in Kharkiv and other areas that are close to the frontline. She works with Vadym in his training ministry and also supports the Agape Centre for severely disabled people based in Lutsk. We praise God that we are able to financially support Kate in her ministry for the Lord.

Dr Rudi Migovych, based in Lviv, in Western Ukraine leads the ministry of the CMAU. As well as his medical duties, he organises the purchase and transport of medical equipment and drugs all over Ukraine. Recently, the focus has turned to training the military, police, volunteers and general practitioners in emergency care. We regularly provide Rudi and his team with the finances required for transporting and purchasing medicine. We have also been able to work with our Polish

contacts and to carry considerable amounts of medical supplies into Lviv to Rudi.

Andriy Stakhnyk leads the Christian Training Centre in Rivne. This is a volunteer movement of emergency physicians and medical assistants working in partnership with the Regional Centre of Emergency and Disaster Medicine. They train volunteers in basic life support and pre-hospital medicine, in addition to in their own words "saving souls" by proclaiming the good news of Jesus. His ministry has been recognised by the Ukrainian government as being outstanding and as a result has been asked to head up a national training programme in emergency medicine. It has been our privilege as part of the ministry of the Philadelphia Trust to provide him with the finances to train and procure an ambulance.

The needs of our Christian medical brothers are likely to continue well beyond the cessation of hostilities, whenever that may be in the Lord's will. We as a trust continue to support them in prayer, regular Zoom meetings, teaching sessions, and financial aid for various projects. A training session for Christian and secular doctors has been proposed in early 2023 possibly across the Ukrainian border in Hungary. It has been an immense privilege to work with our Christian medical brothers in Ukraine and the Lord has opened, and continues to open, doors for ministry and service none of us had ever imagined. Our prayer is that almighty God will continue to use us as useful instruments for the glory of His name.

*Roger Brind (Exec. Chair of Philadelphia Trust) with advice and input from Dr Abe Samuel*



EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
TRAINING LED BY  
ANDRIY STAKHNYK



# Cmi Aid

## SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN MOLDOVA

**T**his has been a year with many challenges for people in Moldova! The year began with an economy already severely affected by the COVID pandemic and the severe drought that had greatly decreased crop harvest over the previous year. Then, in February 2022, the invasion of neighbouring Ukraine took place, which led to an influx of refugees into Moldova and the new challenges that over 500,000 people flowing into a country of around 3,000,000 people brings!

For many years CMIAID has been active in assisting needy families in Moldova through the work done through Bethesda Soup Kitchen Program, Family Assistance Program and Community Assistance Project. All these programs continue, but have had to greatly expand to accommodate the needs of many Moldovan families we support who are living in impoverished conditions, as well as the many Ukrainian refugees

that the Lord has brought us into contact with.

Perhaps, more than any time since we first came to Moldova, we see more families, elderly people, and those with disabilities, facing crisis. This winter is going to be difficult for them with many challenges – especially that of keeping warm in the cold winter months. Here are a few examples to illustrate how serious these challenges will be. The gas price in Moldova has increased over the last 12 months from 4 MDL (17 pence) a cubic metre to 30 MDL (£1.34)! Many don't use gas but depend on firewood, and those who are selling firewood are profiteering on the gas crisis with a five-fold increase in price per tonne. Many are fearful as to how they are going to be able to keep warm. We would greatly appreciate your prayers as we consider how to best provide help during this difficult period.

## REFUGEES

The war in Ukraine has created tremendous ongoing needs. We thank the Lord for the massive help that was given in the early days of the conflict. This enabled us to provide help to refugees coming to Moldova and also to internally displaced people within Ukraine itself. Over 180 tons of aid has been so far distributed in Moldova and Ukraine in response to the need.

Much of this help has been distributed through Refugee Drop-in Centres located in Balti and Chisinau, operated by local Christians. Refugees staying in these areas are able to come once a week to receive essential supplies. The Drop-in Centres continue to be

an essential lifeline for many. We thank the Lord that through these centres many have received Bibles and Christian literature in their native tongue.

We also continue to visit Ukraine to buy food for distribution to the needy within the country. We thank the Lord for a reliable network of Christian workers, under the leadership of Petru, which has been established to oversee this important task. This usually involves travelling to Odessa to buy bulk food: normally about £15,000 worth at a time. This is then loaded into a fleet of vans and immediately taken to areas of greatest need. Often, gospel outreaches are held in the towns where the aid is



REFUGEE DROP-IN  
CENTRE

distributed. It has been so encouraging to see the large number of people attending gospel meetings and showing an interest in God's saving message. In addition to all the aid that has been provided for the needs in Ukraine, over 170,000 Gospels of John have also been shipped in for distribution at outreaches and to the Ukrainian military. We praise God for the open door to respond to both the physical and spiritual crisis that people face.

## MOLDOVA

Amid all that is happening in Ukraine the Lord reminds us not to forget the needs in Moldova! Many Moldovans, at least in the economic sense, are facing as challenging a situation as those in Ukraine. We greatly value your prayers for our Family Assistance Program as we will seek to increase the amount of aid distributed over the coming months. We are buying bulk firewood and potatoes to distribute to those in need. Pray for the Lord's gracious provision, so that through these projects we will be able to continue to demonstrate His love to the people of Moldova and Ukraine.

We praise God for the open door to respond to both the physical and spiritual crisis that people face.

GOSPEL OUTREACH  
IN UKRAINE



Emmanuel Clinic in Chisinau began by offering free spiritual counselling and medical services for all refugees. This would include consultations, blood tests, scans and essential medicines. They provided first aid kits to centres housing refugees and took food, clothes, toiletries and other essential products as needed. They put together a team of volunteers who would help at the Baptist Union hostels which housed up to 300 refugees altogether, and many of the staff had Ukrainian guests in their own homes.

We have been in awe with how quickly, efficiently and selflessly all our partners at Dancu organised themselves in response to the refugee crisis facing their country. Dancu is a 15-minute drive away from the Romanian border at Leusenii. Thanks to your support, within a week of the war starting Pastor Slavic and his team had erected a tent and provided food

# Breadline

## SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN MOLDOVA

and drink to the queues of people waiting to cross from Moldova into Romania. Vadim Talmaci, the youth worker from Dancu, co-ordinated a team of 150 volunteers to be there 24 hours every day. The volunteers were from villages along the route to the border.

In the same period of time, the Hope Club extension to the community centre was converted into a hostel. Many refugees have said they want to stay until the war is ended, when hopefully they can return to Ukraine. There are currently 30 people staying on a long-term basis at the centre, mainly women and children. There was a constant stream of people passing through, so they regularly had 50 people each night at the start of the war. *(Find Breadline's latest update on the MMN website under 'News')*





...the worst  
humanitarian crisis  
in the world.

1toAnother

RELIEF FOR  
FLOOD VICTIMS IN PAKISTAN

Pakistan is no stranger to floods. The nation has been battered by floods time and again, most recently in 2010 when catastrophic flooding killed almost 2,000 people and affected 21 million more. The latest floods have once again brought death and destruction.

With rainfall equivalent to 2.9 times its national 30-year average there is widespread flooding and landslides. As one third of Pakistan is now flooded, 7.9 million people have been displaced in Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh provinces. 598,000 flood victims are now living in relief camps. At least 1,700 people have died and 33 million

have been affected. About 8.2 million in flood-affected areas need health services.

Recent reports indicate that over 2 million homes have been either destroyed or damaged. In addition to this, approximately 1,600 people have lost their lives and another 13,000 injured, livestock has been lost too. So far, the floods have killed dozens of people and displaced hundreds of thousands more. The affected areas include some of Pakistan's most impoverished regions, which are already struggling to recover from past disasters.

The devastation caused by the floods is immense. Homes have

been destroyed, crops have been ruined, and essential infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed. It will take years for these areas to recover from this latest disaster.

The Indus River, which flows through the heart of Pakistan, bursts its banks, inundating entire villages. Aid agencies are working frantically to provide food and shelter to the affected population, but the scale of the disaster is overwhelming. The United Nations has called this the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

#### 1TOANOTHER'S RESPONSE

1toAnother have used their local

knowledge, past experience and close proximity to the people in need, to provide emergency relief to those affected by the devastating floods in southern Punjab.

Over the last several weeks 1toAnother has been able to distribute 410 food packs (about a 3-4 week's supply per family) and 120 tents to families that were living in makeshift shelters. Fifty mosquito nets have been provided to flood affected families in Rojhan in southern Punjab. A total of three free medical camps have been completed, two in Kot Sabzal and one in Basti Faridabad. In these two communities; a total of 40 gynae patients were seen, 517 general patients (flu, cough,

fever, skin allergies etc) and 150 eye patients have been checked, ten of whom require cataract surgeries. Victoria Memorial Hospital hopes to provide these surgeries free of charge.

## LOCATIONS

Each of the below locations have come to 1toAnother through personal connections. It is difficult to work in areas without having a local contact who can help establish the right relationships in the community.

Fort Munro is located on the National Highway 70, connecting the provinces of Punjab and Balochistan.

This mountainous region has experienced heavy rains resulting in flash flooding, which has left many communities without homes and food. There are currently 100 families that will initially receive assistance from 1toAnother. The team will be providing emergency supplies to these families, which are scattered around the actual town of Fort Munro. 1toAnother also plans on providing medical assistance through free medical camps.

These medical camps will be set

up in a central location allowing patients from nearby villages to access them easily.

Kot Sabzal is located in the very south of Punjab province, close to the border with Sindh. This area is connected to the Brethren Church in Multan and many Christian and Hindu families have suffered losses due to heavy rains in this area. There are many villages nearby that 1toAnother will also look to provide assistance to, some of which are in Sindh province. The team will provide food packs, tents, hand-pumps and medical assistance to about 200 families in these communities in the coming weeks and months.

## CHALLENGES

1toAnother will continue to assess the needs of the communities it helps in order to meet the ever-changing needs. With winter fast approaching; tents, blankets and warm clothing are an urgent need.

In most areas the affected families are now in a position to feed themselves, however there are still areas that are dependent on food rations.

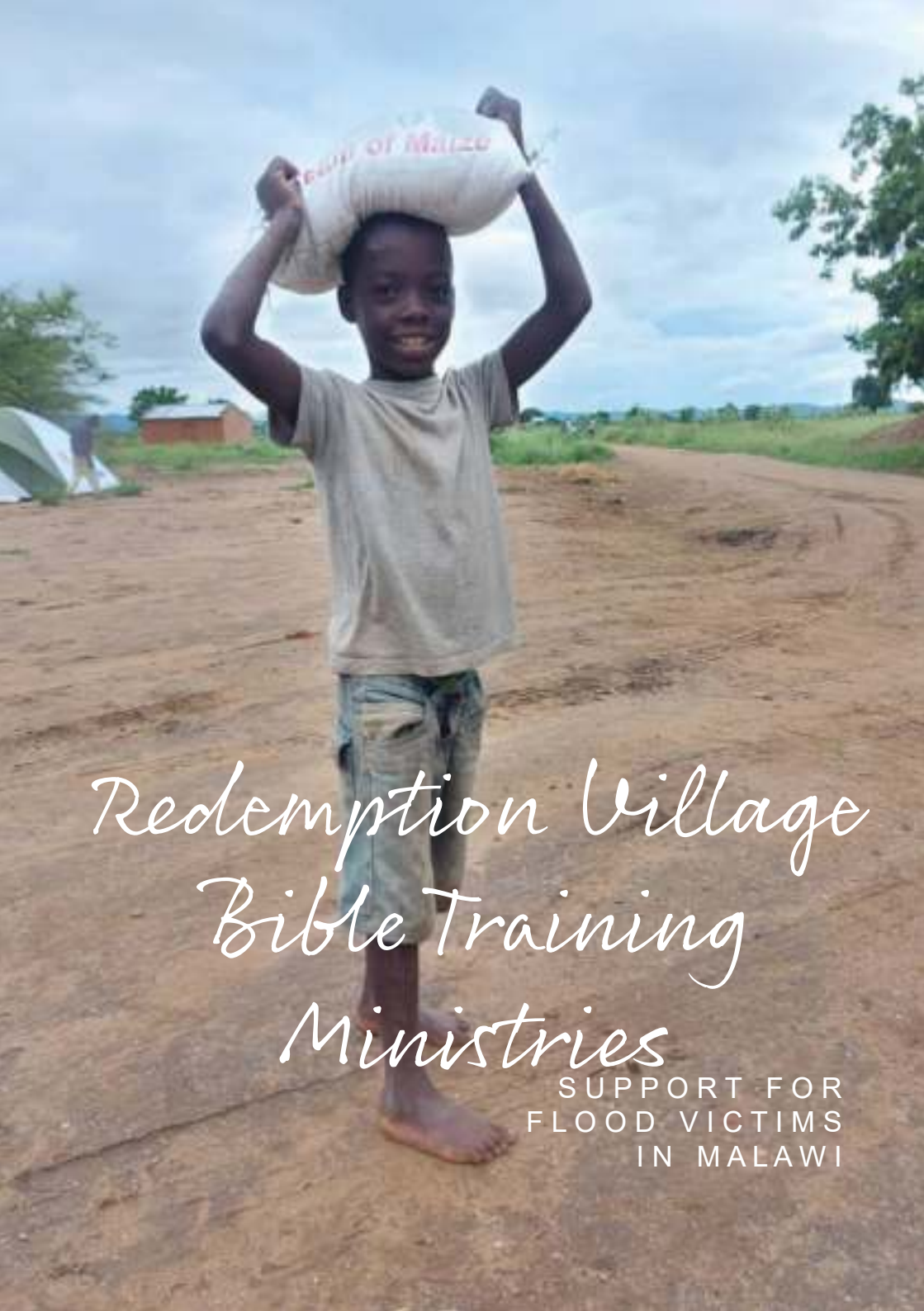
Water-borne diseases are on the rise and over 200 people have lost their lives to diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria. The need for medical assistance is becoming more acute.

Looking further ahead; it will be important to identify communities that 1toAnother can partner with to provide long-term assistance. Rebuilding homes and toilets, assistance in providing seed for farming, and providing lost livestock will be key in helping get people back on their feet.

## PRAYER

Please be praying for the continued physical safety of 1toAnother's team; for wisdom and stamina as 1toAnother responds to the needs of those affected. Pray for resources, so that they can quickly and effectively help those with immediate needs and for long-term solutions. Please pray for families who will be affected by the winter; for safety as they are forced to sleep outside and for health. Finally, pray for the survivors of the flood; may they have courage and strength during these difficult times, and find hope of salvation in Jesus Christ.





# Redemption Village Bible Training Ministries

SUPPORT FOR  
FLOOD VICTIMS  
IN MALAWI

Early in 2022, the Southern Region of Malawi suffered severe flooding, which resulted in houses being washed away and many people losing everything. As a result, the government set up tented camps to provide temporary shelter for huge numbers of people. Those accommodated in the camps were mostly left without sufficient food, proper clothes, blankets, mosquito nets etc, and many were forced to sleep in open classroom blocks allowing no privacy.

Despite the government help, life was very hard, and many decided to leave the camps and try to find casual work so they could have a little money to buy food.

Redemption Village Bible Teaching Ministries, through well-wishers, were able to visit the camps and help with food, clothes and Bibles. This brought some comfort and the knowledge that there were those who really cared about their plight.

The time came when the government decided to close the camps and repatriate the people to their villages where the floods had now abated. The problem was that

houses had been washed away and there was no food and other basic items. The result was that many stayed, and are still under shaded trees or built temporary shelters out of sticks and grass. This was in the area previously flooded, so if there are heavy rains in the coming months the same problem could happen again. In June, a container arrived from the UK with clothes, toiletries, bedding and many items to help the folk. The items given were a tremendous help and encouragement to those who received them.





The lads pictured above, who have been brought up by Lapson as their parents died, were my four helpers preparing packs to distribute to those in need. From left to right: Kelvin, Sam, Lucius and Yohanne. There is never a dull moment in spending time with them!

I had a certain man laid on my heart one morning when praying. I sent Yohanne to him with a gift of money. Yohanne came back so blessed, as Lucius' wife was cooking their last few beans and they had nothing to buy more food. On being given the money, the man stood and wept. He was so overcome and then he jumped up and down and danced for joy! He told Yohanne how tough these last months had been for him after the flooding as there had been no harvest. "I have learnt to bless my Lord when I have nothing. Today God has done a miracle for me and my family, so we will praise and thank Him for what He has done

for us. He is truly amazing...our Jehovah Jireh." I was so challenged! It is now the time to prepare their land for planting, but a shortage of seed makes this difficult. Purchasing maize is now very expensive and beyond the reach of many. There are so many needs to be met to make life a bit easier for our brothers and sisters. Needs include food, seed, housing, and finance to cover the cost of school fees for those who have children.

Here is Ephraim with Lapson. Ephraim and his parents were



"I have learnt to  
bless my Lord  
when I have nothing."





caught up in the flooding and swept away, ending in the top of a tree. A boat came and Ephraim's parents jumped into the boat, but Ephraim was afraid and could not. A helicopter was sent for Ephraim. The noise was so horrendous, which blew Ephraim's mind and left him mentally disturbed. Fortunately, he lives in Lapson's village and spends most days on the compound. He is gradually improving, but needs the Lord Jesus to touch his mind and heal him. Please pray for Ephraim. The photo above is a common sight of a family living in the remains of their home.

Among the flood victims are pastors who lost their Bibles, and some of these were helped, but there remain others who are still lacking a Bible.

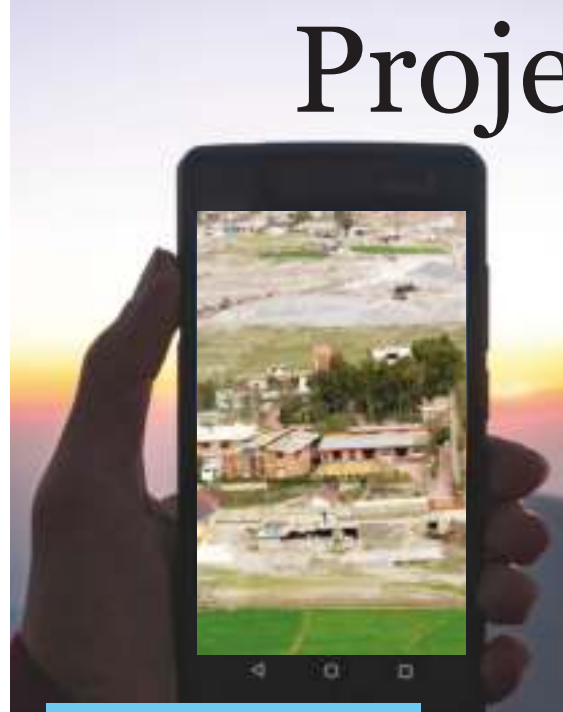
The continuous hardship is so difficult for sighted people that it is unthinkable what it is like for the many blind people and those with disabilities. Please be praying.

*Contributed by Janet Stafford*



# Project Focus

## KUNHAR CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL PAKISTAN



Christian Clinic (CCC). A team from KCH run the clinic twice a week. In addition to this a midwife lives at CCC fulltime to care for obstetric patients throughout the rest of the week. CCC sees approximately 2,400 patients each year through its outpatient clinic.

ACS also has a project for supporting tertiary education for Pakistani Christian students. Several doctors have completed their medical education through donations from ACS.

Through the work of KCH many disadvantaged Christian students are able to learn a craft and become self-sufficient, as well as support their families. The student's room and board is covered by KCH during the one-year course. After graduation the students spend a minimum of one year working at KCH. ACS is in the process of updating these two courses so that they will become government approved.

## Purpose

Kunhar Christian Hospital is a project of Akash Christian Society (ACS). On a regular basis KCH provides low cost care to over 12,000 patients annually through its outpatient clinic. In addition to this, close to 600 in-patients are admitted each year into the medical wards. The hospital has a functioning diagnostic laboratory, X-Ray machine, pharmacy, a nursery with three incubators for neonatal patients and two operating theatres.

ACS also runs a smaller clinic in Mansehra, known as Cirin

# Support

KCH is able to provide low cost healthcare to patients of the Kaghan and Muzaffarabad valleys through the dedication and hard work of over 40 staff members. Currently, there are two doctors who work on alternative days to cover emergency and out-of-hours patients. The hospital attempts to be self-sufficient with approximately 70% of yearly expenses met through locally generated income. Donations from international and local partners enable KCH to cover the shortfall. KCH is the only place in lower Kaghan offering neonatal care, digital X-ray and round the clock operating room facility for the last 22 years.



## Impact

Since the year 2000 and up to recently KCH was the only medical institution in the lower end of the Kaghan valley which was providing emergency C-sections. KCH has been able to help the community of Kaghan through secondary medical care when home deliveries become complicated and midwives in the villages are not able to provide the help required. Frequent deaths of eclamptic patients are a matter of history now. The local population believed fits were due to magic and evil spirits. This wonderful change, which has benefited the local community as well as the mothers, has been brought about through raising awareness and the careful regular

antenatal care of the KCH midwives. KCH doctors continue to be a trusted source of advice to help the development of the local community.

## Challenges

The biggest challenge for KCH is sourcing medical staff, administrative and support staff. KCH prefers to hire Christian staff and the location of KCH means it is far away from the traditional Pakistani Christian community, which is situated mostly in the Punjab province. KCH is located in a very rural area and lacks good schooling options, which makes it a difficult option for many families. KCH has faced some opposition, which could be described as malicious competition from other for-profit medical centres that have opened up in the surrounding area. Despite the many attempts to malign the reputation and work of KCH the patients have continued to visit KCH and put their trust in the care received there. Future challenges for KCH is the need for a full-time surgeon and obstetrician. KCH has the capacity, staff and equipment to carry out many more surgical

operations than it currently does. KCH's nursery has been able to help save the lives of many newly born babies. The cost to run an incubator 24 hours is extremely high, especially in a country where power cuts are frequent. KCH has strived to provide incubators for neonatals at extremely low fees.

## Prayer

Please pray for the rising cost of electricity and fuel in Pakistan. KCH has come under more financial pressure due to the inflation of the Pakistani rupee, coupled with high commodity prices internationally. Financial grants are more urgently needed than ever before. Ultrasound machines and lab equipment like a haematology analyser, steriliser and other equipment needs replacement after 10-20 years of its purchase.

New leadership is needed as the current director is reaching retiring age. We request prayer for a new director of KCH and more voluntary doctors from abroad.

Pray for young churches planted and please pray against spiritual opposition.



Reading through Mark's Gospel over the last couple of months I have been reminded again of how Jesus was concerned for the needs of the whole person. Yes, it is vitally important that we share the good news about Jesus and, as we come into the advent season, we will be thinking more about the Saviour who has come to rescue us, but how concerned are we about the physical, mental and emotional needs of others? For Jesus, healing and provision went alongside preaching and teaching.

This magazine has shared some of the practical needs that families are facing in Ukraine, Pakistan and Malawi and how our partners in these places are seeking to help and support them in a variety of different ways.

Is this something that you or your church feel able to share in? Sometimes it is helpful to see how any donation that we make will be used, so here are a few examples:

£20 - *Food package for a family*

£20 - *Provide an essential medical kit*

£34 - *Provide a water-proof tent*

£108 - *Supply seed and fertiliser to help restart crops*

£400 - *To put on a medical camp*

We know the economic climate is uncertain and things are difficult, but if you feel God moving you to help support these families in crisis then you can give through our website or in your usual way.

Thank you very much for your interest and support in the ministry of MMN over the past year. We could not do what we believe God has called us to do without your prayers and your kind donations. Please keep on praying and if you want to receive more regular prayer news then please contact me or visit our website.

*Grev Parmenter (Director)*



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