

PROCLAIM HIS NAME

HOLY
BIBLE



**MEDICAL
MISSIONARY
NEWS**

Making Jesus Christ known through healthcare

2023
Issue 3

‘Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works, and glorify your
Father who is in heaven’ (Matt. 5:16)

Even a very casual perusal of the four Gospels would lead any first-time reader to the simple conclusion: the main figure in the narrative was a unique individual who went around doing good. Everywhere He travelled He preached the need for repentance, extended an invitation to be part of ‘the kingdom of God’, healed all manners of sickness, illness and spiritual affliction, and revolutionised the communities He encountered. His sojourn on earth is very succinctly summarised in Matthew 4:23.

But we should not be surprised by these reports of the incredible compassion and work of our Lord. After all, He was/is ‘the Word made flesh’ and ‘Immanuel, God with us’. And showing love and compassion is the very essence of Deity. It should be no surprise either that His followers should demonstrate something of that same love and compassion, making a difference in the world they inhabit. After all, we are ‘indwelt by His Spirit’ and are to be ‘conformed to His image’.

Worthy challenges to be desired and pursued.

What then has been the effect of Church and Missions on the world historically? A most intriguing article appeared recently in a well-known Christian periodical. It was a captivating review of an academic paper authored by an eminent American professor of Sociology (Robert Woodberry). His work (comprising 14 years of research) had been published some years ago in the discipline’s top journal (American Political Science Review). Prof. Woodbury dared to examine the pre-supposed ‘culturally insensitive folly’ that surrounded those ‘colonialist, proselytising missionaries’ of a by gone age. He was astounded by what he discovered when researching worldwide missionary work since the 1800s.

Transforming Lives Today, India



His conclusions are fascinating. Areas where Protestant missionaries had a significant presence are on average more economically developed with comparatively better health, lower infant mortality, less corruption, greater literacy, higher educational attainment (especially for women) and more robust membership in non-government associations. ‘Conversionary Protestants’ (I think that’s code for ‘evangelicals’) had the main effect. Other faith-based and state-aided organisations had *no* such effect. Missionaries were not just part of the history of democratic, economic and educational development in a particular country, they were central to it.

Matthew Parris is a noted broadcaster, journalist and ex-Conservative MP. In a much quoted London Times editorial (a few years ago) he announced, shockingly, that ‘Africa needs God’. Why the ‘shock’? Mr Parris is an avowed, self-confessed atheist. After numerous trips to Africa, he became convinced of the enormous contributions Christian evangelism makes in Africa, sharply distinct from the work of secular NGOs, government projects and

international aid efforts. He continued: Christianity in Africa changes people’s hearts, bringing spiritual transformation. Christian missions treated the sick and taught people to read and write. Only the severest secularist could see a mission school or hospital and conclude the world would be better without them. For a long time he assumed ‘faith’ was needed only to motivate the missionary, and what counted was the help not the ‘faith’. But again, this did not fit the facts! Faith instructs and transforms. Christians, whether members of a church mission or secular NGO, impressed him by their honesty, diligence and energy. These qualities were not unconnected with their personal faith. Rather, that faith very much governed who they were and what they did. Removing Christian evangelism from Africa ‘leaves the continent at the mercy of a malign fusion of Nike, witch doctors, mobile phones and the machete’.

Leprosy is a most devastating, destructive disease that has plagued humanity for millennia. India, where the disease was once rife, was known for its ‘leprosy beggars’ and ‘untouchables’, complete social outcasts, deformed,

crippled, blinded by leprosy. But the arrival of Christian medics, Dr Paul Brand (a renowned orthopaedic surgeon) and his wife, Margaret, (a gifted ophthalmologist) at the Vellore Christian Hospital in 1946 changed all that. Their pioneering skills and inventiveness helped develop a whole new outlook on disability prevention and rehabilitation. They overcame initial severe obstacles, resistance and prejudice, eventually seeing leprosy patients gain access to hospital care. Authors of many books and academic papers, the recipients of numerous awards and achievements, both doctors totally transformed the approach to and understanding and treatment of the disease throughout the world. They simply emulated their Master in loving those afflicted with deformity and disability.

This year I had the privilege of visiting Ukraine on two occasions helping with the delivery and distribution of much-needed aid: blankets, toiletries, generators, medical consumables and equipment. The welcome was overwhelming, the experience unforgettable, harrowing, sobering and rewarding. As we travelled around, visiting isolated farms,

clinics, orphanages, churches, community halls, it was so encouraging to witness real 'Christian compassion'. One memory stands out: many of the small churches (invariably 'evangelical') were housing refugees fleeing from the horrors of war further East. Here they were, in small church premises, 'enjoying' their hosts' hospitality; long-term shelter, food, heating, medicine. But what was not immediately obvious; this hospitality was being provided *only* by the small 'Protestant' churches. The Orthodox churches (the dominating ecclesiastical force in Ukraine) were doing nothing to help. And the locals had noticed! One Baptist pastor reported how the attendance at his church had increased significantly and many of the 'visitors' were not 'Protestant'.

In short then, Christian missions have unquestionably made a huge positive difference to society over recent centuries.

*Contributed by
Ray Allen (Trustee)*



Contributed by Julie-Rachel Elwood who serves at Chitokoloki Mission Hospital, Zambia.

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (Matt. 9:35)

Throughout history, medical work and gospel work have gone hand in hand. The gospel accounts of the Lord Jesus' earthly ministry have continuous examples of those He healed both physically and spiritually.

He drew close to those who were in need and those who were mourning. He then also sent the disciples out to preach and heal (Luke 9:2). In 2023, there continues to be no shortage of people who are sick, distressed and dying. It is at the hardest times in our lives that the reality of human frailty becomes most stark. To be faced with our own mortality brings even the hardest of men to question life and seek God. And it is in this context, that we in medical mission can show love, give hope and provide answers. It



'we have an incredible message of hope...'

is an enormous privilege to look after people during their darkest days. And also too through their happiest times such as the birth of children. There is such a joy at being able to aid our patients through immense challenges: recovery from surgery, healing of wounds, learning to walk again and various rehabilitation. Inevitably our job also requires us to draw alongside those with whom we have to break bad news: injuries that are just too severe to recover from or disease for which there is no ability to cure. And yet, as believers we have an incredible message of hope. There are continuous opportunities and a

wide open door to share the gospel with our patients and their families. Disease and the realisation of our own inability to cure ourselves is such a great picture of sin and our need of a Saviour. Illness is also a great equaliser. For the chiefs and the poorest of the community lie side by side, their bodies equally frail. Death comes to all.

As medical professionals, we see so often how man's plans are disrupted: accidents happen in a split second. A few years ago, one of our staff members was sitting at the market when a tree branch broke and fell on top of him. He was sadly killed instantaneously. I had been chatting with him earlier that morning on some administrative issues, neither of us aware it would be our last ever conversation. How important it is to be ready for eternity; for none of us know when our earthly days will end.

At Chitokoloki, our aim is to shine forth the glorious light of the gospel. Our own mission symbol is a reflection of that: combining the medical red cross with the shadow of the cross of Calvary. We have a captive audience of people willing to listen. Being a rural hospital with a large catchment area,

patients and their families are often with us for many months, as it is not financially or realistically possible to travel back and forward. Orthopaedic patients in particular are waiting around for bones to heal, and plasters and pins to be removed. These folk are otherwise well and the weeks are long and potentially boring. Patients receiving chemotherapy in monthly cycles can be with us for a year. At present, we have two men with spinal injuries and paralysis who will likely stay for several years. There are also the daily attenders who come for clinics or a quick consultation. It might be their first and only time to be at Chitokoloki. More than a hundred patients are seen at our clinics each day, and so there is a considerable amount of time spent by people just sitting around waiting their turn to see the doctor. Those needing surgery also sit outside theatre every Tuesday and Thursday, hopefully expectant to hear their name called and their time to be attended to.

We do not force the gospel message on anyone; like salvation, it is a free gift offered to anyone who will take it. Anyone is very free to refuse, but we are glad that

this is a rare situation. Not only do most people gratefully accept literature and listen to messages, but we get daily requests for reading materials and Bibles. It is such a lovely thing to walk through the hospital and see patients at their beds reading God's Word and the clinic lined with people reading gospel tracts and calendars.

Scripture texts adorn every corridor, calendars with verses decorate beds. Uniforms, displays and gifts often have verses printed on them. The gospel message is preached daily across a public address system by a rota of brothers. Several young men and our Christian staff use their free



**'like salvation,
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time to put on special sessions using sketchboard art or playing videos and audio. There is such a variety of modes of transmission of the gospel message. Christian music or recorded audio messages often play throughout the wards. The patients sometimes start up their own sing-songs. Dr Ros Jefferson and some of our local ladies have a weekly Bible club in the children's ward with a message and colouring. The walls and beds display multiple colourful pictures of the latest story they have been taught, as well as the weekly memory verses.

Chitokoloki Hospital is a hive of activity and seems to be getting busier each year. Despite having 93 physical beds, we have been regularly having 138-144 inpatients over the last few months. These extra patients are nursed on "floor beds": mattresses placed in whatever available floor space there is. We have a good reputation for our high-quality care throughout the country. Hence, patients come to us from all over Zambia, as well as

DR Congo and Angola. We have a huge responsibility to live up to that reputation, and maintain a good testimony. Our hospital stands as a light in the community; not just for patients and their relatives, but for the many staff and students, visitors and politicians who witness our care. Being a rural hospital, we have a high turnover of staff members. We pray that as they come and go, they will have been touched by what they experienced with us, and that they will trust the Lord. Between 20 and 30 student nurses are placed with us for attachments of two to three months at a time. There is a short time of devotions twice weekly for all our staff and students.

Politicians and official visitors regularly come to tour the facilities. They often comment on the love and care we show to our patients and that we "do things differently" here. Individuals we have looked after report how touched they were by our care. We are thrilled to be able to do our work in the Lord's name.



'We have such a great responsibility to plant and water the seed of God's Word...'



We distribute calendars, texts, Bibles and gospel literature on a daily basis. There is currently not much literature in the local languages compared to English; but, we are very grateful to past men and women who worked tirelessly to have the whole Bible translated into Lunda, Luvala, Portuguese and other common languages here. Thanks to all those dear friends across the world who send us materials via the container services. We very much appreciate all those who take time to make up pictures with verses, texts to colour and organise printing of materials. It makes such a huge difference to be able to distribute appropriate literature in people's own mother tongue. A team of us have been working on new tracts in Lunda this year and it was exciting to get four printed at the start of 2023. Please pray for this ongoing work as we try and get more translated and written in Lunda and Luvala.

One of our retired nurses, Rhoda, a lovely gentle Christian lady does bedside ministry, counselling and

speaking in the wards, as well as chatting with those in clinic lines. There are often troubled clients who have been admitted following a suicide attempt or those who have just received a cancer diagnosis. I particularly enjoy the opportunities we have for one-to-one interactions. While providing chemo, or doing dressing changes, or prepping patients for theatre for example, conversations come naturally. I get to know such individuals very well as I see them regularly. We pray with our patients before surgery which is such a nice way to calm anxieties and leave the outcomes in God's hands.

The hospital is a garden of fertile soil – questioning minds wondering about the meaning of life. People willing to listen to the message provided. Staff and visitors watching what makes a mission hospital different. We have such a great responsibility to plant and water the seed of God's Word, trusting God to provide the harvest. Please pray for us and all who hear the message of salvation.



PAUSE

to pray



How great the harvest is of Him who came to save us. Through the articles in this magazine, we hear of the huge opportunities there are to share God's saving message through healthcare and about the individuals working with such great servitude to make his message known. There are still so many that have not heard the gospel, and healthcare opens up a wonderful door to share God's love both practically and as a picture of how we are all sinful and need a Rescuer.

Lord, we bring the projects working in healthcare before you who work tirelessly to make you known across the world. Thank you that you showed a beautiful picture of healing people when you came to our world all those years ago, so that we too may show your love to others suffering both physically and spiritually. Please encourage the individuals working in these areas of healthcare, that they may feel refreshed to continue serving you in incredible ways. We pray that many more will come to know you as their Saviour through the messages and love they receive.

'The love of Jesus seems to pour out of them.'



RESTORING JOY

*Contributed by Di Acaster,
Executive Officer of Breadline
who support Emanuel Clinic based in Moldova*

If you were to visit Emanuel Clinic in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, you would have no doubt that you had entered a place deeply rooted in faith. You would hear piped music throughout the building from the local Christian radio station, notice the freely available Christian literature, and see inspirational Bible verses in pictures on the walls. However, you would be mainly impressed by the staff. Each of them would speak to you as though you were the most important person in the world. They would listen to you, make you feel special, valued and cared for. The love of Jesus seems to pour out of them. Consequently, they quickly build a strong, trusting relationship with their patients, and therefore talking about Jesus comes easily and naturally, and is usually accepted with little objection.

It is remarkable how this is the experience for everybody, every day. How do they do this? Eugenia Podoleanu, the clinic's director, and the team of people she has around her take the Bible perspective of social responsibility seriously, with their aims being to demonstrate the love of God in word and action, to improve the spiritual wellbeing of their patients and the communities they live in, and to improve access to high quality medical care for all. With this in mind, in addition to the general clinic, they run a Home Care Project for people with long term conditions and, with the support of Medical Missionary News, they deliver Mobile Clinics to rural areas where medical care is scarce.

At 8 o'clock each morning, the staff meet for a time of worship

and prayer. They pray for each other, for any events they are planning and for patients and their carers. In particular, they pray that each of them can be an instrument used by God as a blessing to all those they meet.

Patients are treated holistically, as the staff recognise that a person's health is a combination of their physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Therefore, it is natural for the staff to bring faith into the conversation, and it is not unusual for a doctor to pray with their patients during their appointment or to refer them to see one of the two spiritual counsellors, Nicolae and Iuri. Over the past 18 months, this has also included hundreds of refugees who they have welcomed through their doors.



'He puts no pressure on them
but believes he is sowing seeds
for the future.'

Nicolae

Nicolae sees an average of 100 people a month. As he listens to their problems and builds up a relationship with them, he will gently introduce Jesus into the conversation. He puts no pressure on them, but believes he is sowing seeds for the future. This is one example of an encounter with a patient who was part of the Home Care Project.

Nicolae says: "For me, it is important to make the connection between the "angels in white clothes" who are our nurses, and the need to save a soul. Recently, I visited 85-year-old Eleonora, who was of Jewish ethnicity. She declared herself a Christian, but knew little about Jesus and the history



of the people of Israel. Here was the link to the Gospel. We met regularly whilst she was a part of our project, and explored the Bible together, including discussions about faith in Jesus. Eleonora was impressed by the history of David and the links between the Jewish faith and the Christian faith, and by eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. We pray that she will accept Him as her Lord and Saviour!"

Iuri

Iuri adds "In the privacy of their own homes, many people feel more relaxed to have these important discussions about life and faith, which they may never have had the opportunity to do before. It is a privilege to listen to their stories,

to bring comfort to them with the words of the Bible and to pray with them. Some patients have given their lives to the Lord as a result of these conversations and have become a part of their local church. Others who are house bound have



‘they want to know what motivates people to be so kind and generous.’

been baptised at home and remain in touch with us even when their time on the Home Care Project has ended”.

The mobile clinics are delivered in partnership with the local church. The clinics begin with the medical team introducing themselves to the patients and a time of prayer. The spiritual counsellors, the pastor and others from the church will spend the day speaking with people before and after their appointments, offering words of encouragement and the opportunity for prayer. Anyone interested in finding out more about faith are given a New Testament and invited to attend the church, or the pastor will continue with home visits and provide additional support if necessary.

I have had the privilege of attending these mobile clinics and speaking to the patients, many of whom are in tears because they are so grateful to be finally receiving

medical assistance. They receive free consultations including any necessary medication. Recently the clinics have carried out eye tests and provided glasses which have radically changed people’s lives. The fact that they are receiving this service, and that they are being treated with such respect and dignity, makes them question why and they often open up the conversation about faith themselves because they want to know what motivates people to be so kind and generous. It is such a powerful witness, and gives the opportunity for the staff and the members of the local church to share with them the good news about Jesus. For many, this is the first time they have heard the gospel.

Please pray for our friends at Emanuel Clinic, that they will continue to have these opportunities and the freedom to share the love of Jesus through the healthcare they deliver, providing their patients with a real hope for the future.



VALUE & TRUST

*Contributed by Joseph Tell
from the Stronger Together project, Thailand*

Since the time of Jesus, various strategies have been employed to share the gospel, all centred around demonstrating its value and sharing the story of Jesus. The Wheelchair Project, founded in 1999, has embraced a proactive approach of combining humanitarian aid with evangelism in Thailand, a predominantly Buddhist country. By establishing themselves as leading experts in

wheelchair provision, the project has been able to build trust and introduce recipients to Christian communities eager to help. This article explores how this unique model of evangelism has led to unprecedented growth and impact, enabling the spread of the Good News to thousands of individuals. When recipients experience the true acceptance of the body of Christ, their hearts are more open to receive the gospel message.

DEMONSTRATING VALUE

The Wheelchair Project's central mission revolves around providing mobility and independence to individuals in need of wheelchairs. By offering practical assistance to those with physical challenges, the project demonstrates value to the community at large. This humanitarian approach lays the foundation for future interactions and allows for the gospel message to be more readily accepted. The act of showing love and care through wheelchair provision creates a profound impact, opening doors for meaningful conversations about faith and salvation, that we have seen to be incredibly impactful.



*'opening doors for
meaningful conversations
about faith and salvation...'*

CULTIVATING TRUST

A key factor in the project's success lies in its efforts to collaborate with hospitals and therapists. This partnering not only enhances the project's credibility, but also fosters trust among potential wheelchair recipients. The recognition of the project as a leading authority in wheelchair provision further solidifies its reputation in the community. By cultivating trust through these partnerships, the Wheelchair Project gains access to a wider audience and can introduce recipients to local Christian communities.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

By initiating relationships from a standpoint of providing a wheelchair, the Wheelchair Project has found an effective way to spread the gospel message. As recipients experience the practical benefits of mobility, they become more receptive to the message of hope and salvation. The project's association with Christian communities also allows for a deeper engagement with recipients, providing ongoing support and spiritual guidance. This holistic approach to evangelism facilitates the integration of individuals into vibrant, supportive Christian communities.

PARTNERS

One of the remarkable outcomes of the Wheelchair Project's approach is the increasing number of invitations from local government and hospital partners. The project's impact and reputation have made it a sought-after ally in the region. This recognition speaks to the effectiveness of the model, as the community-at-large invites the project to host outreach events. Such invitations are a testament to the trust and credibility the Wheelchair Project has garnered over the years,



paving the way for even greater gospel opportunities.

UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH

The success of the Wheelchair Project's evangelism model has resulted in a season of unparalleled growth, defying previous expectations for a Christian ministry working closely with the Thai Government. The impact of distributing over 40,000 pieces of equipment and carrying the gospel to more than 100,000 individuals highlights the immense reach and influence of the project. As the organisation finds itself in the midst of expansion, it seeks long-term volunteers to join its leadership team and further its transformative work.



‘the power of
demonstrating value and
spreading the gospel...’

STRONGER TOGETHER
In response to its success, the Wheelchair Project has launched a new initiative called ‘Stronger Together’. This programme aims to assist churches in creating disability ministry opportunities, fostering community engagement, and sharing the Good News. By empowering local churches to embrace disability ministry, the project envisions a network of compassion and evangelism that transcends barriers and brings transformation to lives and communities.

The Wheelchair Project’s approach to evangelism in Thailand exemplifies the power of demonstrating value and spreading the gospel in tandem. By providing practical aid through wheelchair provision, the project has earned the trust of the community and created an environment where the Good News can flourish. The impact of this model is evident in the invitations from government and hospital partners and the unprecedented growth experienced by the project. As the Wheelchair Project embraces its season of expansion, it calls for long-term volunteers to join its leadership team and participate in its transformative work, ultimately aiming to inspire churches to



‘a beacon of
hope, love and
the gospel in
Thailand.’

engage in disability ministry through the ‘Stronger Together’ initiative. Through their endeavours, the Wheelchair Project continues to be a beacon of hope, love and the gospel in Thailand.

WON FOR THE KINGDOM

Contributed by Tim Beer, who served at Loloma Mission Hospital for many years with his family.



‘...to communicate by word and deed the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ...’

Healthcare in Zambia through the different mission hospitals has been a key part of fulfilling the commission of the Lord Jesus in that country. For some locations this began over 100 years ago. This ministry of compassion and care to patients in their time of need has been a very practical opportunity to share the love of God with so many of the local people. It has resulted in large numbers of them being won for the Kingdom of God.

The hospital at Loloma has been no exception. The medical work began in 1956 and over the years has grown to a 120-bed facility that now serves a community of around 70,000 people. As mentioned in the constitution, “The fundamental purpose of Loloma Mission Hospital is to communicate by word and deed the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the members of the community.” In addition to the many opportunities within the facility, the hospital has also become the moral foundation for the village outreach work throughout the district.

One of the reasons that the local people listen to the Good News of Jesus Christ is because of the medical care that has been provided for many years at the hospital.

We are therefore thankful that the Zambian government has for many years been willing to partner with local churches in the provision of healthcare. This means that they

employ most of the trained staff, and so look to the Mission Hospital to manage the facility by providing quality health care on a spiritual foundation. In this arrangement the assistance of mission partners is still greatly appreciated, being the main reason for the higher standard of health care.

In our initial years at Loloma we



were privileged to help with the many practical needs that go with maintaining a medical facility. But as time passed, we became burdened about the future of this very valuable work, partly due to the aging of two special missionary nurses, who each served in the hospital for 50 years.

After much prayer, which included

times together with some of the local believers, the Lord formed a hospital board in 2010 to assist with the vision and work of the facility. This was composed of some medical personnel, two church elders, and three of the missionaries present at that time. One of the foundational verses for the board was “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in

vain that build it” (Ps. 121:2). Over the next ten years, the board was privileged to witness this building work of God as He brought together a strong management team.

In 2011, following the board’s request, Dr Nkonde was transferred to our hospital. He had been identified as someone who would willingly be committed to the goals of the mission hospital, and so soon became a key part of the medical work. For almost seven years he was the only doctor in the facility, showing exemplary dedication to his many responsibilities. In 2016 God’s next step was to appoint a

very committed staff member, Mr Kalwiji, to the position of Hospital Director; and two other staff members who also showed great commitment, to the positions of Hospital Administrator and Nursing Officer. The following year the Lord arranged for a second doctor to be transferred to the facility, Dr Mutombo, who has also shown great commitment to the work of the mission hospital. Then in 2021 we were further blessed by Dr Chikuta, being the first local person to complete a medical sponsorship programme. This had been set up in conjunction with several overseas agencies including MMN, with the goal of strengthening the future of the mission hospitals in Zambia.

The current management team is made up of seven members, one of which is a missionary nurse. Together with some of the hospital staff they have many opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the patients and their relatives. This spiritual foundation is supported by the following opportunities:

1. Staff devotions. Each Monday and Friday morning, the staff on duty meet for a scriptural



Staff devotions



‘...they have many opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the patients and their relatives...’

devotion. This is a great way to begin the day at the hospital. At times these devotions are also attended by visiting student nurses.

2. The Public Address system is used by local believers to share the gospel throughout the hospital each morning and evening.

3. Throughout the day, patients and their relatives may be visited to share with them some spiritual encouragement.

4. Bi-weekly visitation. A group of believers visit throughout the hospital every other Monday

afternoon, to share a gospel message at each ward, answer spiritual questions that the patients or relatives may have, and hand out literature.

We thank the Lord for these special opportunities. Due to family reasons we relocated to the US in 2021, but are blessed to see the ongoing work of the management team as they run the facility and use it as a channel to reach souls for eternity. We are thankful for regular contact with them as we continue to support this great ministry. Your prayers for this work are greatly appreciated.



Dr Nkonde

Project Focus



SOMOS NÓS

Purpose

Somos Nós is a ministry among people living with disability in Mozambique, South East Africa. Somos Nós translated from Portuguese means 'It's Us' to emphasise our desire to forge relationship with people often marginalised and alienated. Disability is taboo and the cause is often attributed to curses, witchcraft and/or punishment. While the ministry seeks to

provide and maintain wheelchairs and other mobility aids, we also are involved in orientating the wheelchair users about how to avoid pressure sores while providing acute medical care for those that already have them. The ministry also advises families and parent support groups about health matters like nutrition, diabetes etc.

Support

Building relationships and community



Proclaiming the love of Christ
in both informal and structured contexts



Taking the initiative to show the love of Christ in
practical ways

We have a workshop beside one of our churches where wheelchairs are assembled, adjusted and maintained for people with disability. Wheelchairs are only given out after a comprehensive assessment is conducted to verify if the person needs a wheelchair and also to confirm the type and size. While these assessments are being conducted, we get to talk about Jesus and discuss health issues, provide orientation and, when appropriate, offer wound care for those already struggling with pressure sores.





Impact

The ministry has flourished since its humble beginnings about 10 years ago. With the help of local churches, we were able to engage 500 people with disability in 2022. We have heard several reports of people visiting or attending church after receiving their wheelchair. Our heart is for the church to welcome them, support them and share Christ with them and their families. We have a community Bible study that has been running for a number of years with a core group of people with disability - it is a pleasure see them grow in

their knowledge of God week by week. Our parent support group has also made a tremendous impact with parents testifying that the messages shared help them to understand that God has not abandoned but is with them and loves them. One mother testified that she wondered if she had done something wrong to be punished with a child with disability, but now she sees that this is not the case and that God had a plan and purpose for her and her child.

‘One mother testified that she wondered if she had done something wrong to be punished with a child with disability, but now she sees that this is not the case and that God had a plan and purpose for her and her child.’

Challenges & Prayer

With such a busy ministry, it is challenge to keep the practical/ logistical side of the ministry in balance with the relational side. We want both to be held in tension without losing sight of the other. Secondly, a huge challenge going forward is the funding to sustain the work on the frontline with 7 employees. *Please pray for protection and healing for the ministry team. The team has faced tremendous challenges over this last year. Our technician and community worker, Afonso, continues to struggle with pains and aches following a road accident last year while returning from a Somos Nós wheelchair fitting clinic in Central Mozambique. Also, pray for Afonso and his wife, Regina, as they grieve the loss of their newborn baby last year - pray that they might be blessed with another baby. Earlier this year, another technician, Samuel, had an accident in the workshop. Two of his fingers were severely damaged but we praise God for the emergency surgery he received. His fingers have made a remarkable recovery but please pray for full use of his hand again. Lastly, please pray for me, Melvin, as I seek to support the ministry from a distance and through periodic visits.*



Prayer for MATERNAL CARE

Mon 2nd Oct
7.30pm



It has been a busy few months sending shipments overseas and sharing about the work of MMN at the Keswick Convention in August. There is currently a container on route to Zambia, one has recently reached Malawi and very sadly, the container for Angola has been delayed due to a break-in where a number of the items were stolen. Please have this situation in your prayers.

We hope to take part in the Big-Give campaign later this year where we will be raising money for Special Children's Trust in Uganda, who are looking to add a maternity wing to Berakhah Medical Centre. This will allow more support for pregnant women, safe deliveries and reduce the risk to mother and baby.

We have supported a number of medical students with their electives in mission hospitals overseas, and it has been so encouraging to see God working through them. You can read their updates on our website.

We are so grateful for your patience in needing to change our bank details and apologise that it is arduous to need to update this on your account. If you have not been able to update your records yet, please can you send all further donations to our new bank account:

Sort Code: 40-52-40

Account number: 00101073

Thank you for your ongoing support of medical mission as our partners spread the gospel to those in need.



/medicalmissionarynews



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/mmn.uk



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