

TEACH ME YOUR WAYS



**MEDICAL
MISSIONARY
NEWS**

Making Jesus Christ known through healthcare

2022
Issue 1

Our focus in this issue is healthcare training and education. Projects we support have written about their involvement in healthcare training and the impact it is having in the communities they support.

We will also explore MMN's support towards training and our involvement in the Global Track programme, which engages and equips young medical professionals to explore how they can be involved in global mission.



Another way we try to support medical training is through the provision of funding for medical professionals in the field.

Aspiring doctors, nurses and midwives who have a good foundation of faith are offered support through their training, in the hope that they can then be a blessing to mission hospitals in the field. Through this magazine we share a number of testimonies of those who have undergone training or who are currently training.

Abel Chikuta

Abel Chikuta grew up in the Loloma area, Zambia. He did exceptionally well at the local high school, and also showed a good spiritual desire in the work of the Lord. He was the first person selected for the CMML sponsorship programme, which MMN contribute towards, and did very well in his medical training. After completing his internship, he was posted to Loloma Hospital, just over a year ago, where he works alongside the two other doctors. They have been very happy to have him, as he is both very committed to his work and also a good spiritual help in both the hospital and the local assembly.



Training yourself for Godliness

During life, most of us are involved in some form of training. We might complete a training course for work, learn to drive a car or physically train for a running race. However, the Scripture speaks of training which each of us must be involved in. In 1 Timothy 4:7, the apostle Paul tells Timothy to, “train yourself for godliness.”

Maybe you have been watching the winter Olympics in Beijing. The athletes have been training for years in order to compete at the highest level. They have undoubtedly had to deal with many obstacles just to get a chance of representing their country. Some will have faced injury, others disappointment, and all will have had to cope with COVID restrictions in some form. To be the best and win the gold medal, the athlete will have needed to focus on the prize and count everything else as secondary. The word to ‘train’

in the Greek meant to train naked and is a similar word to where we get ‘gymnastic’ or ‘gymnasium’ from. The idea was to strip away anything and everything which hinders the pursuit of the prize. The writer to the Hebrews has a similar thought when he writes in Hebrews 12:1, “let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” The thought here is of the importance to remove not only the sin in our lives, which entraps us in our race as a Christian, but also those things which are not sinful though weigh us down and stop us running our race well. If we are to train ourselves for godliness, we must strip away all sin and distraction in our training for godliness.

Godliness speaks of a character or actions which are pleasing to God. This character is that which mirrors God’s character. The Fruit of the Spirit, which Paul speaks of in Galatians 5:22-23, is set in contrast to the works of the flesh (ungodliness). It is the Fruit of the Spirit which characterises the one who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The Fruit is summarised in the words, “the fruit of the Spirit is love”. As believers,

we should seek to increase in how much we show the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Each interaction with our neighbours, colleagues, family, friends, and fellow Christians should be marked by love.

Scripture gives us many examples of what godliness looks like, but if godliness is displaying God's character, there is no more supreme example than our Lord Jesus Christ. He is described as the 'the exact imprint of his nature' (Heb. 1:3), 'the image of the invisible God' (Col. 1:15) and He is the one who has made the only God known (John 1:18). While Christ is far more than just our example, He is however no less than that. It was Christ who came to do the will of the Father, and could pray to the Father that He had finished the work He was given to do. He was the one who showed mercy to the woman caught in adultery, loved the poor and was willing to touch those who were rejected. When we feel the weight of persecution, we can look to Jesus, 'because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example' (1 Pet. 2:21).

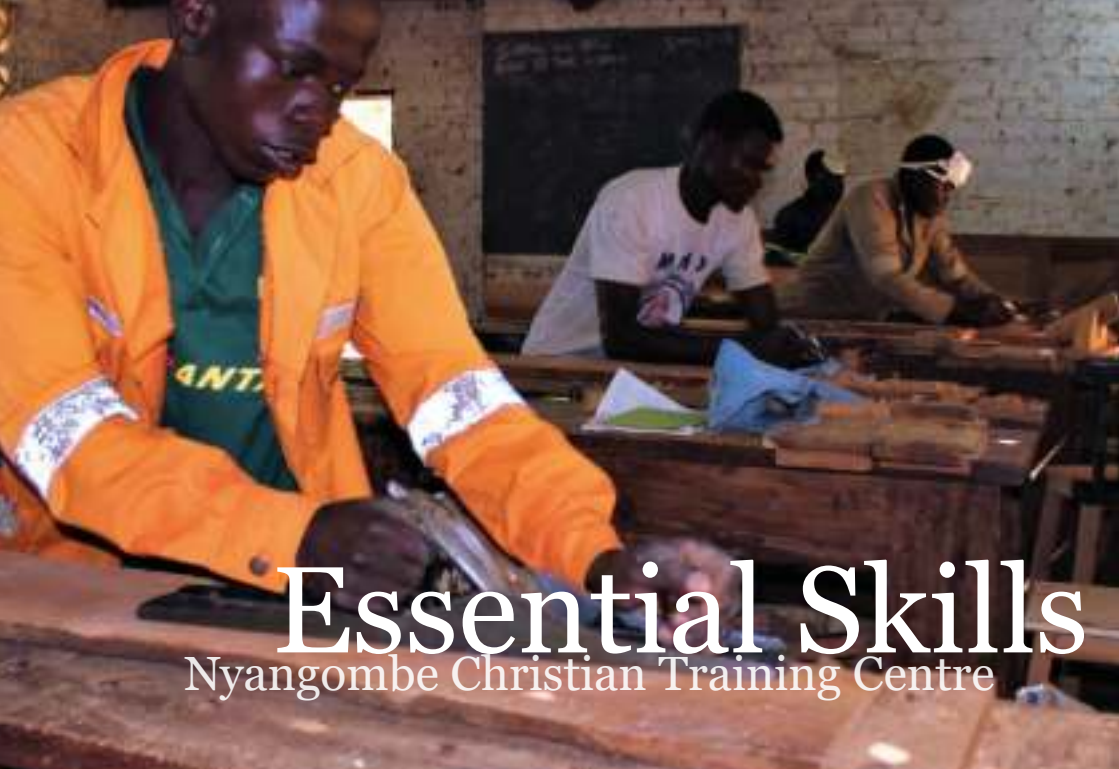
Paul does not only exhort Timothy to develop a Christ-like character, but also gives the motive.

Paul goes on to write in 1 Timothy 4:8, 'for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.' Whether through illness or old age, each of us will become frail and our bodies will no longer do what they once did. However, the Christian can invest in training for something of immense value: not only in this life, but also that which lasts into eternity. There is no investment on earth that has a return like that. All believers have this great hope, that when He appears, we shall be like Him. When that day comes, each believer's time of struggle and training will be over, and our bodies will bear the image of the man of heaven.

MMN seeks to not only relieve immediate suffering, but our involvement in training and education is a work which we hope, in His will, will have a lasting impact. As believers, let us all be encouraged to seek to develop a Christ likeness and train in something where the benefits are experienced not only in this life, but in the life to come.

Jordan Connell
(MMN Trustee)





Essential Skills

Nyangombe Christian Training Centre

When the late Senior Chief Sailunga originally gave Nyangombe land on which to build a Bible School and Training Centre (2,600 acres) it was on the condition that Skills Training was also taught in Nyangombe.

Many years later, the Senior Chief visited Nyangombe and entered into the carpentry training workshop. He looked at tables, chairs, beds and cabinets made by young men (whom he referred to as 'his subjects'). He laid his hands on the work bench, bowed his head and began quietly weeping. When he

composed himself in the silence, he said, "This is the very first time a promise has been fulfilled after agreeing to give land as a gift. I was told in 1988 that skills would be taught to my subjects and today, today I am seeing the results of this training with my very own eyes."

Hundreds of young people have passed through skills training at Nyangombe over the past 30 years and, today, most of the good builders and carpenters in the district have been trained at Nyangombe. Many have set up their own businesses in their home villages while others have been em-

played in the mines where they have been promoted to senior positions in the mines workshops. Other areas of skills training include teaching on how to use computers, animal husbandry, mechanics and steel fabrication, dressmaking and design, all of which compliment the life of the individual through the skill acquired.

Tools with a Mission, a UK Charity, together with kind individuals, supply us with refurbished pre-used tools and a generous Christian in Northern Ireland supplies brand new top-quality tools. MMN have assisted greatly in shipping these

tools to Zambia. Therefore, it has been possible to provide trainees with tool kits when they graduate, allowing them to immediately begin working and using their acquired skill to provide for their families.

In a survey undertaken five years ago, looking at past trainees over the previous 12 years, it was found that over 70% of trainees were either working in their villages using the skill learned at Nyangombe or they had secured employment in line with their skill base. This is an unusually high success rate for Africa in general.




GOSPEL TRAINING

There is another aspect to skills training in a Christian Centre such as Nyangombe, which is significant in the context of the Church.

During the period trainees are at Nyangombe, consecutive Bible teaching is an integral component of their training. Pastoral care is available on site for trainees, particularly when news arrives of family crises from their distant villages. This care and teaching over an extended period of time often means that those who arrived here with no faith have developed an interest in the things of God. Those with a weaker faith on arrival have been strengthened in their understanding and commitment to the Lord, while others have grown beyond recognition in their Christian walk.

Today, as we receive Church leaders into Bible Schools, we see ex-trainees arrive to study. Some have become leaders in churches in their villages while some others have even pioneered new churches in villages where no witness for the Gospel existed before. We believe that this is the major reason for the success of youth training programmes.



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Skills training is both time consuming and very involved on a daily basis and we take in new trainees every 18 months. There are times we become tired of constantly trying to train students to 'pursue excellence' in whatever they do and to raise their standards of workmanship. In times like these we look at the many who have not only learned a skill and been enabled to provide for their families, but we also see the many who have trusted the Lord during their time of training and who take away with them both a skill and the message of Good News back to their home villages.

P R A Y E R

Please pray that young men and women will be influenced positively for the Lord when attending skills training at Nyangombe. Pray that those without a faith on arrival may come to know Him as Saviour, and that those with a faith might grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus. Finally, please pray that those who complete training will leave here with not only a skill but also a vision to share the Good News.

Guermadji Mbaissanadje



My name is Guermadji Mbaissanadje, I am 30 years old and was born in Doba, Chad. I grew up in a Christian family.

I am now a Medical Student at the University of Conakry in Guinea-Conakry and I am in my sixth year of study. I want to thank my God for His favour and grace towards us, and to Medical Missionary News; my sincere thanks for their financial, spiritual and practical support. "First I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world," Rom 1:8.

Medicine is my passion. My dream is to relieve the pain of those who are suffering and to restore them to health, just as the doctors did for me in the past when I fell ill, praise God! Medicine has also permitted me to contact many people (something I love to do), as it has given me the opportunity to share with them the Good News of the gospel of God's love for us.. "always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," Eph. 5:20.

In Africa there is much illness, but we do not have easy access to help and basic healthcare: particularly in my own country of Chad, as there are few medical evangelists.

I wish all at MMN my best wishes for the year 2022. May the Eternal God our Father in Heaven bless all the personnel at Medical Missionary News and their partners, for this great service which reaches throughout the world.

Global Track



An exciting area of ministry that

has developed over the last few years is our involvement in helping to mobilise Christian medicals into working overseas in a mission context.

This has mainly been through our partnership with CMF (Christian Medical Fellowship) and our work together on their Global Track. It is an 18-month course for young medics, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals who are either students in the last three years of their course or graduates within two years of qualifying, to help them explore

global health and mission. Each cohort ranges from 19-24 participants.

TEACHING

The track aims to give exposure to both missiological thinking, and medical and nursing experiences (programme overview available on our website). These sessions are taught by a wide range of Christian speakers with experience of both global health and mission, and is enhanced by working through case study materials. Each participant is linked with a mentor who has experience of overseas work: someone who can meet with them, answer their questions and support them on their journey.

The aim is to build a learning

- WHAT'S INVOLVED...?
- A WEEKEND RESIDENTIAL STAY AT ALL NATIONS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
 - 5 DAY SESSIONS ON SATURDAYS, WITH EXPERIENCED GLOBAL HEALTH MISSION SPEAKERS, AS WELL AS A CROSS-CULTURAL DAY IN THE UK.
 - 2 ASSIGNMENTS
 - 4 ONLINE SEMINARS ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, LOOKING AT DIFFERENT MISSION-RELATED TOPICS
 - 2 DAYS AT THE DEVELOPING HEALTH COURSE (JULY 2023) WITH A MISSION FAIR, LECTURES, PRACTICAL SKILLS AND WORKSHOPS FOCUSING ON DIFFERENT AREAS OF HEALTHCARE IN RESOURCE-POOR SETTINGS
 - OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN A SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP (TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS PERMITTING)

"It has really fired me up to continue pursuing and preparing for working overseas."



community which helps to inspire, guide their thinking, pray and plan for each individual as they seek to respond to God's call on their lives to medicine and mission in the world.

IMPACT

The Track is currently coming to the end of its third iteration, with a fourth cohort scheduled to start in September 2022. To

date, 66 medics have been or are going through the track, and it is exciting to see how God is opening their hearts and minds.

Each cohort is contacted annually so we can continue to journey with them as God works in their lives. A number from the first Track have spent time working short-term overseas in Africa and Asia. None of the second Track have had a chance to work



"Really a shift from me-centred to God-centred mission. As a young doctor I have been most focused on the good I can do, the people I can serve, how my skills can be useful – I am learning to be less proud and more willing to follow and see it as God's story."

short-term overseas due to COVID. Most are hoping to complete their medical training before moving outside the UK, but several are also hoping to do a few months overseas in their third foundational year.

However, a couple of nurses are currently working outside of the UK, and another nurse is waiting to be deployed with the organisation she is going with. Ruth Sloman is one that we have interviewed, and you can see the impact the Track has had on her journey in serving God in a global mission context.



"Been amazing to hear from so many incredible people who have gone abroad in such a variety of ways and are so passionate about the work and what God is calling us to do."



Ruth Sloman



I heard about Global Track through a friend of mine who had just done the course. It was very easy to sign up; all online and straightforward. I just had to commit to some weekends and ensure I had those times off work. I purposely studied nursing and midwifery in order to be able to use healthcare as a “love in action” in telling others about Jesus.

There were some very interesting sessions on risk, conflict of interest, inter-cultural relationships/cultural lenses etc. There were also insightful sessions on the different ways of doing medical mission; I had only seen a couple of ways of it being done before and it was great to see how God can use so many different mediums: it was good to think more outside the box.

As well as the above, there were interesting talks and sessions about practical aspects of mission work, such as finances and support. People then shared their experiences of mission, which was very interesting and inspiring. There were also a variety of subjects covered, such as community-health development, surgery etc; and done by experts who have actually lived in the mission field, which was incredibly helpful. Moreover, it was good to go back to the basics and remember the one true calling we all have to be in relationship with and serve God. It was also so powerful and wonderful to be surrounded and encouraged by like-minded people, which really spurred me on to pursue my calling.

We were encouraged to do two weeks of medical mission overseas and I was already considering it before Global Track (GT), I visited Burundi in 2019 and this is where I am now. GT also gave me opportunity to network, and through one of the mentors, I met a paediatrician who has kindly given me advice on difficult cases here.

There are things that we were told about, but there are always things that you cannot be prepared for! It has also been helpful to have worked overseas previously.

I am working with a small NGO in rural Burundi called *The Cries of a Child*. I am working in a clinic and my role is to develop maternity practice through clinical mentoring and education, and to help transition the organisation to prepare the opening of a higher-risk maternity unit. It has all been useful; the cultural and worldview sessions have been very useful, especially when dealing with frustrations/challenges of relationship-building and working in another culture. It has been good to have that other insight into completely different worldviews.

I am looking into working alongside other organisations here in Burundi and doing some educational sessions in government facilities. I just need some doors to open and to make some connections. I am also particularly interested in women empowerment and looking into avenues for developing this passion.

I would definitely recommend the Global Track programme. For someone thinking of getting involved, I think it's very worthwhile doing as much training and preparation as you can before you go, as you are often the most expert there. I am realising that the poorest resource in a resource limited setting is the human resource; so if you can equip yourself with as much skills and knowledge then you have a lot more treasure to pass on. Taking hold of courses in the UK, which are often free/through work. I did the neonatal examination course a few years ago in the UK and it has been so valuable. I would also recommend learning the

language as much as possible before you go; I am now wishing I had done this and will be spending some time in France this summer to improve my French.

Please pray for all I have mentioned and for future connections to be able to partner with more organisations and government facilities to do some midwifery education. Please pray for my French language skills too.





Changing Attitudes

ACET Nigeria

TRAINING FOR
HIV/AIDS
TESTING

In 2019, 1.8 million people were living with HIV. Let's put that in perspective. That equates to everyone living in Manchester, Edinburgh, Liverpool and Sheffield being HIV positive! Tragically, 33 years after the first AIDS cases, Nigeria continues to face the dire consequences of having the second-largest HIV pandemic in the world and one of the highest rates of new infection.

Unfortunately, the Church does not often talk about sexual health issues due to stigma surrounding HIV and common myths

around transmission. However, HIV is found in every community, including the Church, and with over 45% of Nigeria's population professing as Christian, the Church has a wonderful opportunity to create change through their influence and deep roots in the community.

ACET UK believe the local church is called to be life-giving in every way, turning up the volume of gospel hope through caring for people's physical and relational health. ACET Nigeria are doing just that!

They've created a vibrant network of change-makers across five states of north-central Nigeria to respond to the HIV pandemic. With over ten years' experience of mobilising and training the local church to support vulnerable children, young people and adults in rural, underserved communities, this holistic approach is transforming culture and shattering HIV stigma. ACET Nigeria Director Sunday Musa explains: "I am passionate about the role of the church in turning the tide on the HIV pandemic. It's been wonderful to see churches stepping up to support HIV positive people, which has created a rise in people discussing HIV and going for testing."

HIV OUTREACH

Through their HIV outreach programme, vulnerable people are offered free HIV testing, treatment adherence, counselling and education about HIV; busting common myths that HIV is a curse from God, or that mosquitoes can transmit it. This outreach is conducted through pastors and church members trained by ACET Nigeria. In 2021, 10,000 people were reached and 4,500 received HIV testing and



TESTING IN KOGI STATE

counselling. For the 39 people who tested HIV positive, these outreaches were life-changing. They were provided with sensitive, non-judgemental counselling, assisted to remember to take their medication through local clinics and support groups, and given hope for the future.

One church member shared how attending an outreach event transformed their perspective: "I used to distance myself from people when I discovered they were HIV-positive. I thought that they had got what they deserved. Now I discovered that they need counselling to take their medication and that they can live a healthy life if they get the right help. I need to show them love and care, just as Jesus would."

CHILDREN'S CLUBS

In 2020, one child in Nigeria was infected with HIV every 30 minutes. ACET Nigeria's Children's Clubs seek to change that; training local church members as volunteer facilitators to run clubs. These provide a fun and safe environment for vulnerable children, to learn factual information about HIV/AIDS and healthy relationships through games. We are delighted that they will reach 1,000 vulnerable children this year!

Naomi, a Kids' Club facilitator in Plateau shared: "Many of the children I taught thought they didn't need to be tested for HIV because they were too young or were not engaging in risky behaviour. However, there are many children in our community who were born HIV-positive due to mother-to-child transmission, but are not aware of their status. We explain the importance of knowing their HIV status and

encourage them to go for testing.'

ESTEEM

Shockingly, less than 30% of 15 to 24-year-old Nigerians can correctly identify ways of preventing HIV transmission. This ignorance is contributing to the rise in AIDS-related deaths.

Trained volunteers run Esteem Clubs in schools and churches, tackling misinformation by equipping them with the knowledge and skills to make safe choices around relationships and sex, and how to prevent HIV & STIs, build healthy relationships and resist peer pressure as they navigate puberty.

Thanks to the generosity of MMN and other donors, ACET Nigeria will reach over 16,000 vulnerable children, young people and families through HIV education and care, sexual health outreach, Children's Clubs, Esteem Clubs and gender equality training in 2022.



EDUCATION ON
SEXUAL
DISEASES



E Z I N N E

Ezinne* is 13 years old and lives with her parents and siblings in Jos, Plateau State.

“ACET is different from other organisations because they teach on sexual and reproductive health issues, which aren’t talked about a lot in my community. I was encouraged to plan for my future by making healthy decisions, such as delaying sex. I learnt about the risky behaviour that can lead to the transmission of HIV and STIs, and what one can do to prevent this. I have decided that delaying sex is the best method for me to keep myself safe from HIV and STIs, and avoid early pregnancy. I want to share what I have learnt about puberty and healthy relationships with my friends at school, because it will help them to finish their studies and begin a career. I knew Jesus Christ before joining the club,

but my faith has increased because I now have a deeper understanding of his mercy and forgiveness.”

P R A Y E R

Pray for the team as they launch Esteem Clubs in residential children’s homes for the first time. Pray that the children will know their unique value as sons and daughters of God and grow in confidence to make healthy decisions as they grow up.

Give thanks for the church leaders and missionaries who are transforming the HIV landscape in their community. Pray for new leaders, and that people living with HIV in their congregations would feel accepted and welcomed.

Pray for people who test positive for HIV during HIV outreaches. Pray that they would know God’s peace as they receive ongoing counselling and support from ACET Nigeria and local health clinics. Pray that lives would be saved through these outreaches.

Pray for God’s favour in our fundraising activities. We need to raise a further £25,000 to support all of ACET Nigeria’s activities.

**name changed*



Similya Mpheza

My name is Similya Mpheza, I come from Malawi and I am studying Nursing and midwifery at one of colleges in Malawi. I am in my third year of studies and last semester. If all goes well, I shall be finishing my course in April this year. I have enjoyed my studies from day one. I would

like to thank God for all that He is doing to me. Honestly speaking, I would not have been able to study at this expensive college if it was not for God. My God has been so wonderful and I am left with no word to use in thanking Him. I would also like the Medical Missionary News for helping me through my studies. It was really encouraging to see the way my school fees were paid for, seeing some students who could be sent home due to school fees not being paid. I also would like to thank all those who took their time to pray for me. It is my hope that they will continue praying for me as I am waiting to sit for my final examinations.

Chijika Masaha

Chijika Masaha is the daughter of a dear Zambian brother who, with his wife, moved to Angola more than 15 years ago to help in the work of the Lord. Chijika did her initial schooling at Sakeji, and then completed her grade 12 education at Chavuma Boarding School. Following her good performance and spiritual desire, she was selected by the believers at Chavuma for the CMML sponsorship programme. She is now about to start the third year of her medical training. The plan being that, after completion of her training, she will be a big help at Chavuma Mission Hospital.





God will Provide

Hope 4 the World
Steff Nash

In 2001, I was contacted by Jubilee Campaign in the Houses of Parliament to see if I would be interested in helping the Karen people in Burma. I jumped on a train and met a Major from the Karen National Union on London Bridge Station. He wanted me to train the army but I insisted that I needed to work with a peaceful organisation. After a few telephone calls I found someone who put me in touch with the Karen Department of Health & Welfare (KDHW). Within a month, I was on a plane and met with three senior figures in a secret location in Mae Sot, Thailand. After only a few minutes, I realised everyone sitting in the room was a Christian. I had done a bit of research on the history of British involvement in Burma, so was

aware of the reasons behind the minority ethnic groups' disgraceful treatment by the military, Junta. I also knew about Judson, an American Baptist Missionary, and the spread of the gospel among the Karen.

I am well connected with Christians in the medical profession, so was able to recruit a team of hospital doctors, dentists, midwives and GP's. In June 2002, we journeyed for the first training course which was held in Mae Tow Hospital (run by the famous Dr Cynthia). That was the beginning of a wonderful adventure. The first training was one week and very soon it became two weeks. We all paid for our own air tickets, took annual leave and a couple of us chipped in and covered the costs



“You are doing
exactly
what we are
unable to do.”

of transport, food and accommodation for the students, who came from clinics inside Burma. This pattern continued for nearly five years and it became an annual event for a small number of close friends. The leader of KDHW was called Eh Kalu and he had dedicated his whole life to serving the health needs of the Karen people. The government did not provide any healthcare or education for minority tribes who had not ‘surrendered’.

Eh Kalu persuaded me to fund a three-month ‘Community Health-Worker’ programme, which was being held in Noe Poe refugee camp (five hours drive south from Mae Sot). As ‘donor’ I was invited to present the certificates at the end of the course. I, of course, wanted

to help and offer support so made the very long trip. It was there that a small miracle happened. The hospitals in all the refugee camps were run by an organisation called Aide Medicine Internationale (AMI is a French NGO) and the director was sitting in the ceremony. He saw each student receiving their certificate, singing national songs and then making an oath to serve their people. He was very impressed and asked to speak to me at the end. He said “You are doing exactly what we are unable to do.”

The funding for the camp hospitals (three in total) came from the EU and the ‘contract’ included not working cross-border into Burma. He could clearly see that we were doing exactly that. Those in refugee camps had their

educational and medical needs met but it was the IDPs (Internally Displaced People) who were in a much worse situation. Burning villages, child-slave labour and raping women was the normal behaviour of the army. I went to his home on my way back to Mae Sot and he asked 'How can we help HOPE?' This was a very easy question to answer as the camp hospitals were a perfect training environment. So, I asked for permission to use their facilities to train KDHW community health workers to a higher level of competence. Within weeks, we had a positive answer and the training jumped from two weeks to ten weeks.

The next year it became 20 weeks and the third year it became 26 weeks. All this required more

trainers, but as a consultant in Accident & Emergency, we had 20 junior doctors and ten registrars rotating through the department every year. Therefore, I was able to recruit volunteer trainers from NHS staff. It was always a condition that every person covered their own costs, took one week annual leave and were willing to live inside a refugee camp. So many doctors, dentists, nurses and midwives jumped at this opportunity to 'give a little back' to a suffering people. There was no shortage of volunteers as it is such a wonderful, exciting and worthwhile thing to do.

It became obvious that what they lacked was supervised clinical practice by experienced 'medics', which is the name given to the



MEDIC TRAINING GRADUATION CEREMONY



locals providing care to in-patients in the hospital. Once again, I encroached upon the good will of AMI and asked permission for ten weeks of supervised practice in their hospitals. It was then extended to 20 weeks and the course became 26 + 20 (46) weeks. It has developed from a one-week first programme to one-year comprehensive programme to train 'medics' to provide health care to the Karen people in approximately 50 clinics in the Karen State. How fantastic is that!

We have felt the hand of God

upon us from the beginning and that very first meeting on London Bridge Station. Everyone is a volunteer covering their own costs (which comes to around £800 per person). All HOPE has to do is raise the funds for the course, which is about £40,000 per year for 40 students; £1,000 per student is good value for money. The Lord has provided for us by generous friends (MMN has also contributed for two consecutive years).

All it takes is a little faith, a little courage and a little initiative and hey presto - God is on your side!

Gloria Mbewe

With much joy and gladness I write to thank God that I have now finished my Nursing and Midwifery training with good grades, and I am now waiting for the results of the examinations I wrote for medical Council, of which I am sure that I will pass.

As I am writing this I am on locum with Chikwawa District hospital. It is pleasing to see that I am now fulfilling my heart's desire of serving God through the provision of my services to His people.

I am praying that God would give me the opportunity to find employment, as I am thinking of working for a year or two, then go for further studies to give me a degree. I would like to thank you so much for all you have been doing for me.

Without your organisation I would not have done what I am doing today. My dreams and heart desires wouldn't have been fulfilled without your help and support.



I owe God a lot more, and promise to work hard and be there for the poor and those who will need my help most.

As I still have a lot to do, I will appreciate your continued support and prayers.

I am now a proud girl being the only nurse and midwife in our family.

Glory to be to God.

Project Focus

EMANUEL CLINIC
MOLDOVA

Why?

The goal of everything they do is to care for the physical and spiritual health of all those they meet and to share the Good News of Jesus in action and in word. The training they deliver to medical professionals is no exception. They provide seminars for doctors and nurses to attend throughout the country, regardless of their faith, which can be used as evidence for their continual professional development. Prior to the pandemic, these were held over a three-day period during the autumn, but the last two years has meant they have had to deliver the seminars online to around 200 candidates. They use these opportunities to share the gospel with the doctors and nurses, to help them learn about the love of Jesus and to know God in a personal way. They believe this will enable them to see their patients from a different perspective and to focus on God as the one who heals.

In addition to these seminars, they provide smaller training sessions

Who?

Emanuel Clinic (EC) is a non-governmental organisation working in the centre of Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, since 1992. The clinic offers appointments with a wide variety of medical specialists, as well as having its own laboratory and pharmacy. Among other things, it delivers a Home Care Service for people needing support for long term conditions, takes Mobile Clinics to isolated rural areas providing free treatment for the poor, trains medical students, runs national and international conferences for qualified doctors and nurses, and provides training sessions for specific patient groups.

Impact

every two months throughout the year, focussing on specialist training for doctors or targeting specific patient groups. For example, over the previous 12 months they have run sessions about stoma care for medical professionals, team building for all those who work at the clinic, and breastfeeding, childcare, women's health, and healthy living, for different patient groups. These groups are held in the more intimate staff room in the clinic, using a white board, projector, and various hand-outs. Occasionally they might visit residential settings such as homes for the elderly or orphanages, to deliver more specialised training to staff and residents. These sessions are organised by personal invitation, notices or advertisements on social media. The format of the group includes reading Bible verses to find out what God's advice might be about subjects, such as healthy living or healthy relationships and comparing them to modern approaches, which often provides the evidence of why the biblical wisdom is relevant. This is followed by the presentation of the specialist subject, including a practical element where appropriate, and leaving plenty of time for discussion and questions.

Emanuel Clinic have had an increasing impact on their local community and have gained trust and respect over the years from fellow medical professionals, as well as their patients. The Clinic was founded only a year after Moldova became independent from the Soviet Union. Prior to this, people were very sceptical about churches, other than the Orthodox Church, as they did not really know much about them. Most employees of EC are either Baptists or they attend the Lord's Army, which is the more recently established evangelical wing of the Orthodox Church. When they first opened, they received no encouragement or recommendations from their peers across the city.

Today, they have an excellent reputation, and it is common for doctors from other clinics and hospitals to approach EC for their advice, and recommend them to patients for treatment. People choose to go there because they know they will be listened to, treated respectfully and made to feel that their lives are of worth. This alone makes them more likely to be open to the gospel.



Prayer

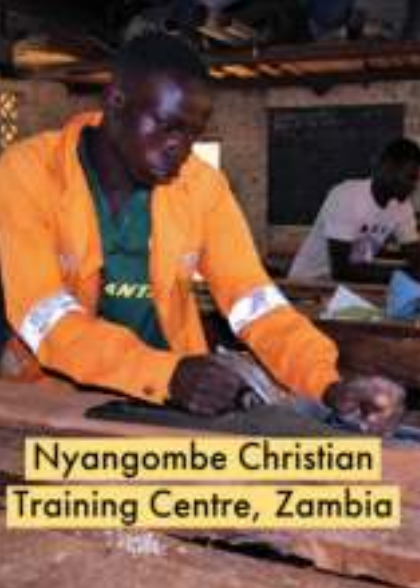
Dr Liviu is the director of the clinic. He asks that you please pray for the protection of the Emanuel team of doctors, nurses, and support workers: that they will remain healthy and receive wisdom, guidance, and encouragement from the Lord. Please pray also that more doors will open for them to proclaim the gospel and that they will receive the resources needed to continue their work. These resources also include people for the ministry. As elsewhere, Moldova is seeing a significant rise in the cost of food, fuel, gas and building materials, yet wages remain unchanged. More and more people are leaving in search of work elsewhere, including doctors and nurses. Many of those who already work at the clinic earn their main income in other hospitals in the city and give their time to the clinic either free or at a much reduced wage.



Challenges

The pandemic has clearly been a big challenge over the past two years, but Emanuel Clinic has worked hard to problem solve the issues and to develop new ways of providing training, either using Zoom or delivering more regular sessions to smaller groups of people. The future in that sense is still uncertain, but they are committed to evolving as necessary so their ministry can continue.

Whatever the pressure, however, the Emanuel team live their lives according to Jesus' advice. They love the Lord their God with all their hearts, soul, and mind, and they love their neighbours as themselves.



Nyangombe Christian
Training Centre, Zambia



AIDS Care Education &
Training (ACET), Nigeria

MMN
PRAYER
EVENING
MON 28 MAR
7.30PM
HEALTH
EDUCATION
& TRAINING

There is one other way we currently support the development of young medics to explore cross-cultural mission, as a way of combining their Christian and medical experience in an integrated way.

Most medical students have an option to do an overseas elective to see how medicine functions in another culture and we offer a small bursary towards the cost of this trip, if it is in a mission context.

The scheme has stalled during the pandemic as no travel was possible, but is now back up and running. If you are considering this, or know of anyone who is, then please get in touch and we can provide more details.

These trips are often life-changing experiences and help young medics to understand more about their part in God's plan to reach all nations with the transforming gospel of eternal salvation through Jesus Christ.

Grev Parmenter
Director


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