

LIGHT UP MY EYES



**MEDICAL
MISSIONARY
NEWS**

Making Jesus Christ known through healthcare

2023
Issue 1

He took the blind man by the hand...

Welcome to our new edition of the MMN magazine. Our focus this time will be upon projects helping support eye care and blindness.

I'm sure we all agree that blindness is an awful thing and something that, naturally speaking, we dread. Thankfully in the UK we have a relatively low incidence of blindness; 0.49% of UK population is registered legally blind. However, across the globe it is a very different story with an estimated 253 million people registered blind. When we look at these figures more closely we find that 90% of all registered blind people live in the developing countries, with 75% of those cases being avoidable (approximately 170 million people).

To that end we will be looking at a variety of projects that MMN support to provide care for these precious people.

Vision for Bangladesh seek to eliminate avoidable blindness

in the tea garden communities. Victoria Memorial Hospital based in Multan (seventh largest city in Pakistan) provides eye tests for the local community and refer patients onward for treatment if necessary.

RAPCD (Accomplish Children's Trust) created for the blind and/or deaf children of Uganda who are isolated from society and deemed as being useless.

Transforming Lives Today minister throughout India in partnership with local hospitals and churches and organise medical camps, vaccinations and eye surgeries for the poor.

When considering what to write as an editorial for this edition my mind went to a passage of Scripture recorded in Mark 8:22-26.

'...And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to Him a blind man and begged Him to touch him. And He took the blind man by the hand and led him out

Glasses provided for
Tea Garden inhabitants



of the village, and when He had spit on his eyes and laid His hands on him, He asked him, "Do you see anything?" And he looked up and said, "I see (partially, indistinct, not a clear focus) people, but they look like trees, walking." Then Jesus laid His hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored (perfect 20/20 vision) and he saw (to fix one's eyes) everything clearly. And He sent him to his home, saying, "Do not even enter the village."

The context of this passage is significant in that it is the last recorded miracle by Mark of the Lord Jesus Christ in the region of Galilee. Tragically, even although the majority of the recorded miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ were performed in that region, not to mention His teaching, most of the inhabitants had not come to a clear understanding of His true identity.

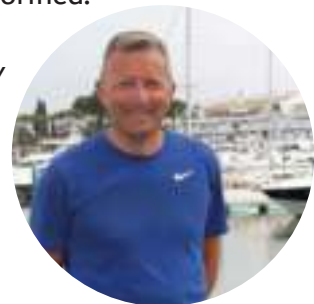
Mark 8:27-28: '...who do people say that I am? So they answered," John the Baptist....Elijah...one of the prophets.'

I think the reason why there are two parts to the miracle is that the Lord is providing for us an object lesson i.e. the person seeing men looking like trees being representative of the people of Galilee not seeing clearly the identity of Jesus Christ. Only when his sight is fully restored does he come to a proper understanding that the person in front of him is God incarnate.

The reason MMN support various projects is to make a difference in the wellbeing of individuals through healthcare services and, in so doing, to present the Lord Jesus Christ to these same people, so that they see Him more clearly and come to faith.

I trust you will enjoy reading through this magazine, to see what God is doing through these ministries and join with us in prayer that His name be glorified.

Contributed by
Ian Proud
Trustee



I ONCE WAS BLIND...



...NOW I SEE

*Contributed by Rachel Andrews
Vision for Bangladesh was founded by Rachel Andrews.
She registered the charity in 2017 but her work in
Bangladesh has been ongoing since 2006.*

2022 was an encouraging year for Vision for Bangladesh. After the Covid restrictions of the preceding two years, the charity was really encouraged by the growth of the physical and spiritual work. Early spring started with a visit to Bangladesh by David Hitchcock and myself. We wanted to see how the practical organisation of physically finding the children in the Tea Gardens who were going blind and the facilitating of their treatment was going. At the same time, we were keen to ensure that the families recognised our work was done through commitment to the Christian faith.

...our work was done through commitment to the Christian faith.

*Rachel pictured with a lady
who has stunted growth*



For the full 10 days of the visit we stayed in the Muslim Eye Hospital in Moulvibazar town where the Tea Garden families are taken for treatment, thereby also deepening our close working relationship with the doctors and nurses who treat our little patients. I say “little” as the majority of our patients are children, but even with the adults, due to severe malnutrition all Tea Garden people have stunted growth and wasting disease. The hospital staff were incredibly hospitable to both of us, especially as this was the first time two trustees had visited Bangladesh.

The Tea Garden people total around 400,000 and live in 163 individual gated Tea Gardens. They follow the Hindu faith and are bonded to their houses by their tea picking/factory job. Since their arrival from India in the mid 1800's they have remained a marginalised people, not integrated in any way with mainstream Muslim Bangladesh. They have also been an unreached people for the gospel, until Ivan

Samadder, a Christian man from nearby Moulvibazar town, started a one-man missionary work in 2002. Ivan was led by the Lord to “go” and love these people whose lives are one of abject poverty and hopelessness. His practical and social help towards these families

gives him an umbrella under which he is able to quietly preach about Jesus. Ivan has now established two small churches and 12 prayer groups. Led by the Lord in 2020, VFB partnered with Ivan and his Tea Garden work.



*Sunday School
run by Ivan*

The visit in March achieved everything we wanted and more. We came home having established a team of three Tea Garden girls who would be trained in Primary Eyecare, nutrition, sanitation and healthcare. The team would be managed by a Christian girl, from Ivan’s church, currently studying at university, but with the skills to oversee their work and arrange

the hospital transportation and treatment of the children needing professional help. The whole project comes under Ivan’s overall leadership, alongside his current ministry. The girls would work systematically knocking door-to-door in the individual gardens, testing for blindness in children, and teaching health awareness to their mothers.



Moulvibazar Eye Hospital facilitates all the professional treatment for the children going blind which we fund in full. The hospital is staffed mainly by people of the Muslim faith, but we give God the glory for the way these Muslim staff, Hindu Tea Garden people, and we, as a Christian Charity, can work in harmony for the sake of His purposes.

As 2022 progressed, the charity was encouraged by the amount of funding they received allowing the work to keep expanding. We were able not only to look for and treat the individual children we found losing sight, but also finance some school eye-screening, and adult screening camps. Tea Garden adults go prematurely blind due to malnutrition which leads to cataracts.

The teaching that our three girls do with the Tea Garden mothers on nutrition is so important in eradicating much of the early blindness endemic in these families. Lack of Vitamin A, which we give in capsule form, can prevent avoidable blindness especially in children. Cataracts can be found soon after birth in children, and before 40 years of age in the prematurely ageing adults. We have also been delighted to see Ivan’s spiritual work grow and he is now able to use Vision for Bangladesh as a trusted radar under which to work with the Tea Garden managers. At the end of 2022 we had screened the eyes of 10,401 children and 2,573 adults, funded 416 sight-saving surgeries and given out 1,094 pairs of glasses, enabling school and a future for the children, and work for the adults.

Screened:
10,401 children
2,573 adults
Funded:
416 surgeries
Provided:
1,094 glasses

Now at the start of 2023 we have been faced with a few difficulties which need the prayers of our supporters. One of those is the transfer of funds into Bangladesh. New governmental rules have made financial transfers difficult in terms of clearance time. Timespans ranging from seven days to six weeks is an issue and, unfortunately, this is not something we can get around. We need prayer that the funding channels remain open to us.

Another challenge is the often short time frame we have, after we have trained our girls up to work

in the Tea Gardens, before they have arranged marriages and move away to live with their husband's family. Consequently, this means they leave their employment with us, or it results in a reduced work ethic as they look after their husband's parents, and bring up children. This again is a cultural aspect that we cannot change, but do seek wisdom for, as we search ways of securing a more permanent team.

As we seek God's guidance for the year ahead we stand on the beautiful words of scripture in Isaiah 42v16:



“...I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.”

We pray above everything that as we seek to lift the name of Jesus in our Tea Garden work they will turn from their Hindu gods and seek salvation in the God of the

Bible. The trustees of VFB would like to sincerely thank MMN for its continued support, especially in the realm of prayer, the very powerhouse of all we seek to do.

GOD'S LEADING



Victoria Memorial Hospital (VMH) was started in February 2021 with a maternity department; there were two nurses, one dispenser, and one lab technician. Between March and July the hospital conducted a few free medical camps in communities within a 15km radius of the hospital in an effort to raise awareness about the hospital. These medical camps were a success, in that we were able to provide help to women and infant children in these communities; however, we were not seeing as many patients as we would have liked in these early months.

VMH had never
thought of
providing eye
care, but we felt
God leading us...

In July 2021, 1toAnother was approached by donors in Australia who presented the opportunity to set up an eyecare department in VMH with a focus on cataract surgeries. VMH had never thought of providing eye care but we felt God leading us to accept this offer. We were also aware that getting the maternity setup started could take a while and having another way to help the community would be good for the hospital.

During the months of August and November we set about trying to find eye care professionals that we would need to make this project a success. In addition to this we spent these months sourcing the following equipment:

an Auto Ref-Keratometer, Phacoemulsification Machine, Slit Lamp, Trial Lens Set/Refraction Set, Ophthalmoscope and Retinoscope, Vision Chart, Lensometer, Scan Biometer and Operating Microscope.



By God's grace, in mid-November we had our eyecare department set up, and we were able to hire an ophthalmologist, refractionist, OT technician, and Ophthalmic surgeon (on-call surgeon). In the last week of November, we conducted a number of free medical camps in the surrounding areas of the VMH and identified six patients that needed cataract surgeries. These surgeries were then performed in the first week of December 2021 and thank-

fully all surgeries were a success.

In the past year, VMH has seen 774 patients visit the eyecare department and, out of which, 109 have received successful cataract surgeries.

The eye clinic at VMH runs between Monday and Saturday from 2pm to 7pm. During this clinic we typically have our Ophthalmologist and Refractionist present to check any patients that come to the



clinic. Surgeries are scheduled based on availability of patients and Dr Waqas, our on-call surgeon. On average three to four surgeries are performed in one day, the maximum number to be performed in one day is seven.

Once a patient has been operated on, they spend a few hours in the recovery room. The patients then receive medication and are requested to return the following day for a follow-up to make sure that the surgery was performed correctly and there are no complications.

Typical cost of cataract surgery at VMH:
10,000 PKR (£30)*

Surgeon cost:
PKR 4,000
Lens: PKR 2,000
Surgical supplies:
PKR 3,500
VMH electric/
overhead expenses:
PKR 500

VMH staff members have been visiting flood affected areas as a part of the flood response. Numerous medical camps have been conducted, both for general check-ups as well as eye care. As part of the response to the flood, 1toAnother has decided to provide cataract surgeries for free to those patients that are from flood affected areas. If there are patients that are unable to travel to VMH, 1toAnother's flood response team organises transportation. To date 17 patients have been identified and six of those patients have received cataract surgeries.

We face a number of challenges, the first being that the previous government had issued health cards and these could only be used at government hospitals and other hospitals that had been approved to receive these patients. This meant that VMH lost a number of patients due to the fact that we were unable to get accredited by the government and so patients would go elsewhere for surgeries. Being a fairly new setup it will take time to increase our patient base, but we are thankful to God for the number of patients we have been able to see. Another challenge is that access to VMH is not very good as the roads leading to the hospital still have not been completed. Due to this, patients have complained about not having ease of access - this is out of our control, but is an issue that patients experience. A final concern is that Pakistan's current economic situation is not very good and is uncertain. This has caused many people to limit their expenses, so, currently, our patient numbers are fewer.

*cataract surgery costing estimate excludes the cost of medicines that the doctor can prescribe to a patient.



Please pray...

- for Pakistan and the current economic situation
- for VMH staff as they continue to care for patients
- We thank God that to date all our surgeries have been successful and have not had any complications
- We are grateful for a wonderful team who show a genuine care for the patients that enter VMH
- that God will continue to bless the work of the hospital and more patients will be able to receive the good quality care that is being provided
- that patients would see Jesus witnessed through the care provided by the hospital staff
- that road access to the hospital would improve



I pray that the Lord opens him a door to go to school.

KNOWING YOUR WORTH

Contributed by Sue Baldock from Accomplish Children's Trust who support the work of RAPCD schools for blind and deaf children in Africa.

Medical care for blind or partially sighted children in the Rwensori region of western Uganda has, for many years, been excellent so there are low numbers of blind people in this area. This is thanks to ophthalmic surgeon Dr Keith Waddell who, through clinics at the African Inland Mission Hospital at Kagando, has worked tirelessly with his team for many years.

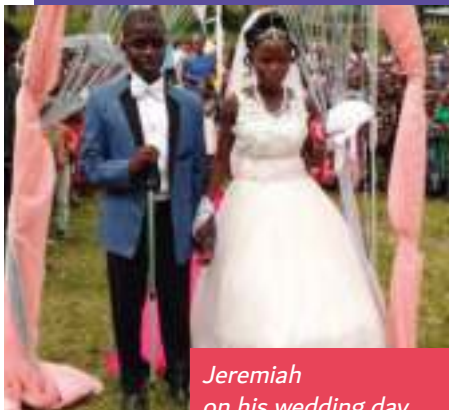
Education for blind children, however, is another matter. There was no education for the blind or deaf in this large region. In 2009, Rev Maali Wilson, head of the Rwensori Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities (RAPCD) sent Accomplish Children's Trust (ACT) this heartrending email: 'I send you greetings from one of the blind children, Jeremiah Kule, whom I visited last Saturday. He told me he is praying for me that I get him means to go to school. He is a bright boy and I pray that the Lord opens him a door to go

to school. I almost saw my tears coming out when he mentioned his need to go to school with a lot of emphasis. I met him in rags and I am considering going back there to hand to him some few clothing that the Lord will enable me raise from my pockets. May God bless you and open for you all the doors that will enable you rescue such situations.'

In 2010 ACT assisted RAPCD in building a classroom in Kasese for 15 pioneer pupils. Thirteen were deaf and two were blind: Jeremiah and his friend Godfrey. They were looked after and taught by three adults, again supported by ACT. This basic classroom was also the dormitory and dining area and there was no running water.

From this humble beginning, the school has developed into a complex of buildings, and now has 200 pupils; 150 are deaf, blind or have other disabilities preventing them from accessing local village schools, and the rest are hearing siblings of deaf pupils who learn sign language. Outreach teams from the school visit remote villages to support many families with disabled children. Therapists visit the school regularly from the

Disability in rural African society is poorly understood and seen as a curse...



*Jeremiah
on his wedding day*

Kyaninga Children Development Centre clinic in Kasese, which ACT also support. The school has become a beacon for children of all disabilities.

Pupils from the school regularly visit local churches where blind pupils read from a Braille St John's gospel, sing and play musical instruments. Congregations are blown away! Disability in rural African society is poorly understood and seen as a curse, so these children are usually considered to be useless and worthless. These pupils are truly ambassadors, easing the way for future blind children.

Children usually start at the school aged between 8 to 10 years. They have been isolated and ostracised their whole lives so they arrive cowed. The RAPCD staff believe it takes about a year to unlock the child within, which they do with love and compassion. Seeing these children blossom into 'normal', boisterous, happy youngsters is a wonderful miracle to behold. As well as academic studies, they are taught how to look after themselves and some are taught vocational skills.

In 2016 RAPCD opened an integrated secondary school specialising in teaching blind, deaf or disabled children. Jeremiah

and Godfrey were among the first pupils, having previously both been head boys at the primary school. Since then they have taken their final exams. Jeremiah gained one of highest marks in the country; so much for being useless!

They have both moved on to higher education. Jeremiah plays the keyboard, a skill learnt at the RAPCD schools. He has gained national recognition and earns a living playing at events such as weddings. In 2020 he was married himself amid great rejoicing, the first RAPCD pupil to get married and a dream unimaginable in 2009. Godfrey's dream is to become a teacher. He has no doubt been



Seeing these
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influenced by two blind teachers: the first, a wonderful man who, in the pioneering days of RAPCD school, gave the last years of his life to teach Braille to the primary pupils, and the second, a young blind teacher who now teaches computer studies at the secondary school.

MMN, in partnership with ACT, has bought these schools Braille books and equipment which are well used and much appreciated by all the blind pupils, including Godfrey's sister, Solenge, who is also blind and now doing well at the primary school.

Recently MMN has supplied a septic tank for each school to replace their main pit-latrines. Not only is this a much more hygienic way to cope with human waste, it is also cheaper to maintain and much safer for blind children to use.



Solenge

During 2022 Uganda experienced 50% inflation which created challenges for the schools. ACT doubled their support for feeding the pupils and MMN have generously given towards these costs. The main meal consists of matoke (cooking bananas) and beans. By UK standards this is meagre, but many pupils say they are better fed at school than at home.

MMN also supported RAPCD families during the tough COVID years when many faced food insecurity. To add to the struggles of those times, devastating floods swept through Kasese from the Rwenzori mountains and swept away many homes and all their meagre belongings. The aid sent by MMN was truly life-saving. Because RAPCD were in contact with these families, this aid was able to reach the most needy families directly and swiftly.

All the blind pupils at both schools thank MMN and supporters for their generosity. It means these children, and future pupils as well, can receive an education. A miracle which in 2009 seemed only a pipe-dream is now a reality.
www.accomplishtrust.org.uk



PAUSE *to pray*

Later in the magazine we will find out how the three projects are getting on that we supported in our 'Families in Crisis' campaign.

Can we encourage you to take a moment to pray for the flood victims in Malawi and Pakistan, and for refugees in Ukraine as the war continues on. Food shortage has become a major issue and the winter months have brought increasing challenges. These projects have been able to provide refuge for these families who are experiencing extremely low morale, and offer them hope during such dark times. The families need our prayers, and above all they desperately need the love and assurance of the God who cares more for them than anyone else could.

Lord, our understanding of what these families are going through is minimal, but you hear their cries, you see the darkness they face, and you hold the answer they need. Please send practical help, but through this help may they come to know you as their Heavenly Father.



THE JOY

OF SIGHT

The sheer joy this
brings to the
reader is quite
delightful for us to see...



For many years MMN have had a number of volunteers who have graded the glasses that you have donated. When we moved to Swindon John Maslen took on this responsibility. Once a week for the past two years, John has spent a day in the warehouse to clear through donated glasses, rejecting any damaged ones and grading ones that are in a good condition. Unfortunately, any bi-focals and varifocals are also rejected as these cannot be used overseas. Using a grading machine John marks up the grade of each pair of glasses and is able to package up around 20 pairs of glasses a week that are then shipped overseas. We are very grateful to John for his work over the years, which has been such a blessing to those who receive the glasses. The glasses are sent on shipments to Zambia where they are received by our partners, including Nyangombe Christian Training Centre.



When they attend Bible School and are able to borrow friends glasses, the real solution becomes obvious! This is where graded glasses sent to us by MMN come into their own. We do not have the sophisticated testing equipment as they do in opticians in the UK, but they 'test' various strengths of reading glasses until they can read again easily.

The sheer joy this brings to the reader is quite delightful for us to see and they often ask us to pass on grateful thanks to those who collect, grade, pack and send glasses for use in Zambia.

A view from Africa...

The inability to read clearly creeps up on people and when they live far away in the African Bush, they seldom consider the possibility of finding help. Like most, it is only when one's arms cannot push reading material any further away from the eyes that it becomes apparent sight is clearly deteriorating.

This is particularly troublesome for leaders of Assemblies who spend a good part of their time reading their Bibles and hymn books!

*Contributed by Gordon McKillop,
Nyangombe Christian Training Centre*



*John Maslen grading
glasses*

“The support provided by MMN and its supporters is such a blessing...
Everyone’s mental health is shaken with the fear of
explosions and the loss of life of loved ones on the front line...”



The need for your prayers is constant.”
- ChildAid

FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Our winter 2022 campaign focused on raising support for ‘Families in Crisis’ where we shared the needs of three projects supporting families in need. We were so grateful to receive donations amounting to over £20,000 which has now been sent to Redemption Village Bible Teaching Ministries (Malawi), 1toAnother (Pakistan) and ChildAid (Ukraine). Our partners have given feedback as to how the funds will be distributed and ways that we can be praying for them during 2023.



1toAnother Pakistan

It has been about 5 months since the devastating floods swept across Pakistan and although the waters have receded, there are many communities still suffering. The current economic situation that Pakistan finds itself in, is also perpetuating the problem as the cost of basic necessities increases on a daily basis.

Funds received from MMN have been used to fund 5 of the much

needed medical camps that were conducted in Taunsa, Fort Munro and Kot Sabzal. All six cataract patients mentioned previously received their cataract surgeries from funding provided by MMN. These patients were checked at a free medical camp in Kot Sabzal and then were invited to Victoria Memorial Hospital for free cataract surgeries. 1toAnother decided to provide transportation to the patients and keep them overnight as the journey from Kot Sabzal to Multan is nearly five hours. The patients spent the night at the hospital after the surgeries and the next day after having a follow-up with the doctor were taken back to Kot Sabzal. Approximately one-third of the tents and blankets have also been provided with funds donated from MMN.

Based on revised assessments of needs in the communities where we are working; 1toAnother will continue to provide food (flour) to communities in Taunsa and Kot Sabzal. Relief efforts will also start to focus on more rehabilitation work, which will include helping families that own land with seeds and fertilizers and continuing with installing wells and hand pumps where required in Kot Sabzal.

There has also been a request to provide beds as many of their beds were destroyed during the flooding. This is something that 1toAnother will look to assist in as well.

1toAnother would like to support families in the reconstruction of their homes. Many families have started to rebuild their homes with unbaked bricks and mud, which is what they previously had; however, this will mean that when the monsoon rains come next year these homes will again be susceptible to damage. 1toAnother would like to help these families build homes that are made of baked-bricks, cement and waterproof roofs. One home will cost approximately (GBP 750).

ChildAid Ukraine

The support provided by MMN and its supporters is such a blessing. In Makariv, 60km west of Kyiv, there is an increasing need to help families further afield than ChildAid's partner, Little Lighthouse, would normally cover. In the Bucha region there are large numbers of families with children who are exhibiting psychological trauma consequent on both the

Please pray...

- for wisdom for our flood relief team as they make decisions about how to continue to help those in need. The needs are still great and having to decide who to help can be difficult
- for the safety of the relief teams as they travel between the different areas
- for our teams as they support those in need, pray that we would be able to share the love of Jesus through our actions and the interactions that we have with them
- for the provision of basic necessities for those impacted by the floods
- Thank God for all those that have donated to help so many in need

occupation by aggressor forces and frequent rocket attacks. Many of these children have simply stopped talking and are shutting themselves off from all around. When they do speak they frequently stutter. The Ukrainian State is unable to offer any resources for them. Parents are turning, desperately, to Little Lighthouse. As well as needing to fund the transport costs for these families the Centre needs to consider opening for longer hours. In order to provide additional services, Little Lighthouse will need to employ two more part-time care workers and funds from MMN supporters may well be directed here if such a plan is practical and possible.

Further south, and closer to the current front line, ChildAid's partner in Kamianske (Children's Hearts) has the constant challenge of having no electricity. Not every family has gas and so they come to the Children's Hearts centre to warm up and have a hot drink. Everyone's mental health is shaken with the fear of explosions and the loss of life of loved ones on the front line. Children's Hearts have started a form of counselling session for mums to help them with how to survive this crisis. Held

each weekend over a hot drink the team seek to provide answers, and offer prayers, to every question.

Meanwhile, in the west of Ukraine ChildAid's third long term partner, New Beginning, are well known and as such have more calls upon their services than the resources allow. Housing for refugees is a major concern as rental prices are very high. It is clear that the trauma being experienced by children and families alike are both widespread and deeply impacting lives. ChildAid have been blessed to have found a Christian play therapist who can deliver a straightforward programme over a short series of online sessions. This will focus on teaching how to pause, then techniques in play and then connection. The funds raised by MMN will enable this vital coaching (and the necessary translation of material and during the online sessions) to go ahead shortly.

The need for your prayers is constant. The main prayer is, obviously, for peace in Ukraine. Pray for the families: for those with children living with disabilities or trauma that they can receive the help much needed.



Redemption Village Bible Teaching Ministries

Malawi

Life in Malawi seems to be very unfair mainly to poorer people and farmers. Malawi faces a lot of challenges mainly in the Shire Valley where most of the people are peasant farmers. The area suffers a number of challenges each and every year due to floods and drought hence the majority of people are living below poverty lines.

Starting around the 1980s to date there have been a lot of deaths due to HIV/AIDS. Many people who were born around 1970 are no longer here today as they passed on with HIV, floods or starvation. These losses left their children as orphans being raised by their grandmothers who in most cases are also widows.

Being aware of the situation Redemption Village Bible Teaching Ministries took the burden of looking after the widows who are finding it impossible to look after themselves and their

grandchildren. Currently we are looking after over 80 widows with an average of four grandchildren. We thank God when we are able to provide food and soap for the widows. When a container comes we are also able to provide blankets and clothes for these lovely people. The widows come to the compound every Wednesday afternoon for fellowship and prayers. We are supporting some of the grandchildren with uniforms and fees so they can be in school.

The money gifted by MMN will be used to help our widows with soap, food and possibly two bicycles for those who visit them in their homes. This is a wonderful provision and we thank you so much. Your prayers are highly appreciated.

Contributed by Janet Stafford & Lapson



Janet with widow

PROJECT FOCUS INDIA

Transforming lives today



PURPOSE

The charity funds regular medical programmes for the less privileged people of India with simple medication and eye surgeries, in local villages and slum areas.

The medical work is supervised by local doctors that Transforming Lives Today work with in India. Treatment is provided for men,

women and children, with extra care given for children and mothers with newborn babies. TLT gives simple medication for fever, diarrhoea, sickness, skin infections, chest infections etc. Many lives have been saved with simple medication for curable diseases. Eye surgery is also offered when urgent care is needed; eye problems are very common in India.

SUPPORT

By raising donations through the charity and MMN, the team have been able to purchase medication and it is distributed through medical camps. The team and pastors in India oversee the camps with the doctor's supervision supplying records and reports. Camps

are set up in tents in villages and slums if there is no indoor facility available, TLT prefer a closed area as it's better for hygiene and weather conditions. Local doctors examine patients and keep records. Many times, TLT also offer food to the patients.

IMPACT

Over the years TLT has saved many lives from curable diseases and illnesses. Communities have benefited as they are unable to travel to hospitals for treatment; many would normally die, especially newborns and children from high fever or diarrhoea. As doctors have been able to visit the area, this has shown to have a tremendous result in saving lives. Mothers who give birth at home usually suffer from infections due to

poor hygiene, so medication and creams have benefited the women tremendously. Through medical camps, the TLT team and pastors are able to share the gospel with these communities. The pastor follows up by visiting the people regularly. TLT also work with doctors who are Christians and have built up a good relationship with them over the years, and have an MOU written agreement with the hospital. Des Sozou, as a woman, has the opportunity to organise women's camps where she can educate women on good hygiene, good morals and encourage against abortion. She uses a 3-month-old baby fetus plastic model to show them the size of a foetus and that life starts as soon as it is conceived. Also, to esteem them and encourage them to understand and accept that God has created them uniquely with a purpose.



CHALLENGES

TLT oversee the hardship and conditions of travelling long distances to offer medical care. But the one thing which is very challenging and becoming dangerous in the areas TLT work in is the anti-Christian movements. The website appears more humanitarian to protect their team on the ground. The last trip that took place October to November 2022 was a difficult time as TLT had organised camps in new areas and booked flight tickets which then had to be cancelled due to persecution; this was very disappointing as there was a great need. TLT have chosen to try and

work in areas where other charities are not working. The areas of focus have been in Punjab, Hoshipure, Coimbatore, Assam, Ghoshati, Chamba etc. We know as the years go by it will get more difficult to enter new areas unless the political state changes as Hindu presidents target Christians. Years ago TLT were able to have medical camps with Christian rally's for hundreds of people, but things are becoming difficult. The team thank God for their faithful pastors as they are registered charities and have a little more freedom than TLT do to share the gospel.

PRAYER

Please pray:

- that new doors will open for TLT to work in and to be able to continue with the villages TLT is already working in, to set up and establish more children's learning centres, as this gives the opportunity to teach the Bible, good morals and ethics
- to be able to set up more

medical rooms for the underprivileged and deprived people

- that God will protect all the people TLT have come in contact with and have heard the gospel, that they will walk with Him in faith
- for protection for the team in India
- that the Lord would bless TLT financially.





It is really exciting that we will have the opportunity to hear more about two of these projects at our prayer evening. We have learnt of their work in the last few years and have been delighted to be able to partner with them in the work God has called them to do. The meeting will be online and the joining details will be emailed out to those on the email list. If you are not on the list and want to join please get in touch and we will let you have them.

As you may not have noticed we have highlighted specific prayer points for the projects. If you want to get more regular updates

then we share these through our weekly email prayer update, on our feed in PrayerMate and on our social media channels.

As of 1st April 2023 the governance structure of MMN is changing as we convert the current Trust to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Nearly everything will remain the same except we will have a new charity number and a new bank account. This is in process of happening and once we have the new details we will let you know and will apply specifically to those of you who support us by direct bank transfer or standing order.

Grev Parmenter, Director



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