

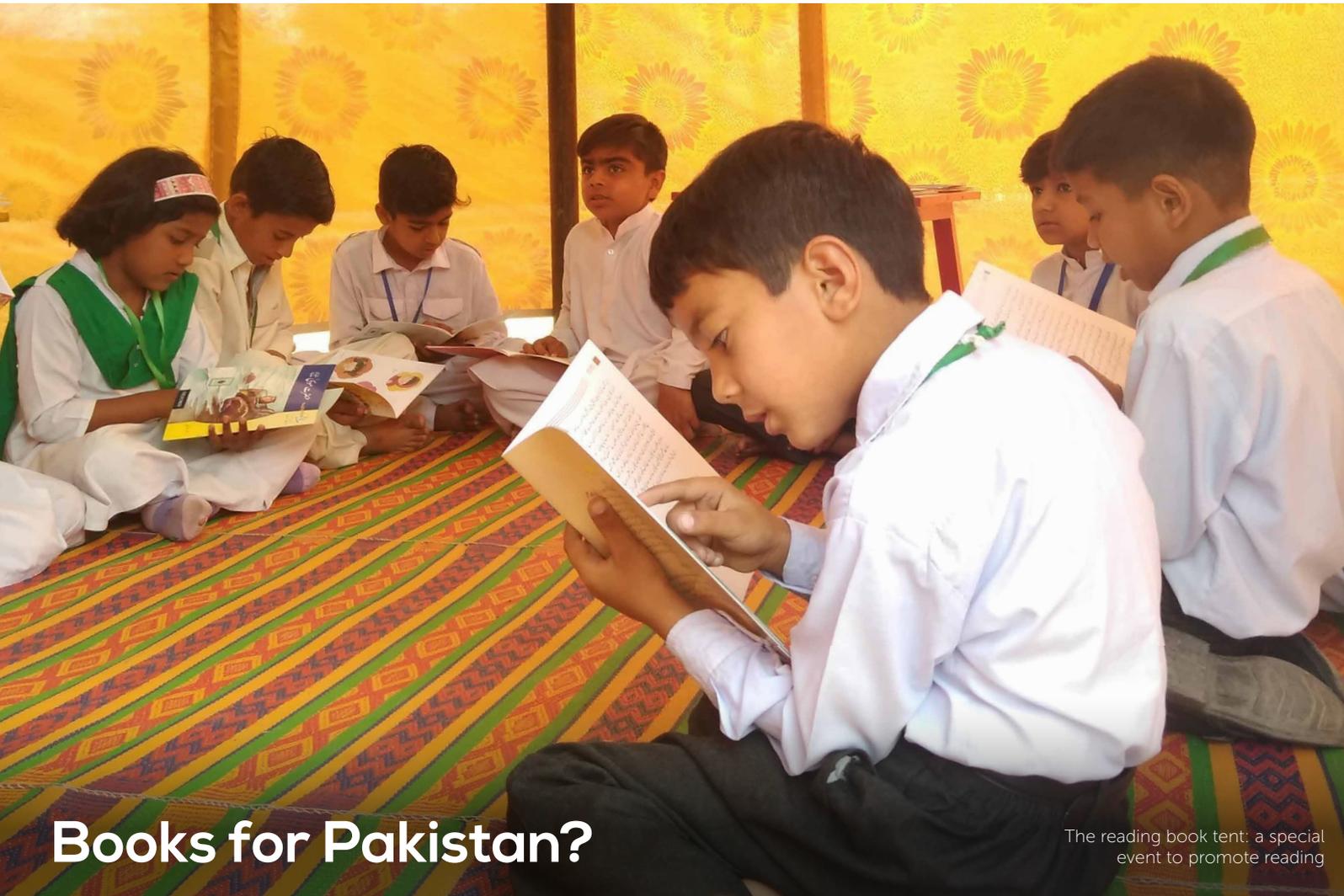
mma newsletter

sharing hope, health and life

medical mission aid inc.

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August 2019



Books for Pakistan?

The reading book tent: a special event to promote reading

By David Bock

MMA responded to a request to help Christian School in Tank, Pakistan, with funds for schoolbooks. Although clearly a good thing, this funding may seem odd for MMA. But the support for the school helps keep staff at the hospital and so indirectly achieves a good health outcome. Caroline White, a British teacher at the school, has sent us the following report (slightly altered by your editor).

Dr. Ulla Schmitz Memorial School was incredibly grateful for the generous gift of about \$1,060 donated by MMA to cover the school textbooks. The school books, which were purchased in February for the start of the academic year on 25th March 2019, came to a total of about \$1,450 and the school was able to cover the difference with funds in our reserves. MMA's gift meant that all 82 students at our school were able to receive free textbooks this year. That came to a total of 444 textbooks covering English, Urdu, Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, Bible/Islamiyat (Islamic

studies – ed.) which were distributed. We use the best textbooks available in Pakistan and the students were so happy to receive them. The free textbooks relieved a huge burden on parents and families at the start of the school year, as the economic situation in Pakistan continues to worsen with some prices of commodities going up by 10 rupees a day at times.

Most of the students at the school have parents or guardians who work at the hospital. It definitely keeps existing staff here, knowing their children are getting a good education. Similarly, it attracts new staff - one local man was heard saying that he wanted a job at the hospital, so that his children could attend Dr Ulla Schmitz Memorial School!

A nurse and her family recently moved from Punjab to serve at the hospital here in Tank. The hospital is very short of nurses and we desperately need more to join us. When she and her husband heard that we used Oxford's books, they were very happy. On

hearing that the books were free, she said “Thank you so much - this is a huge help for us.” We hope that things like this will encourage this nurse - and others - to stay here.

One of the hospital cleaners has a daughter who just started Nursery in March. His wife was a long-term patient in the hospital but sadly died about 9 months ago. His daughter is enjoying school so much and the family don't worry about her, knowing that she is safe and learning new things.

For the first time, our school has gone up to Class Six. Five nurses and one worker from the maintenance department are being blessed by this opportunity. At least one of these families may have moved away from Tank had Class Six not been available. The textbooks are much more advanced, since the students are now in Middle School, and the students are really enjoying using them. We are pleased to see these young people working so independently.



Nyree in the dental room.

Health in the Highlands *By David Bock*

Dr Conrad Parsons, intrepid member of MMA's Committee of Management, ventured into the highlands of Papua New Guinea to attend a conference as part of his regular employment. While there, he called in on one of MMA's lesser-known funding recipients. Conrad writes:

In June I visited the Banz medical clinic located at the Christian Leadership Training College in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. I was at CLTC for a missions conference. The clinic serves the local village as well as the students and college staff. MMA has previously sponsored the clinic with medicine including asthma treatments. The government is supplying medicine again now after some interruptions over the past few years. The clinic has three sections. I visited the consultation rooms and maternity rooms. At that time they were hosting an important government immunisation program, I think for polio and measles. The main nurse informed me that the maternity room needs a bed with stirrups to assist the women to give birth.

I visited the dental rooms and met the young dental assistant named Nyree. She showed me their modest equipment and the dentist chair. MMA recently received and approved a modest

grant application from the clinic dentist. In the months ahead MMA will fund the purchase of some small but vital dental equipment (e.g. for sterilisation) and supplies. We invite you to donate towards this very practical project. Soon after my visit I was interviewing some CLTC students who are studying a three-year course in Community Development. Each one had a need. One was from the coastal area near Port Moresby and doesn't have enough clothes to stay warm in the Highlands. Another could not afford stationery, including pen and paper. Another had two rotten teeth and was waiting for his mother to send some coins to pay for extractions. I gave him 15 Kina (one extraction is 10 Kina but two is only 15. One Kina is about \$0.42) and sent him to the clinic. Having seen how undetected bad teeth caused illness in my father, I know the importance of oral hygiene and speedy dental attention. Having the dental clinic at CLTC, with local rates, trained staff, essential equipment and basic supplies is a blessing to all the local people. More people should train as dentists. We all have teeth! Thank you for donating to MMA to enable us to give assistance to the people in the PNG Highlands. See page 4 of this newsletter for information on how to donate. Donations to MMA are tax deductible.



Medical Mission Aid Inc with World Relief Australia adheres to a voluntary Code of Conduct that sets minimum acceptable standards for smaller Non-Government Organisations working in the international relief and development sector.



www.facebook.com/medicalmissionaid

MMA is now on Facebook! Keep up to date with the latest news, updates and information on MMA projects and events. Login to Facebook, search for 'medical mission aid' and click the 'Like' button! You can also 'Like' the MMA Op Shop page while you're at it!



Most of MMA's support goes to work in Nepal and Tanzania. In today's newsletter, we report on activities in other locations, some new and some continuing. Many other activities are continuing in places which are not described this month. Nurses, school students, medical students are being educated, and the health of Bible and theological students is being supported. We are so thankful for the contributions we receive from you that allow these activities to be undertaken.

Back in MMA, much work continues behind the scenes on policies and procedures in all the areas the government expects of a charity these days. We are also having to deal with the question of separating management from governance, and we are fortunate to have a pro bono source of advice on this. This is a significant issue and we would appreciate your prayers for our considerations in this important area.

Warm regards
Jenny Bock



100 YEARS OF mma

Yes, MMA turns 100 next January! Our Autumnfest in April will be a celebration of the service provided over this long period. On this occasion only, Autumnfest will be held on a Saturday to enable attendance by those who would normally not be able to attend on a weekday. The date is Saturday, 4 April, 2020.

Hearing Good Things from Congo

by David Bock

CMS missionaries Prue and David Boyd are based in Bukavu at the south-western shore of Lake Kivu, across a river from Rwanda. Prue is an audiologist with connections to the hospital. There is great need for audiology resources in Congo and Prue has been able to select two capable young men to undergo training in this field. MMA is contributing to the costs for the training of these two students.

Amani is from Bukavu, works at the general hospital, and is midway through his course (Diploma of Audiology) in Uganda. MMA have covered almost all his fees. The general hospital has made a contribution, and he is contracted to work with them on his return.

The second student, Samuel, is a medical doctor who has been working part time at Ephphatha School for the Deaf, in Goma, Congo. MMA have topped up the costs of Samuel's fees. The rest has come from a single donor. Samuel is studying in Nairobi.

Amani and Samuel will make a big difference to hearing health in eastern Congo.



Amani with a patient.

Treasurer's Report

1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

Prepared by: Diane Pritchett

The year included generous donations, a further bequest of \$57,523 and substantial investment income. Then there was the op-shop income which struggled this year with lower sales figures and higher expenses to do with upgrading the facility and employment expenses.

On the positive side, the Ruth Judd Scholarship Fund contributed \$55,306 to scholarships for Nepalese and Tanzanian students. \$61,000 went to support the work of the DHERSEC in Nepal, \$12,000 for medical supplies in Africa, \$19,505 for the Jitambue sex education program and \$22,000 for other groups.

The bequest money has allowed us to support more than expected which is what we want to be able to do if the need arises.

Thank you all for your contribution in different ways.

Income:

Donations	\$112,788
Investment income & interest	\$26,087
Bequests	\$57,523
Op shop surplus	\$17,524
Total	\$213,922

Payments:

Projects	\$179,676
Administration	\$11,879
Total	\$191,555

Copies of the reviewed statements will be available at the AGM or by request.

want to help mma?

All donations
over \$2 are
tax-deductible

Give now!

There are three ways of donating to MMA
and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

1 Donate securely online through "GiveNow"
Go to, www.missionaid.org.au, and click on this link:



1.4% credit card merchant fees are deducted from these donations.

I wish to support MMA by making a gift of \$:

monthly quarterly once-off

"GiveNow" issues an immediate receipt by email.

2 **Electronic transfer** to MMA's account:

BSB 033 112 Name and Number: MMA Inc. 378527

Please enter your surname as 'description/reference' and email your contact details to: diane@pritchett.com.au

3 **Cheque/Money Order payable to MMA Inc.**

Mail a completed form and cheque/money order to:

Medical Mission Aid, PO Box 1142, Surrey Hills North, Vic 3127

Your contact details

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

- I would like to Volunteer at the MMA Op Shop.
- Send me information on how to make a bequest.

Donations may be designated to:

- General Funds **or**,
- Nepal Disabled Project or scholarships in Nepal
- Medical supplies for hospitals in Tanzania and Kenya
- In Tanzania, Scholarships, Salaries for HIV Counsellors, Jitambue or Boys Brigade Mara Training Centre

MMA Inc is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and has been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a deductible gift recipient. ABN 36 062 783 362

Please cut out this form and send it to MMA

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hours Mon - Sat 10am- 4pm
manager Helen Ashpole
assistant managers

Marian Hartland, Remya Williams,
Jonathan Robinson-Lampard



Travel directions: Melways 46D8 or Tram 109 in Collins Street, alight at tram stop 47. Shop is two minutes walk from Balwyn Road, walking towards the city.

MMA is a not-for-profit Christian charity. Our mission is to show God's love in practical ways by supporting people in disadvantaged countries.

MMA partners with CMS Victoria. The MMA Newsletter is produced by the communications department of CMS Australia.

Website design and development by Janet Pearson (*technology matters*) and Helen Ashpole.



Notice of AGM and Springfest

MMA's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 1 October, 2019, at St Thomas Anglican Church, 44 Station St., Burwood, VIC, at 10.30 am. This will be followed by:

SPRINGFEST

Program

- 10.00 am Morning tea
- 10.30 am Annual General Meeting
- 11.00 am Springfest program, in which you will hear further stories from several speakers about our projects
- 12 noon BYO lunch and trading table

Business to be conducted at the AGM

- Accept minutes of previous AGM
- Receive reports for the year 2018-19
- Elect Committee of Management for 2019-2020

Nomination forms and membership application forms are available from Meryl McEwen and would need to be returned by 31 August to be eligible in relation to the AGM.