

# mma newsletter

sharing hope, health and life

medical mission aid inc.

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March 2018



## The many helping hands of DHERSEC

Article by David Bock. Photos supplied by Owen Lewis.

The Disabled and Helpless Rehabilitation Service Centre (DHERSEC) is located in Dharan, a town in the eastern region of Nepal. It is an independent, local, registered organisation aiming to protect and promote the human rights of the poor, helpless, orphaned and physically disabled. Apart from one international advisor, Australian Prof Dr Owen Lewis, it is operated entirely by the Nepalese themselves. Sometimes its programs are run in partnership with local government.

### Support for the helpless

DHERSEC offers a wide range of support and in many cases, several kinds of support are offered to the same person. One example is seen in the story of a woman from a poor region of Nepal. Her father took a second wife and deserted the family. Following her own marriage and birth of a baby, her husband also deserted the family. Going abroad seemed the best way to support her child and younger sister and she found herself trafficked to Iraq for domestic work. There she was exploited, raped and thrown from a window which resulted in multiple fractures and spinal surgery. With help from the Nepalese embassy in Iraq she was flown home. Her major problems now include loss of sensation in the feet, urinary incontinence and a large pressure sore needing plastic surgery. For this she will need to be transferred back to Kathmandu, either by an expensive short plane trip or 12 hours by bus. While waiting for



Photos (from top): DHERSEC volunteer Sita with staff Sunil and Asha, and Prem, a community leader (holding books) representing the local government in the 60:40 partnership. Two small children with learning problems are receiving the books; staff member Asha showing a mosquito net to a recipient.

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finalisation of arrangements in Kathmandu, DHERSEC's Sunil is advocating for her to remain in hospital in Dharan, and is raising money locally for medical costs. Following surgery and return to Dharan she will have many needs that the family is unable to meet. It seems very likely that DHERSEC will continue involvement. This could include health care, physical aids, vocational training, a business loan and school support.

### Meeting the community's needs

Health care is naturally one of the urgent needs that DHERSEC addresses. There is a weekly clinic at the 'head office' storefront in Dharan which results in referrals and transport to hospital. Heart disease resulting from rheumatic fever is a major problem in Nepal. Those children and young adults fortunate to be offered operations to repair faulty heart valves must go to Kathmandu and pay considerable sums. DHERSEC assists both financially and logistically.

DHERSEC has programs to support children to attend school. Those who live in mosquito prone camps are given mosquito nets for protection against Dengue fever.

A new activity in the area of vocational training is motorcycle maintenance training. A business loan from DHERSEC set Om Bahadur up in the business of training mechanics and paid for his six-month course as a mechanic. He now has an income training others. This is a 60:40 partnership with the local government.

Similarly, many women have had their training in sewing subsidised by DHERSEC. This now amounts to hundreds, and they receive their sewing machines at the end of their training. In another new vocational initiative, DHERSEC, in partnership with the local government, is helping seven men and three women to get their driving licences.

DHERSEC provides aids and appliances to those who are handicapped in their mobility. Often these are walking frames. But Sunita, a polio victim, was assisted in getting a tricycle.

We hope that you will feel encouraged to support the multifaceted work of this organisation.



Photos (from top): One of Om Bahadur's motorcycle repair trainees on the job in the workshop; Sunita, a polio victim and doing a B.Ed 2nd year with DHERSEC support, received this hand-driven tricycle through DHERSEC. Another organisation was distributing them in Kathmandu. DHERSEC measured her, arranged and sent her to Kathmandu to collect it. The action is to pull and push the steering wheel which appears to be very efficient.



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.



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# from the president

Dear members, supporters and friends,

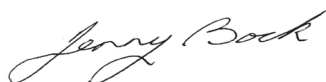
My faith is very important to me and I try to serve God in my daily life. I had a career spanning 43 years in nursing, working as a general nurse, a midwife and a maternal and child health nurse. During this time, I briefly worked in India, the United States and among Aborigines in Arnhem Land. I have been retired for eight years now.

I have a minister and a missionary on both sides of my family tree.

My husband, David, and I led a cross-cultural ministry at St Jude's Anglican Church, Carlton (Melbourne) for five years. We currently attend our local church, St Columb's, in Hawthorn.

It is a privilege to be associated with MMA and I look forward to getting to know everyone. And it's good to know that Ruth Judd is only a phone call away!

Jenny Bock



## Update from Lalgadh

In our last newsletter, we featured the work of Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital and Services Centre, Nepal. The latest news from Dr Graham Clugston, Medical Director of LLHSC, and his wife Meena, Nursing Director, is of the opening of a children's in-patient unit, which was inaugurated on World Leprosy Day, 28 January this year. As it happens, the World Health Organisation had set children as the major focus of this day worldwide: zero leprosy-disability in children; zero children with leprosy. The opening of the colourful new unit, which took three years to build, is the result of support from many churches and organisations in several countries.

In 2017, LLHSC conducted almost 23,000 child-consultations, of which 307 were for leprosy, but only 53 of this huge number were able to be treated as in-patients. The Clugstons write: "... a major reason for the discrepancy ... was our past lack of child-appropriate beds. With our new Children's Unit this capability has now dramatically changed." The facilities of the Children's Unit include a classroom for the patients, who are mostly illiterate.

The inauguration was a time of prayer and singing, speeches and cutting of ribbons (five of them), and included the involvement of the local member of parliament.

## Thanks from Ruth

Dear Friends of MMA,

It is almost time for our new President and committee members to put the newsletter together and to prepare for the next MMA program, Autumnfest. I plan to be there and hope you are also.

There were so many people at Springfest in October and I was overwhelmed by the gifts and good wishes extended to me at the meeting and also by mail. THANK YOU to each one of you for friendship through MMA and for the opportunity to work together to bring hope, health and life to many needy people. Let's continue to pray for all that MMA is doing in the name of the Lord Jesus.

With loving greetings,

Ruth Judd



Ruth pictured at Springfest last year, where she received a certificate of appreciation for her time as president of MMA from 1998–2017. As the certificate notes, MMA's scholarship program has been renamed in her honour.



[www.missionaid.org.au](http://www.missionaid.org.au)

email: [medicalmissionaid@gmail.com](mailto:medicalmissionaid@gmail.com)

Ring Jenny on 0424 699 168 if you need a challenging speaker for a meeting or a church service

# 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](http://www.missionaid.org.au), and click on this link:



## Make a Donation

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](mailto:diane@pritchett.com.au)

3

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

**Mail** a completed form and cheque/money order to:

D. Pritchett, Unit 43, 37-43 Victoria Street, Doncaster Vic 3108

### 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

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**Please cut out this form and send it to MMA**

### Used stamps



MMA/CMS accepts donations of any old stamps, stamp collections or unused stamps of previous denominations (33c, 45c, 50c, etc). These are salvaged by volunteers and sold to support the work of the missions. Please contact John Down on 9857 8755.

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**manager** Helen Ashpole

**assistant managers**

Stefanie Allinson  
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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.



## MMA AUTUMNFEST

**Tuesday 17 April 2018**

**St Mark's Church, Cnr Burke and  
Canterbury Roads, Camberwell**

### Program

- 10.00am** Morning tea
- 10.30am** Speaker: Elizabeth  
Elizabeth is a CMS short-term worker in Nepal with her husband David, a headmaster. She reaches out to local women in Kathmandu.
- 12.00** BYO lunch  
Catch up with friends and browse the trading tables.