

mma newsletter

sharing hope, health and life

medical mission aid inc.

ACN A0042669K
ABN 36062783362

March 2019



Health and Hope for Tanzania

By Jenny and David Bock

One of the obvious ways to improve health outcomes in developing countries is to provide qualified health workers. One of MMA's chief areas of activity is to provide scholarships to enable students to undertake courses in nursing and other disciplines. MMA donates funds for this purpose in three Anglican diocesan hospitals in Tanzania: Murgwanza, Kilimatinde and Berega.

Tanzania is one of the world's poorest countries, ranking 159th for per capita GDP. Its life expectancy, literacy and infant survival rates rank similarly, but the rates are improving. About two million babies are born annually and the government now wants all these births to take place in a hospital to improve outcomes.

The three hospitals handle not only maternity cases but also infectious diseases and a range of surgery and medical counselling. As you would expect, there are also many outpatient cases such as minor injuries, burns and even snake bites.

Murgwanza is in the north-west, next to the border with Rwanda and near Lake Victoria, at an elevation of 1800 metres. This is the poorest region in a poor country. Australia has had a long connection with this hospital since a dispensary was opened there in 1935. It is the largest of the three, with 200 beds. They are struggling financially until at least May, when the government has committed to provide the salaries for six medical professionals.

Six students in their school of nursing are on scholarships provided by MMA, as is a doctor who is upgrading to specialise in paediatrics. They also receive funds for medical supplies and medicines.

Kilimatinde Hospital is a rural hospital of 150 beds in the centre of the country, northwest of the capital, Dodoma. It works primarily in paediatrics and obstetrics and gynaecology, but has



Murgwanza Hospital. The signboard lists the charges for each procedure offered.

no emergency ward. It conducts "medical safaris" into the villages of the region. MMA provides scholarships for two students; one studying to become an anaesthesia technician and the other, a biomedical technician.

Berega Hospital is east of Dodoma, half-way to the largest city, Dar es Salaam on the coast. Here MMA supports five students: three students in the school of nursing, one student of nursing education, and a student lab technician. One of the nursing students wrote

to us recently noting that she had seen many mothers and babies die in birth and wanted to save these lives. She is very aware and thankful for the support she has received from MMA.

The needs are very great and are difficult even for the government to cope with. MMA is a small charity and cannot hope to meet all needs, but seeks to be faithful in making its contribution, bringing hope and better health to a country which needs it so much.



Two new surgeons graduate in Menouf, Egypt

Some years ago, MMA was one of the donors of funds to Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons to support upgrades at Harpur Hospital, Menouf, between Cairo and Alexandria. The upgrades brought the standard of facilities to a much better level - good enough, in fact, that Harpur Hospital became suitable for training surgeons. Now, several years down the track, we can report that the second and third surgeons have graduated. They are Dr. Nayer Naiem Wahba Dous and Dr. Amgad Amir Ragheb Gawargy and are seen third and fifth respectively from the left in this photo from the graduation ceremony in Menouf in December. They will be employing their skills at the sister hospital in Sadat City, an industrial city of 100,000, about an hour's drive from Menouf.

You can read more about this on the website of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa. Visit dioceseofegypt.org/2018/12/2-new-surgeons-graduate-paacs-program-menouf/



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!

from the president

The operation of a charity is subject to more and more regulation, particularly in the case of charities like MMA that send funds overseas, where it is perceived that the funds might end up in dangerous hands.

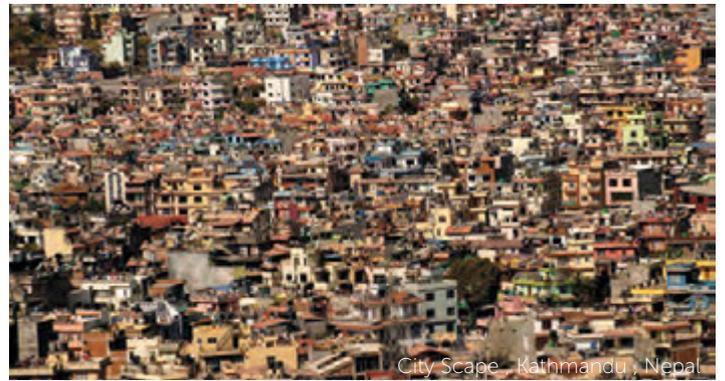
We are having to increase our annual reporting to federal and state bodies. Furthermore, these days it is considered necessary good practice for organisations like ours to have Police checks and Working With Children checks for employees and volunteers, and to have a range of formal Policies and Procedures to cover health and safety, financial transactions, risk management, and so forth.

Quite a load! And one which we are finding cannot be carried by volunteers alone. To this end, the Committee has appointed Remya Williams (pictured) to the new part-time position of Administrative and Bookkeeping Assistant, equivalent to about one day per week, to help with some of this. Remya will continue part-time in the Op Shop. She is qualified in accounting and will divide her time between assisting the Treasurer and assisting me.



Warm regards

Jenny Bock



City Scape - Kathmandu, Nepal

FOCUS

Doctors' scholarships, Nepal

In our last newsletter, we carried the article from Ruth Judd about the setting up of a memorial fund to assist the training of medical students in Nepal. We are delighted to report that five financially needy students have been awarded scholarships which will help cover their living expenses during their five years of study. The group comprises two women and three men, ranging in age from 19 to 21 years, from various parts of the country. Four will undertake study in Nepal and one in Bangladesh. They come mostly from farming families but include a pastor's daughter. They have long harboured the dream of becoming doctors but, until now, have not had the economic means to do so.

From the Op Shop

by Meryl McEwen

The MMA Op shop in Balwyn, Victoria, continues to be a vital thread in the MMA web. Profits from the shop are in excess of \$30,000 each year and make a vital contribution to the various projects supported by MMA.

This year we have welcomed Remya Williams to the staff as a Manager of the Day, alongside Marian Hardwick. Both are currently taking on some additional duties while our regular Manager, Helen Ashpole, continues to have time away due to a shoulder injury. Please continue to pray for Helen, that she will soon be able to return and will regain full health.

Alongside the managers of the day we have many volunteers, some coming as little as half a day a month whilst others come each week. The shop could not operate without these willing assistants and we thank them all for their faithfulness and reliability. The shop is a happy place to work and these volunteers are much appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering please phone 0468 412 996 to speak to a manager about your availability. Age is no barrier, with students (over 15) doing community service,

people in the work force, and retirees all making up the volunteers at the shop. Sarah (pictured), a weekly volunteer, "likes helping out in the community to the best of her ability." And a retired volunteer on the weekly roster told us she enjoys the customers she has come to know by name as well as the friendly working atmosphere and the quality of the goods she sells.

The Op Shop continues to be a place where health and safety matter, and recently other volunteers have replaced the floor and upgraded the shelving in the sorting room. "Wow - what a great job, it has made our work so much easier," say the staff. We thank those who gave their time in this practical way to ensure the MMA Op Shop is a place where staff, volunteers and customers continue to enjoy working and shopping.



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:



Make a Donation

14% 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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manager Helen Ashpole

assistant managers

Marian Hartland & Remya Williams



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.



We hope to see you at MMA Autumnfest

Tuesday, 16 April 2019

Please note the new venue

**St Thomas's Anglican Church, 44 Station St,
Burwood VIC 3125**

Program

10.00 am Morning tea

10.30 am Presentations on MMA's work

12 noon BYO lunch

Catch up with friends and browse the trading tables.