

mma newsletter

sharing hope, health and life

medical mission aid inc.

ACN A0042669K
ABN 36062783362

March 2020



Celebrating 100 years

Unpacking MMA boxes
in China, 1924

By Meryl McEwen

Medical Mission Aid commenced in 1920 as an auxiliary of CMS supporting their missionaries in practical ways, particularly in the supply of medical equipment and allied materials for their work in developing countries. Based on the Biblical teaching of God's love and compassion in Christ and the mandate to the church to care for the poor, sick and victims of injustice, MMA is dedicated to relieving human suffering, poverty and hunger through a ministry of practical medical and health related activities.

For many years MMA packed boxes of needs to support the work of these missionaries. The first recorded boxes were to Foochow in China. A number of churches had MMA Auxiliaries who assisted with sewing baby gear for the CMS allied hospitals, raising funds for the shipping of equipment and supporting the practical needs of the medical work. These groups were not only in Victoria but also in NSW and Tasmania. With the high cost of transport and

the increasing availability of items "in country", the packing of containers for delivery of aid finished by 2010.

Alongside this practical ministry the organisation ran an Op Shop, initially in Malvern, then Hawthorn, Kew and latterly in Balwyn. The Op Shop contributed funds to support the work, but ceased trading towards the end of 2019. Funds currently come through direct donations and bequests, and the generosity of many has enabled new projects to be funded along with the highly successful "in country" scholarship training program, for local medical workers.

Today the work of MMA is based in Victoria with a number of churches as well as individuals supporting this work. In the late 1990's MMA became a funding organisation and in 2002 an independent organisation. In 2014, it registered as a not-for-

Nowadays the work continues through the awarding of training scholarships for local people, support for the cost of medical supplies, and other allied medical work. The countries in which

MMA currently is supporting medical programs and offering medical training include Pakistan, Nepal, PNG, Egypt, Uganda and DR Congo through other Christian partner organisations. Delivering world's best practice MMA aims to improve standards of living irrespective of caste, creed, class, race, gender, religion or political persuasion. MMA is happy to provide a speaker for churches or other groups to tell more of the current work.

Helping the disabled, the handicapped and those needing rehabilitation in Nepal. *By David Bock*

DHERSEC is MMA's biggest project and MMA is DHERSEC's biggest supporter. It is a local Nepalese organisation based in Dharan, southeast Nepal, with an international adviser, Australian Dr Owen Lewis. It has had MMA support for the last 17 years. What follows are some of the client stories in Dr Lewis's recent progress report to us, illustrating the various ways in which DHERSEC assists the disabled, the helpless and those needing rehabilitation.



Arun with Dr Lewis

Arun, pictured with Dr Lewis, is from a remote place and has two severely deformed feet – club feet birth deformity. He had not been able to go to school. He has now had surgery for the right foot and is waiting to be called for the next operation for his left foot.



Shanta

We told Shanta's story two years ago. She was a guest worker in the Middle East, but like other women in domestic service, was abused and actually thrown out of a window. She sustained fractures to both lower legs and was returned to Nepal without support. Since that previous report, DHERSEC has helped with her rehabilitation through repeated surgeries. She was trained in sewing, received a loan and was able to set up her own business.



Obec

Obed suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. He was a bright little boy doing well at school but by the age of 8 was no longer able to play football. Muscle weakness progressed rapidly, and he had to leave school. Now his days are at home needing full care by his mother. His body flops over when sitting and has become deformed with contractures. We discussed building him a special chair that would support him. Fortunately, his hands work well. He spends much of the day web surfing on a mobile phone. A proposal for Obed is that he see the surgeon for referral for a brace for his spine. A special chair could also be built with straps to help him to sit up in a more functional position. DHERSEC helps many with mobility problems. Often this means helping them obtain a special tricycle from another Nepalese organization.



Yam and his family

Yam developed gangrene due to an infected wound and diabetes. He had come down from the hills and was living in the squatter community when this happened. A journalist alerted DHERSEC's Sunil who came to Yam and took him to hospital where an amputation was required. He has been fitted with prosthesis and can now walk without crutches. The family have survived by gathering stones in the river for building, but during Yam's rehabilitation extra support in the form of rice has been given by DHERSEC.



Kritik

DHERSEC supports a number of people for heart surgery each year. Two-year-old Kritika came through an operation for one of the worst types of defects, Tetralogy of Fallot repair, only two months ago. She is now thriving.

Stories like these, and there are many more, illustrate the long term and comprehensive impact DHERSEC has had in helping the lives of individuals (old friends now) and in shifting community attitudes towards disability. The long-term relationship between MMA and DHERSEC continues to bear good fruit. DHERSEC's long relationships with needy families have brought transformation and glory to Jesus name.

from the
president



I hope we may be forgiven for making MMA itself the leading story in this autumn's newsletter, but it's not every year that you celebrate one hundred years of service. Our secretary, Meryl McEwen, has written a brief outline of MMA's activity over those years. You will have received an invitation to the celebration luncheon. While we know many of our keen supporters will not be able to attend, we look forward to meeting those who can.

Since our last newsletter, we have received a progress report on our biggest project, DHERSEC in Nepal, from Dr Owen Lewis. We have the space only to give you some examples of the many things they do for the needy there. It is Owen's wife, Mary, who will be the main speaker at our centenary celebration. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the things your valued donations have helped to make possible.

Warm regards
Jenny Bock

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 _____

☐ 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

CONTACT MMA

PRESIDENT-JENNY BOCK

t 0424 699 168

e mmapresident17@gmail.com

TREASURER-DIANE PRITCHETT

t (03) 9077 7662

e diane@pritchett.com.au

SECRETARY-MERYL MCEWEN

t (03) 9878 7716

e johnmcewen@link.net

MMA OP SHOP

Please note that MMA's Op Shop
ceased operation in October
last year.

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.



Centenary Celebration

MMA's regular Autumnfest will this year
take the form of a celebration of MMA's
long history of supporting medical work in
developing countries. As a one-off, it will
take place on a Saturday. A light lunch will be
provided by caterers

The main speaker will be **Mary Lewis**.

Date

Saturday 4th April 2020

Time

12 noon for 12.30 pm

Place

St Thomas Anglican Church 44 Station Street Burwood
3125 RSVP by 27th March

Please contact Jenny Bock, MMA President for catering
purposes and to notify any dietary requirements, via
email to mmapresident17@gmail.com or text or call
0424 699 168.