



Health education for young people in Tanzania

By David Bock, with Naomi Thyer and the Jitambue team

For reasons to do with both culture and education in Tanzania, access to information about sexual and reproductive health is a difficult issue, particularly in the Ngara District. Sexual health is not often a subject for discussion by parents, guardians or teachers. The knowledge of young people in these matters is therefore limited.

The Diocese of Kagera, in the north-west of the country, has a vision to take care of teenagers and to train them to avoid risky kinds of behaviour. The Jitambue Project aims to improve their understanding about reproductive health and their life skills using the approach of WCFL: Wise Choices For Life. The results expected after the training are a reduced number of pregnancies, a lower maternal mortality rate, and less bad behavior among the students, such as alcohol and drug abuse.

Nine people attended the WCFL training in 2016 to learn the new techniques from experienced trainers in Uganda. Implementation of the new Jitambue using WCFL started after the training in November 2016.

The Program was started by running pilots in three schools - two secondary schools and one nursing school. One class was trained in each school. These schools were selected based on the risk factors in their environment which in one way or another prompted students to engage in pre-marital sexual practices and other undesirable behaviour. The total number of students, male and female, trained in the three schools was three hundred and sixty. All kinds of communication methods were employed as appropriate, such as drama, songs, demonstrations, lecturing and discussions.

Teachers and other school staff members were well coordinated and showed a high level of participation. The need and the level of participation in government schools and private schools were similar. The learners were fully engaged in the sessions.

A change in behaviour has been seen among the students. In some schools, there are reports of a lower number of pregnancies among young people. For example, two students in one nursing school fell pregnant last year, but this year there has been none.



Above: Nursing school tutors receiving training kits
 Left: Murugwanza nursing school student pause after WCFL session



Because of the change in behavior the school drop-out rate has decreased. There is a positive relationship between students, teachers and the Diocese of Kagera Jitambue team.

As of mid-2018, the program has been introduced into 13 schools, reaching 3600 students.

Such are the achievements demonstrated so far from the program. Yet there are challenges and needs remaining. There are still another sixteen secondary schools in the district which have not yet been reached.

School timetables are quite rigid and this imposes constraints and inflexibility on the program. The teachers trained in the program already have demanding teaching schedules and can struggle to conduct Jitambue classes as well.

Where does the team see the program going? As well as extending the program into the remaining secondary schools, they are aware that the parents and guardians of the students they train do not have the knowledge either, so the program needs to be able to train them as well. They need sufficient manpower in each school they work in, and sufficient time, to facilitate the training. The availability of pregnancy test kits would enable project leaders to compile reliable data.

MMA feels that this program is well worth its support and has continued funding in the current financial year.

from the president

I have been gradually introducing myself by email to the project teams we support and have received some direct expression of thanks for MMA's support.

It is very encouraging that the two significant bequests we received are now in investments held by MMA. The income from these investments will supplement the income from direct donations and from the operations of the Op Shop. Your generous donations will continue to be the largest source of funds for our projects, so please keep giving!

We thank Ruth Judd for her wonderful efforts in raising so much money for the Memorial Fund.

Speaking of the Op Shop, we continue to need more volunteers to help out. Please contact Helen Ashpole if you are able to assist.

We thank God for MMA's faithful donors and volunteers. Blessings to you all. I hope to see you at Springfest in October.

Warm regards

Jenny Bock



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!



MMA'S Memorial Fund

by Ruth Judd

“Even before they call, I will answer...”
Isaiah 65:24

Imagine the excitement of families and friends gathered at Kathmandu airport to welcome a large group of young doctors arriving home after 5 years of study. Jostling for the best viewing places and with noses pressed to airport windows, each one in the crowd is ready to shout, “there he is” or “I can see her”. The plane is due any moment. They can hardly wait to catch the first glimpse of their loved one, ‘their’ doctor, perhaps sent at great expense and sacrifice.

“There’s the plane, just coming in” is heard from those in the front row. Others scramble for a better view. The suspense is palpable. The plane arrives, lands, and suddenly, disintegrates in front of their eyes. “What happened?” “Where’s the plane?” Pandemonium breaks out as they realize this is a serious plane crash.

Forty nine passengers died that day. Thirteen of them were newly graduated Nepali doctors slated to work in hospitals around Nepal. One was a senior doctor returning from post graduate studies.

MMA responded quickly and set up a memorial fund with an appeal target of \$10,000. The next day a cheque was received from the estate of a man who had prepared his will three years before his death and four years before the plane crash. Attached to the cheque was a note stating “I request that this bequest be used to train Nepali doctors”. The appeal has raised an amazing \$60,000 and is now on the way to being \$70,000.

Medical training in Nepal costs \$30,000, so how will this fund be used? ‘FOCUS Nepal’ is an indigenous Christian organisation that offers scholarships that are usually based on an amount that will cover living expenses only. However, the student’s economic condition is also taken into consideration. Focus has calculated that the \$60,000 already sent



will give living expenses to 7 students for the whole training period. Each student will receive about A\$1100 per year leaving a balance of \$5000 for the student to find each year. Special consideration will be given to selected candidates who are unable to afford payment of fees. Applications for scholarships will be announced shortly with courses commencing later in the year.

The directors of Focus wrote, “We are thankful to all the people of God who contributed to the Memorial Fund and to the MMA team for prayer and concern about the financial needs of MBBS students”. The members of the MMA Committee of Management also give thanks for the generosity of all who contributed to this fund.

Treasurer's Report

1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. Prepared by: Diane Pritchett

This has been an unusual year. Most of the funds bequeathed to MMA in the form of shares have now been transferred into MMA's name and are being managed by Hewison Wealth. The income from these managed funds will supplement the donations and op shop income. The other remarkable item this year has been the extraordinary response to the Memorial Fund (see Ruth Judd's article).

Income: Donations \$73,893
Investments, bequests and interest \$460,963
Op-shop surplus \$32,446
FOCUS Memorial Fund \$64,484
Total: \$631,786

Payments: Projects \$180,807
Administration and donations \$7,797
Total: \$188,604

Programs receiving grants included:

- DHERSEC (Nepal disabled project)
- Scholarships
- Training courses in Tanzania
- Medical grants and supplies for 5 Tanzanian and Kenyan hospitals
- Medical care for students in 12 theological colleges in Tanzania.

The reviewed financial statement will be available at the AGM or upon 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:

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

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

Used stamps



MMA/CMS accepts donations of any old stamps, stamp collections or unused stamps of any denomination. These are salvaged by volunteers and sold to support the work of the missions. Please contact John Down on 9857 8755.

PRESIDENT-JENNY BOCK

t 0424 699 168
e mmapresident17@gmail.com

SECRETARY-MERYL MCEWEN

t (03) 9878 7716
e johnmcewen@link.net

TREASURER-DIANE PRITCHETT

t (03) 9077 7662
e diane@pritchett.com.au



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 OP SHOP

t 0468 412 996
e mmapopshop@gmail.com
a 301 Whitehorse Road,
Balwyn VIC 3103

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

Celebrate MMA's Springfest and AGM Tuesday, 16 October, 2018

St Mark's Anglican Church, Cnr Burke and Canterbury Roads, Camberwell. To park on-site, enter from Canterbury Road, not Burke Road

Program

10.00am: Morning tea
10.30am: Annual General meeting
11.00am: Springfest Program
12 noon: BYO lunch. Trading tables open.

Speaker: Agatha, who was born in Uganda, is working as a cross-cultural gospel worker in western Melbourne, supported by Brimbank Anglican Church and CMS Victoria. She is also studying at Ridley College. She will give us her view of how God is working in east Africa.

Business for the AGM

- Accept minutes of the AGM held on 17 October, 2017.
- Receive reports for the year 2017-18.
- Elect Committee of Management for 2018-19.

Nomination forms are available from Jenny Bock and should be returned by 5 October 2018.

Current members named below are eligible for re-election. New nominees are very welcome.

President: Jenny Bock Vice-president: Pam Thyer
Secretary: Meryl McEwen Treasurer: Diane Pritchett

Members: David Bock, Mark Hanson, Brian Hayes, Ruth Judd, Wei-Han Kuan (ex-officio), Conrad Parsons, Helen Potts. Naomi Wong is currently on leave of absence and yet to be nominated.

MMA membership application forms are also available from Jenny Bock and should be returned by **18 September, 2018**, for eligibility to vote.

Early notice of change of venue.

Next year (not this year!), our Autumnfest and Springfest will be held at a new venue:

St Thomas's Church, 44 Station Street, Burwood.
This will be highlighted in the March 2019 newsletter.