

# mma newsletter

sharing hope, health and life

medical mission aid inc.

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## Getting involved in South Sudan

Jonglei insitute students

*From Dr Owen Lewis, edited by David Bock*

South Sudan became a separate country in 2011, after 20 years of fighting with the north. The north (the remaining part of Sudan) is predominantly Muslim and South Sudan mainly Christian, but tribal divisions are even more important when trying to understand the difficulties. The people of South Sudan have been dependent on aid for 50 years, but there has been little development of infrastructure or government systems in a country where corruption, nepotism and tribal interests thwart those who struggle for change. South Sudan has about the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the world. But there are only 100-200 doctors for the 11 million people.

### An institute and a clinic

Many church people have been disillusioned with the presence of international non-government organisations and their often corrupting, dependency-producing efforts to help. A project initiated by the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide to establish maternal and child health (MCH) clinic services in Bor was interrupted by civil war without the building being finished. Bor is a city of 100,000 on the banks of the White Nile in the northern part of South Sudan.

Dr Owen Lewis travelled to South Sudan with a team from Adelaide in 2016 during a lull in fighting. The purpose of the trip was not only involvement in the MCH clinic project, but also to meet up with South Indian missionary friends serving in South Sudan, Drs Anil and Shalini Cherian. They had been invited to found a health worker training institute in 2014 by the International Christian Medical and Dental Association, but because of fighting they had evacuated the 60 students to Kampala, Uganda. Anil joined Owen in Bor and connection was made between the two projects. Health worker students (midwives, nurses and clinical officers) could come to the MCH clinic for experience. There would be mutual benefit for both projects and the church.

Owen made three trips to Uganda to teach South Sudan health worker students. The institute was shut down in Kampala, but in 2019, with peace coming, it was reconstituted in Bor as a government institute, the Jonglei Institute of Health Sciences. The budget has been only a third of that for the institute when it was in Kampala. Midwifery and Clinical Officer students were enrolled but not nurses. Owen was there to welcome a new cohort of students, but







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

## 1 ☐ Electronic transfer to MMA's account:

BSB 033 112 Name and Number: MMA Inc. 378527

Please enter your surname as 'description/reference' and email  
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☐ 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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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.

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

## Finance report

Income	This year	Last year
Donations	\$98,397	\$113,487
New bequests	\$8,991	\$57,523
Hewison portfolio interest	\$23,824	\$25,738
Hewison portfolio cap gains	-\$20,722	\$11,021
Other Income	\$10,310	\$349
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$120,800</b>	<b>\$208,118</b>

### Expenses

Overseas Aid - DHERSEC	\$63,205	\$60,985
Ruth Judd Schol'p Program	\$81,946	\$60,333
Medical Grants	\$22,033	\$14,700
Special Projects (3)	\$24,920	\$42,505
Administration & other	\$10,197	\$11,890
Hewison portfolio fees	\$9,818	\$7,883
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$212,119</b>	<b>\$198,296</b>

Op Shop -\$14,774 \$14,071

**Net profit/loss** **-\$106,092** **\$23,893**

"Hewison portfolio" refers to the combination of several  
previous bequests invested as per advice from Hewison  
Private Wealth, worth \$485,833 at the end of June.



Operation under way at Lalghad Hospital

## COVID-19 in Nepal

COVID-19 is a big issue in Nepal, which is under hard  
lockdown. MMA has recently sent funds to several of our  
partners there to assist their workers and students. Upgraded  
protective equipment is now available in Nepal, as you can see  
in our photo of an operation under way at Lalghad Hospital.