

# mma newsletter

sharing hope, health and life

medical mission aid inc.

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September 2021



## Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital, Nepal

Community Health Outreach Program.

By Shanta Parker

Leprosy is an age-old disease, having been described many times in the Bible. Throughout history, people afflicted have often been ostracised by their communities and families. In many parts of the world, this marginalisation continues. Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital (LLHSC), led by the incredible Dr Graeme Clugston, is one of our inspirational project partners in Nepal. They serve people affected by leprosy and other neglected diseases of poverty through hospital services, community outreach and a training/capacity building program.

LLHSC's hospital services include outpatients, inpatients (96 beds) and diagnostic/support services. Patient numbers are growing each year with around 12,000 leprosy patient consultations and 110,000 consultations of other of illnesses including typhoid, tuberculosis, skin conditions and diarrhoeal and parasitic diseases. LLHSC's extensive Community Outreach Program covers 8 official leprosy catchment districts of Province-2, serving 6.01 million people. This program includes self-help groups and outreach clinics. There are also projects that focus on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), water and sanitation, and socio-economic rehabilitation. LLHSC's Training/Capacity Building Program includes a spectrum of training courses for Government health workers, self-care training for leprosy-affected persons and skills development and literacy training for poor and needy village groups.

LLHSC try to recruit staff members who have been or are leprosy-affected themselves, or from leprosy-affected or marginalised families. Currently 20% of staff are either leprosy-affected or from leprosy-affected families, and 22% of staff are of the Dalit ("untouchable") caste. Dalits in Nepal, despite recent efforts by the government to eradicate this inequality, experience discrimination at every level of their daily lives, limiting their employment and educational opportunities, the places where they can collect water or worship, and their choice of who to marry. By employing Dalit staff, LLHSC is helping to reduce inequality and giving hope to the downtrodden.

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's Disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by a slow-growing bacteria called *Mycobacterium Lepae*. It can affect nerves, skin and eyes. Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial for prevention of disability. If left untreated, the nerve damage can result in the crippling of hands and feet, paralysis and blindness.

## Impact of Covid-19

Like many parts of the world, Nepal has been severely impacted by Covid-19. Here is a summary written by Dr Clugston of what was happening in May this year:

- We are now in total lockdown, since Tuesday 4 May - as is the whole of Nepal. Roads empty, shops closed, police patrolling. This is devastating as unlike Australia, there is no government financial support.
- Covid-19 infections are abundantly present in surrounding communities where some of our staff live and there have been some deaths, especially in Janakpur. A brief survey of Lalgadh Village by the municipality yesterday found that 82% of folks were Covid-positive. This is not representative –but still frightening.
- Covid-19 infection and death rates across Nepal are increasing to unprecedented levels - 9,198 new cases yesterday (18 May) and total deaths of 5,215 at record levels and sadly still increasing daily.
- Some of our staff, staff's family members and patients have caught Covid-19. We are using our training unit as a quarantine unit - well away from the hospital. We managed to get 5 Oxygen cylinders last week – now they can't be obtained from anywhere.
- Thankfully, all our staff have had their 2 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine

Please pray for all of our partners overseas as they navigate Covid-19

MMA aims to improve the health and well-being of the most vulnerable and poor communities. In the coming year, MMA will continue to partner with LLHSC to help provide training for nursing staff, doctors and other diagnostic staff, which will strengthen clinical care. We will help to purchase equipment needs, such as a humidicrib, for the hospital and provide health and school support for needy primary school children.

If you would like to contribute to the work of LLHSC, please visit: <https://medicalmissionaid.org.au/ways-to-give/donate/>

### Sustainable goals:

- to strengthen the long-term capabilities of LLHSC's clinical and community outreach services, and the capacity, resilience and potential of communities in disadvantaged areas
- To reduce inequality and protect basic rights in terms of medical and educational outcomes for all marginalised groups, especially for women, girls and children.



Reconstructive surgery on 10yr old leprosy affected girl.



LLHSC doctors and nurses in PPE.

## from the president



Dear Friends,

We have come to the end of another financial year, and I am pleased to report that MMA funded sixty-four scholarships, of which thirty-five were given to women. Thank you to all our faithful donors. This was the year when we found a Covid-free window to hold our Centenary Celebration, albeit a year late. It was a wonderful time together, catching up with friends, reminiscing about MMA and looking forward to its future.

Though a small charity, we are becoming (as required) more organized and appropriately professional, and I thank all the Board members, and our Executive Director, Shanta Parker, for their hard work in this regard.

There will be some important changes at the AGM in October. I will be stepping down as President but intend to seek election as an ordinary member of the Board. I am very grateful for all the support given to me by the Board and by Shanta, and by the friends and supporters of MMA. Pam Thyer will be resigning from the Board, and I thank her for the twenty years she has served MMA as Op Shop manager, Board member and Office holder – currently as Vice-President. Pam has helped me greatly during my term as President.

I leave you with these words written for all of us from Hebrews 6:10 (ESV): "God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do."

Keep safe and well during these testing Covid-19 times.

Blessings to you all.

Jenny Bock

# mma

[medicalmissionaid.org.au](http://medicalmissionaid.org.au)

Ring Shanta on 0410 696 037  
if you need a challenging  
speaker for a meeting or a  
church service.



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Keep up to date with the latest  
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Login to Facebook, search for  
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the 'Like' button!



# Murgwanza Hospital, Tanzania - Scholarship Program



From Left - Dr Christian, Dr Frank and Dr Deonatus

Located in a remote region of Tanzania, near the borders of Rwanda and Burundi, Murgwanza Hospital serves over 430,000 people. Two years ago, the hospital recognised that in order to further impact their community, they needed to provide access to specialised care. Specialties such as Surgery, Gynaecology, ENT ( Ear, Nose and Throat), Paediatrics, Ophthalmology and Internal Medicine were not available in the region. According to Andrea Nziko, Hospital Administrative Secretary at Murgwanza, “patients are being referred to the referral hospital (Bugando) which is 400km far away from our area, majority cannot afford such long journey”. This is resulting in many being left untreated and lives are being lost.

Medical Mission Aid (MMA) has been partnering with Murgwanza hospital to train specialists to reach their goals of saving lives with provision of local specialist care to those who need it. Currently, there are three scholarship holders - Dr Christian studying General Surgery, Dr Frank specialising in ENT and Dr Deonatus training in Internal Medicine. They will complete their studies next year. The long term impact of this is significant and MMA is privileged to be a part of this local capacity development.

If you would like to support these students, please visit <https://medicalmissionaid.org.au/ways-to-give/donate/>



## Minority Focus, Nepal

A letter from Amosa to MMA Supporters....

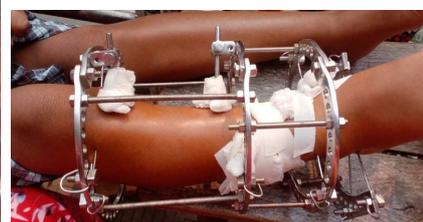
I'm Amosa Rai from Khotang of province 2 Eastern Nepal. I belong to marginalized community, remote part of Nepal. Our community is unserved community in view of medical and health care services. I observed many such cases died of sicknesses deprived of health services and hospital facilities. I prayed much about the choice of subjects. I took counselling from Minority Focus as what subjects would be useful in the above context. Finally, I selected General medicine 3 years course of study. Since this is technical medical course, somehow costly so our economic condition was such that my family was not support me financially. Our pastor guided me to apply to Minority FOCUS for partial scholarship. I was pleased hear that Minority Focus is working with Medical Mission Aid of Australia. The partnership of Minority Focus with MMA made me possible to receive a scholarship, which was much encouraging. I completed my General Medicine course (Health Assistant) in 2020.

I would like to thank entire team of Focus Nepal and its partner MMA for the scholarship provision for my study. All of you are parts of my successful completion of the course. You were there when I was unable to pay my education fees. You did not hesitate to help me out. Due to your precious financial support, counselling and fellowship with fellow students through student gathering and other supports I successfully achieved my PCL in General Medicine (HA). After much prayer and job search, I got an opportunity to join Manakamana Health Clinic...

## DHERSEC, Nepal

SP, aged 14, has had a tough life already. She has a father who is addicted to alcohol and a mother who has been working in Kuwait as a housemaid. Her grandmother has been her primary carer, and together, they have been living in difficult conditions.

SP and her grandmother approached DHERSEC as SP had a severe bone abnormality that was affecting her ability to live a normal life. Seeing her enormous potential, the staff at DHERSEC were able to organise surgery at the BPKHIS Hospital. She now has been given the opportunity to live a fulfilling, productive life and is full of hope for a wonderful future.



DHERSEC giving hope to SP.

want to help  
**mma?**

All donations  
over \$2 are  
tax-deductible

## There are three ways of donating to MMA:

### 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 your contact details to: [mmaacts@gmail.com](mailto:mmaacts@gmail.com)

### 2 Website

Please visit [www.medicalmissionaid.org.au](http://www.medicalmissionaid.org.au)

Please note 1.4% fees are deducted from these donations and a receipt will be automatically issued.

### 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 Legacy Gift.

## Donations may be designated to:

- General Funds **or**,
- Any specific project. Visit our website to see the list of current projects.

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 receipt. ABN 36 062 783 362

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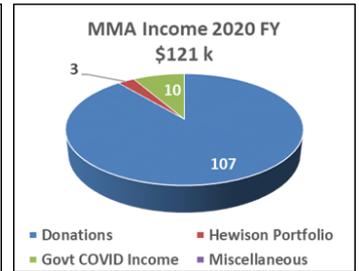
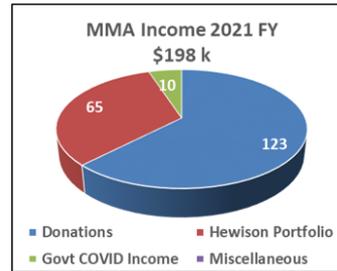
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MMA is a not-for-profit Christian charity. Our mission is to show God's love in practical ways by supporting people in disadvantaged countries.

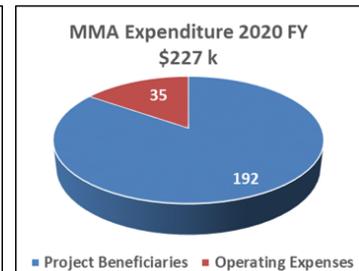
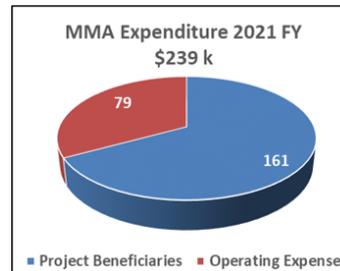
## Finance report

### MMA Income



- FY2021 income increased by 64% compared to FY2020 income with a 15% increase in donations and MMA's Investment portfolio recovering from a Covid-19 impacted FY2020.

### MMA Expenditure



- MMA distributed \$161 k to Project Beneficiaries in FY2021.
- FY2021 Operational deficit was \$41 k (compared to a deficit of \$106 k in FY2020).

Copies of audited report available at the AGM or by request



Centenary Celebrations, April 2021

## AGM and Springfest 2021

MMA's Annual General Meeting and Springfest

Date: *Saturday* October 9th, 2021

Time: 1.30pm for a 2pm start

Venue: St Thomas Anglican Church, 44 Station St, Burwood

Guest Speaker: Rev. Canon Faraj Hanna

The AGM will be followed by an afternoon tea. There will be a trading table. All welcome and feel free to bring a friend!