

mma newsletter

sharing hope, health and life

medical mission aid inc.

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Dental care education Malaumanda Health Patrol

KOMPIAM, Papua New Guinea

Medical Patrols to remote communities

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is ranked 153 on the UN's Human Development Index out of 189 countries [United Nations (UNDP), 2020], making it one of the poorest countries in the world. The Enga Province in PNG's western highlands is mountainous and rugged, and much of the province is yet to be reached by serviceable road networks. The Kompam/Ambum district (population 74,000) is classified as one of PNG's 13 Extremely Disadvantage Districts. Access to healthcare in this region is extremely difficult.

Enga Baptist Health Services (EBHS) was founded in 1997 to establish a functional base for curative and preventative health services at Kompam, and to grow the reach of services throughout the district, which is one of the most remote areas of the country. EBHS has always had a large focus on patrol (medical outreach) work because the lack of transportation makes it very difficult for villagers to reach the hospital.

Patrol work is divided between flying clinics (in collaboration with Mission Aviation Fellowship), clinics by road and walking patrols. These clinics are used to do vaccinations, health promotion work, dental work, general medical and obstetric antenatal care. MMA feels privileged to partner with EBHS in their medical patrol clinics.

NEEDS:

- Education – Medical and Dental on various public health issues
- Well Child checks – vaccinations, weights, development
- Well women checks – antenatal screening, maternal vaccinations, malaria prophylaxis, family planning advice
- Dental education, checks and surgery
- General medical clinics
- Occasional minor surgery
- Capacity building of local staff in dental work



All PNG photos courtesy of Kompam District Hospital, EBHS

Kompam, PNG continued...

SOME OF PNG'S HEALTH CHALLENGES

Changing food habits and the consumption of SUGAR

Moving away from a healthy diet of vegetables grown in the garden, many people now live on highly sugared lollies, chewing gum, syrup juice, Coke and readily available salty packet noodles and chips. Combined with a lack of knowledge about teeth hygiene, this is resulting in a large percentage of children aged 4-12 years having dental cavities, with many losing most of their teeth by adulthood. This change in food habits is also now leading to lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.

The impact of betel nut and tobacco consumption

Many young men and women are deeply addicted to chewing betel nut. Together with the smoking of tobacco, this is resulting in an increase of oral cancers. Cancer treatment is a luxury in PNG, so the majority of people with oral cancers do not receive the care they need and die.



High maternal and child mortality rates and lack of health professionals in PNG

The maternal mortality rate is 145 deaths per 100,000 live births (compared to 6 in Australia). The infant mortality is 35 deaths per 1000 live births (compared to 3 in Australia). There is 1 doctor per 10,000 people in PNG compared to 38 in Australia and 5 nurses per 10,000 people in PNG compared to 132 in Australia.

(Worldbank 2023)

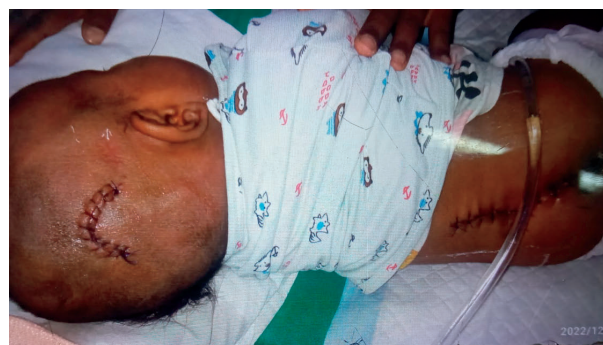
“Most students and adults were seeing a toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste for the very first time!”

Dr Camy Thomas at Malaumanda Health Patrol

DHERSEC, Nepal

Samar is a beautiful 6 month old who lives with his parents in a severely disadvantaged area in Nepal. The baby was diagnosed with Myelomeningocele (a severe type of Spina Bifida) with obstructive hydrocephalus extra (cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) around the brain).

DHERSEC helped with costs associated with surgery to correct these significant issues, and the baby now has hope for a better life. Without the help of DHERSEC, this family would not have been able to afford the full cost of treatment, and the outcome would likely have been devastating.



from the
president



Dear friends,

As I write, we are confronted by news of war and disasters in many parts of the world, with many calls for assistance. At the same time, I am conscious of the ongoing needs of the various projects we support. Our project recipients are also living in countries where unrest and poverty lead to a sense of fear and uncertainty. The news from the various scholarship recipients and other medical related activities of MMA give a sense of hope to many. Jesus calls us to be salt and light in the world, and through your generosity, you are indeed sharing this light to many.

Over the Christmas holidays, I was privileged to meet a lovely Christian Sudanese lady, a previous health minister in the South Sudanese government, who was visiting Melbourne. She told me of the joy she felt as she participated in the graduation ceremony of students in the Jonglei Health Sciences Institute in Bor Town, where we sponsor nursing students. Shanta is regularly in touch with all our programs via zoom and as a condition of ongoing partnership we receive a 6 monthly report to ensure your donations are being used as intended.

As well as your financial support, we thank you for your prayer support. We know we have a great and compassionate God. I am reminded of the words in Micah 6:8 - “And what does the Lord require of you? To do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Please continue to pray for the work and outreach of MMA, for the Board, for Shanta and for all the people involved in the projects we support.

Meryl McEwen

Please visit MMA's website or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn



<https://medicalmissionaid.org.au/>



<https://m.facebook.com/Medicalmissionaidaustralia/>

<https://www.instagram.com/medicalmissionaid/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/medical-mission-aid-inc/>



Murgwanza Hospital, Tanzania - Scholarship Program

MMA has been supporting the training of 3 medical specialists over the last 3 years in Tanzania. These 3 doctors completed their studies at the end of last year and now provide specialist services that have largely not been available to people living in this very remote region. Murgwanza now has a General Surgeon, an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist (ENT) and a specialist in Internal Medicine.

This is what Dr Mafuru, newly graduated in a Masters of Medicine in Internal Medicine had to say.

"I joined Catholic University of Health and Allied Science (CUHAS) in November 2019 to pursue a three years program of Master of Medicine in Internal Medicine with a goal of acquiring knowledge, skills and attitude for improving our practice and quality of care we are giving to our patients at Murgwanza Mission Hospital and to the community at large.



As it is well stipulated in our strategic plan that by 2024 our hospital will be providing specialized health services in our area, this means by doing that we will increase number of patients with complicated cases that will be attended per day from 20 patients per day to 50 patients per day in our first year since completion of our studies, a number that will be increased with time.

Also, the catchment area of our services will be increased from one district of Ngara to five districts which include Biharamulo, Karagwe, Kakonko, Kibondo and Ngara itself, this will make the necessity of doing outreach programs in order to reach patients who will not be able to attend at our hospital.

During my three years journey completed in November 2022, I was engaged in activities and training which impacted me positively as a person and in my profession on planning management of patients at all levels from attending emergencies, treating chronic illnesses and rehabilitation, preventive measures and providing good palliative care for patients with terminal illnesses.

In addition, this program taught me leadership skills and team work in management of patients, also. I have learned much of research activities which helped me in identifying problems and proposing best accessible, affordable and acceptable scientific solutions in different health challenges."

\$116/month

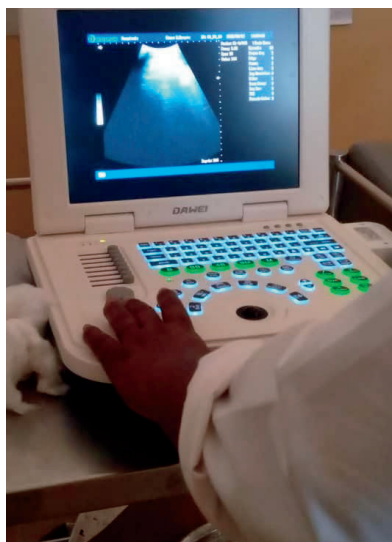
or \$1397 a year will provide a scholarship in Nepal or Tanzania for one student for one year.

**For an undergraduate



New foetal dopplers, vaccinations Kilimatinde Medical Outreach

Kilimatinde Hospital, Tanzania



New portable ultrasound, Kilimatinde Medical Outreach

South Sudan Scholarships

MMA would like to celebrate the 20 Clinical Medicine and Midwifery students who graduated in October in Bor Town. The Clinical Officers exceeded expectations by getting the top marks and establishing Jonglei Health and Science Institute as one of the top health training institutes in South Sudan. The Midwifery students also performed creditably. Congratulations!!



Kilimatinde hospital serves the people around the Rift Valley in Tanzania through surgical and medical services as well as maternity and paediatric care. The Community Outreach program, including maternal and child clinics, is a crucial service reaching 22 communities and over 100,000 people. This program provides emergency care, vaccinations for children under five and clinics for pregnant women. The villages have also benefited from education in health, nutrition and family planning.

This year, MMA funding has resulted in the procurement of medication, a portable ultrasound machine and 2 foetal dopplers, substantially improving care in this remote region. Ultrasounds are essential for early diagnosis of both foetal and maternal health conditions, and has been shown to increase survival rates, especially in the world's poorer countries.

There are four 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

2 MMA Website

Please visit
<https://medicalmissionaid.org.au/ways-to-give/donate/>

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 cheque/money order together with your name, address or email address for receipt to:
Medical Mission Aid, PO Box 1142, Surrey Hills North, Vic 3127

4 Paypal/Credit Card via MMA Inc Facebook page

Please visit
<https://m.facebook.com/Medicalmissionaidaustralia/>

No fees are deducted from these donations and a receipt will be automatically issued by email if your FB page is linked to your email account.

Donations may be designated to:

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

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of a **Legacy Gift** to MMA. For more information, please contact mmaexd@gmail.com or visit <https://wills.gatheredhere.com.au/c/medical-mission-aid>

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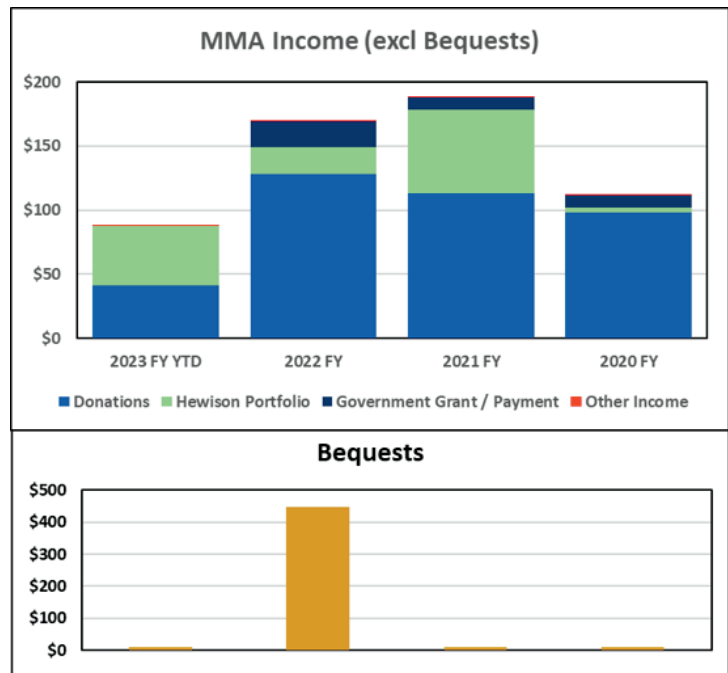
MMA is a not-for-profit Christian charity. Our mission is to show God's love in practical ways by supporting people in disadvantaged countries to improve health outcomes.

Finance Corner

by Barry Kelly

MMA is extremely grateful for all its loyal members and contributors, whose prayerful donations and bequests continue to be the bedrock on which MMA can implement its planned project contributions each year.

Apart from donations and bequests, the main regular source of MMA's income each year is the income and investment appreciation received from its Hewison Investment portfolio. Government grants or payments were additions gratefully received during the COVID period, but these are not likely to be again available to MMA. How these sources of income have varied over the last 3 full Financial Years and for the current Financial Year (YTD at December 2022) are shown in the graph below.



This year, despite the share market turmoil, the Hewison Investment Portfolio has made a good contribution. Donations are currently running behind the level of the last couple of years at the half-way mark of the financial year. Many not-for-profit organisations are experiencing the same situation.

So as we enter the second half of the 2022 FY, I would like to offer the MMA Board's thanks for your donation this year. The Board also has confidence that if the work that MMA achieves is worthy in the eyes of our Lord, through his generous abundance, MMA projects will continue to receive funding. Please continue to pray for MMA, Shanta Parker, our hard-working Executive Director, our projects and the beneficiaries of our projects.

If you have other topics which you would like me to address in another newsletter, please let me know. God bless you.



Autumn Celebration 2023

MMA's Autumn Celebration

Date: *Saturday* April 1st, 2023

Time: 1.30pm for a 2pm start

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

MMA's Autumn Celebration will be a great opportunity to catch up with the MMA Community. Please feel free to bring a friend!

Photo above by Dr Amanda Ward, Murgwanza Hospital