



MMA'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL IS ON NOW -
SEE PAGE 4 TO SHARE HOPE, HEALTH AND LIFE THIS CHRISTMAS



Hope, health and life in the most vulnerable communities



Prativa is a 19 year old girl from remote Nepal who collapsed unexpectedly at home and was diagnosed with rheumatic heart disease. This left Prativa vulnerable as her family was unable to afford the critical surgery she needed. However, **MMA project partner, the Disabled and Helpless Rehabilitation and Service Centre** in Dharan, Nepal, recognised the urgency of Prativa's condition and provided financial assistance. This enabled Prativa to undergo necessary surgery. Once recovered, Prativa resumed her education and DHERSEC continued to support her with essential items such as stationery and clothing. Prativa's transformation from a life-threatening illness to successful medical care and a return to normal life is testimony to DHERSEC's role in supporting vulnerable clients in their time of need.

MMA's mission is to extend Christian friendship with the most vulnerable communities in the most disadvantaged parts of the world. Recently, MMA has been encouraged by the Bible story of Ruth and Naomi. In this story, we see human vulnerability transformed into companionship and hope as female widows Naomi and Ruth face challenges during a period that was dangerous for women, "a time when the Judges ruled" (Ruth 1:1).

In Ruth, we see light shine in a period of darkness, danger and vulnerability as God works through the faith of two women and the blessing of human friendship. This begins as Ruth makes a courageous decision to stay with her elderly and vulnerable mother-in-law, Naomi, and reveals the basis for this risky move is her faith, "Where you go I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16). Through faith and friendship we see the prospects of these two women improve as Naomi, who begins the story alone, is provided a companion in Ruth and by the end of the first chapter, hopeless becomes hopeful as Naomi and Ruth arrive Bethlehem at the end of the famine, "just as the barley harvest was beginning" (Ruth 1:22).

In this Spring Edition of the MMA Newsletter we hope you see how, with your support, MMA is sharing hope, health and life and transforming lives in vulnerable places around the globe.



Pictured Above:
Prativa, from remote Nepal, collapsed unexpectedly at home and was diagnosed with rheumatic heart disease.
Pictured Left: Prativa with members of her family following successful surgery for her life-threatening illness.



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Responding to critical needs in Nepal

Support the MMA Nepal Wheelchair Appeal:

Direct Transfer:

BSB 033 112

Acct Name and Number: MMA Inc. 378527

Email mmaacts@gmail.com with your name and address for a receipt REF: Wheelchair appeal

Credit Card:

Via our website: www.medicalmissionaid.org.au

Select DHERSEC as your specific project

Cheque:

Medical Mission Aid,

PO Box 1142, Surrey Hills North, Vic 3127

include your name and return address for a receipt and a note to specify wheelchair appeal.



MMA is the primary funder of DHERSEC and its essential work in Nepal with socially disadvantaged residents. DHERSEC has an urgent need for wheelchairs amongst its clients.

After conducting extensive research, the MMA Board has agreed to purchase wheelchairs directly from a supplier in Kathmandu to give the gift of mobility to disadvantaged DHERSEC clients.

We are hoping to spend approx. \$10,000 Australian Dollars on this investment in the lives of vulnerable people.

Please consider contributing to our Nepal Wheelchair Appeal via the details on the left. Every dollar contributed will be committed directly to the purchase and supply of wheelchairs to DHERSEC in Dharan, Nepal.



Or scan the
QR code to
make a
donation

from the president

Dear MMA friends and supporters,

In our church sermon series this October, we have been studying the book of 1 Samuel. A key figure in the opening chapters is Hannah.

Hannah represents so many humble and faithful (and unsung) people in the Old Testament who trust in God no matter their circumstances. Hannah reminded me so much of our many humble and faithful MMA supporters.

Thank you all for your on-going support. In this newsletter, you will learn of some of the highlights of our projects over the past 6 months.

Our 2024 AGM has been completed. The new Board has 2 steps (find new Board talent and a new Executive officer) to complete the necessary changes following last year's disruption to MMA. Thank you in advance for your continued prayers as we undertake these final steps.



Photo: Former MMA Presidents Ruth Judd OAM and Jenny Bock with current MMA Board Chair, Barry Kelly.

The other key figure in 1 Samuel, is of course, Samuel, who, like other significant figures in the Old Testament, makes us aware of our human limitations, but also creates the need for a greater figure, the coming Messiah.

As we approach the coming season to celebrate the birth of our Messiah, on behalf of the MMA Board, I wish you and your loved ones, all of our God's peace, and joy for Christmas and a safe start to 2025.

Barry Kelly
MMA Board Chair



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MMA is winding up our ministry in South Sudan (for now)...

For three years, MMA has collaborated with Christian Health Initiatives (CHI) in South Sudan by funding health professional scholarships for medicine, public health and midwifery courses at the Jonglei Health Sciences Institute.

During FY2024, CHI handed responsibility for the institute over to the South Sudanese Ministry of Health which concludes MMA's work in South Sudan for now. South Sudan remains one of the most disadvantaged countries in the world facing a number of political, economic and humanitarian challenges with over 8 million people living in extreme poverty and severe food insecurity effecting over 7 million people.+

MMA will continue to explore opportunities to help this vulnerable nation and is grateful to have been able to contribute to the training of health professionals through its partnership with Christian Health Initiatives.

+ United Nations 2023 Country Annual Result Report (South Sudan)



Pictured: MMA is grateful to have contributed to the training of 42 health professionals to support the fragile South Sudanese health system.

Project Visit to Murgwanza Mission Hospital, Tanzania



Pictured left: An aerial photo of Murgwanza Mission Hospital, the Hospital was first built by Church Missionary Society Missionaries in the 1930's.

Pictured below: Clinical Officer Agness (Left) with MMA Board Secretary, Brenton Ward. Agness is currently serving as a Clinical Officer at Murgwanza Mission Hospital. MMA is supporting her financially to become a Doctor.

In June 2024, MMA volunteer Amanda, and MMA Board Member, Brenton visited Murgwanza Mission Hospital and our project partner, the Anglican Diocese of Kagera.

During our visit to Murgwanza, Amanda and Brenton meet Rev. Darlington Bendankeha, the Bishop of the Diocese of Kagera, and key hospital and program personnel. We also met Dr. Gilman, a current MMA health scholarship recipient who will shortly complete medical specialist training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Agness, a medical student and Rose, a Bachelor of Nursing student,

who will shortly commence their studies with the help of MMA scholarship funding. Please pray for our scholarship students and this hospital as MMA continues to explore opportunities to support its people, equipment and facilities.

We were also fortunate to meet with program facilitators of the Jitambue ("Self-realisation") reproductive health program for local high school students who reported the program is having a positive impact on the local community.



Thankyou to our supporters in the Riverina, NSW...

In October, MMA representatives were invited to visit our supporters in the Riverina, NSW. We were excited to share about MMA's ministry and how MMA shares hope, health and life with the most vulnerable communities in the most disadvantaged parts of the world.

Our presentation focused on MMA's work funding health professional scholarships to sustainably support fragile health systems and funding preventative health programs with Christian project partners such as our **Dental Community Outreach Program in Papua New Guinea (PNG)**. Through our partnership with Enga Baptist Health Services, this program has provided 1000 children in the remote PNG highlands with dental health education, it has conducted 13 dental primary care clinics, supported dental health professional training and screened people for oral cancer. Importantly, this program also educates people on the risks associated with chewing of the highly addictive betel nut, a habit that is a significant cause of oral cancer in this area.

Thankyou to our supporters in Deniliquin and Finley for their generous hospitality and support of Medical Mission Aid.



Left: Members of Deniliquin and Mathoura Uniting Churches hear about MMA's projects from Dr. Amanda Ward

Right: Supporters heard about MMA's vital support of community health programs in the PNG highlands.



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MMA's 2024 Christmas Appeal is now on. There are four easy ways below to make a donation and directly support the most vulnerable communities in the most disadvantaged parts of the world this Christmas:

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

CONTACT MMA

EXECUTIVE OFFICER/BOARD SECRETARY

0408 338 004
mmaexd@gmail.com

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.

AGM Wrap-Up:

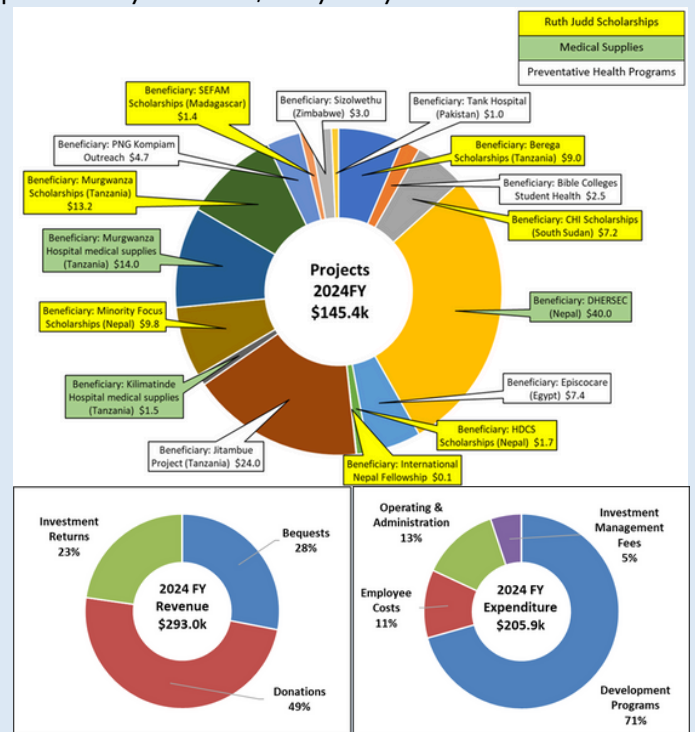
The 2024 Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 21st September at Christ Church Hawthorn.

MMA Board Member, Lara Hansen opened the meeting in prayer before Brenton Ward provided a report on MMA's activities for the preceding 12 months. Treasurer, Barry Kelly provided a summary of MMA's finances (pictured below) before an election of the 2025 Board of Directors took place. A special mention was made to the legacy left by MMA supporters who had passed away during the year.

Thankyou to all who attended the AGM.

If any supporters would like a copy of the MMA Annual Report, please contact Brenton at mmaexd@gmail.com

Pictured below: Extracts of the 2024 Finance Summary provided by Treasurer, Barry Kelly.



MMA Prayer Network

Did you know MMA has a prayer network that receives prayer updates and prays for our projects monthly?

If you would like to receive a 2025 Prayer Diary to encourage you to pray for MMA or join our online prayer network then please email Brenton at mmaexd@gmail.com

We plan to hold regular online prayer meetings in 2025 to prayerfully support the work of MMA and our Christian project partners around the globe.

Please keep MMA and its ministry in your prayers!