

Health Help International

Tidings



August
2021

As you can see, this edition of *Tidings* is much smaller than the one you have been used to - but it is accompanied by a booklet, *God's Special Children*, which we hope you enjoy reading.

Sometimes it is good to take a longer view of our overseas projects because, in dealing with day-to-day challenges, it is easy to forget how much progress has been made over time. Looking at the well-cared for and bustling schools in Nanga and Muumba, our Zambian projects, we remember their early days and how much the provision for the children has improved. And, in India, we remember the small beginnings of Asha Kiran Ashram and Happy Valley and the way they have grown to become beacons of hope in their communities.

These four stories also say much about how our charity has developed over the years. More and more, we are working with local organisations and their communities, helping them to realise their ambitions for their children. This is not to say that we have forgotten about the needs of individuals. We always try to respond to needs as they arise. At present, for example we are offering extra help to disabled children and their families in Zambia who have been hit hard by Covid, and in India we are bringing relief to those who have suffered the effects of a devastating monsoon season. But schools are special because they bring long term hope to a new generation of boys and girls.

Everything you read about in *God's Special Children* – the new classrooms, the hygienic sanitary blocks, the provision for the disabled, the facilities for community use and the improved standards in every area – are there because your generosity has helped to bring it all about. So, we say a big thank you on behalf of all the children whose life chances have been improved. We hope you find the stories of our four schools uplifting, and that you will continue to take an interest in their progress and to remember them in your prayers.

What can £1400 do in the UK?

In answer to this question you may be thinking 'not a lot' as prices here continue to rise but, in Zambia, it can still accomplish a great deal. It can feed and provide hand washing buckets, sanitizer and washing liquid for 100 disabled children each month.

Pastor Fundi, one of our trustees in Zambia, describes the plight of the local people:

'As the pandemic escalated, many people have died especially bread winners and household providers leading to a very high rate of poverty in Zambia.'

The disabled children were amongst those who were particularly affected. Prices have spiralled, parents who have survived Covid are often in quarantine, and there is no work.

Our dedicated team in Monze have endeavoured to take provisions to those who cannot travel, and the HHZ seamstresses have provided masks for all. Meanwhile the regular work of repairing wheelchairs and providing food for the children's ward in Monze Mission hospital and for the children of Muumba school continues.

In addition to this frontline work, HHI has managed to make huge improvements to the Nanga special school which you can read about in the enclosed booklet. We hope it makes you smile.



Disabled families gathered for the launch of the feeding programme.



Every month the disabled children receive maize, beans and sanitizer.

Recent Developments in India

In the accompanying booklet, we have written that “the future of Happy Valley is less secure than the other schools in this booklet.” Finding accommodation was a big problem. But we needn't have worried - Philip Mathew is nothing if not determined and resourceful. At the last minute, he found someone - a priest of the CSI (Church of South India) with a house that he was prepared to provide. The only drawback was that he required a large deposit - about £9,000. Happy Valley had £3,000 in hand from the deposit on the previous building, but where was the other £6,000 going to come from? Answer - from an incredibly generous supporter in Australia who sent us the money, along with the costs of fees and moving. Contracts have been signed, the money has been paid, and the people from the centre have moved in already. The house is in the same area, within sight of the Aruvikkara dam. And, even better, there is no rent to pay!

Asha Kiran Ashram has applied for planning permission for the new physiotherapy hall. This has been slow, as a result of the Covid pandemic and the state elections, but they are making progress and we are hoping that work will start once the monsoon season is over. Our core mission of providing life-changing and life-saving medication and surgery to individuals who would otherwise not be able to access it will, of course, also continue.



Pastor Wilson at the Neyyar Dam keeps in regular touch with us, passing on the needs of people in his area. The monsoon season has been particularly intense this year and caused very substantial damage to many houses in the area. We had money in hand from a recent bequest, so we were happy to use some of this money for repairs which are ongoing as we write. We'll provide a full report in the next *Tidings*, as well as on our website and *Facebook* page.

A Supporters' Evening with a Difference

A year and a half ago, most of us thought that zooming was something you did on motorbikes or in spaceships, but during the several lockdowns we have found ourselves getting used to a technology that would have been in the realm of science fiction when some of us were growing up.

Nevertheless, it has been an invaluable tool during these times when many felt isolated and cut off from fellowship with friends, family and churches. And, while we are looking forward to the time when we can all gather together in the same place, we thought it worthwhile to set up a supporters' evening using **Zoom**. The information you need to join us is included below.



Supporters' Evening

Friday 10th September 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Please join us, hear details of HHI's latest progress, share in worship and enjoy meeting up (electronically) with fellow supporters.

The **Zoom** link will be available on our website and on *Facebook* (see below) nearer the date of the meeting. We would also urge you to let us know of your intention to 'attend' by emailing us (address below) so that we can send you the **Zoom** link in return.

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