

Health Help International

Tidings



August
2022

After lots of problems, I was able to visit India once more and to see for myself that the new physiotherapy hall at **Asha Kiran Ashram** has been built and is being used for the benefits of the children and the local community.



New physiotherapy centre



Indoor official grand opening



Loganathan receiving therapy



Outdoor official grand opening



Patients, helpers and physiotherapists at work

Thank you to Ashworth and Blackwood Engineering Charitable Trusts and to our generous supporters who have made all this possible. Not only will the new hall provide a much better place to treat the children, but it has freed up valuable space elsewhere, and the centre is now offering physiotherapy to local villagers who cannot afford to pay for it.

For more about my trip and other news from India, please see inside.

Edmund

Asha Kiran Ashram

The school is once again its normal lively self. The staff - three special needs teachers and a full time physiotherapist, as well as helpers - are all highly skilled and committed. The number of children is increasing, and there is plenty of demand from other families. The intention is to build the roll up to 50 children, which will require more teachers.

At the official opening, we were also able to officially hand over various items that your generosity provided - callipers for Loganathan, and a specialist wheelchair for Thangaratnam, who has very severe cerebral palsy.



Thangaratnam in her new wheelchair that we provided for her. She likes to be where the action is, but tires quickly in a conventional wheelchair. This one will enable her to enjoy the stimulation of being with other children for much longer periods.

Our regular supporters will be familiar with Beulah, who was born without legs. We have provided prosthetic legs for her in the past, but she had outgrown her second set. Her third set have, for the first time, flexible knees and ankles - a big challenge, but one to which she is rising magnificently with her customary enthusiasm and determination. Please pray for her.



Beulah receiving, then wearing, her new prosthetic legs.



Santhosh's health is poor, so he is looking to transfer the work to Grace Ministries, a larger organisation. There are a lot of details to be worked out, but this would be a good way forward. Please pray that this can be done quickly and that it will work out well.

Plans for the future include a satellite special needs centre in a nearby town, training for carers, a home for adult disabled people who have no-one to look after them, and CCTV.

Happy Valley

Each day 37 to 40 children come to **Happy Valley** where they are looked after by 13 staff, including 4 special-needs teachers (one is a speech therapist), 1 craft person and a part-time physiotherapist. The children's ability to learn is often very limited, but with patience and persistence many of them are able to manage simple writing and reading in Malayalam and English, along with basic arithmetic. Physiotherapy and speech therapy are making all the difference to many children.



Vishnu (cerebral palsy) is now able to sit unaided in a normal chair, and can hold a cup on his own as a result of physiotherapy.

Plans for the future involve obtaining their own building. Philip is confident that he can get a plot of land by the end of the year; the challenge will then be to fund a suitable building. Building costs in Kerala are significantly higher than in Tamil Nadu, and have increased exponentially over the years. In addition, few building plots in the area are flat, so substantial earthworks will be needed before a large single-storey building can be constructed. It will probably have to be built in stages, much as Asha Kiran Ashram was. The advantages of this development will be permanence, stability, and eligibility for a substantial government grant.

Please pray that this will be successful. And please pray that the children at both Asha Kiran and Happy Valley will continue to develop to their full potential.

Medical Work

HHI's core medical help continues, as it has throughout the lockdown. Shibu has been working at the hospital throughout and, at the time of the visit, was looking after six patients who would not have been admitted were it not for him. Please pray for him, that his wonderful enthusiasm and compassion will continue.

Many people come to Philip or to Pastor Wilson seeking help. We do what we can. On our website we told the story of Babu, who needed two heart valves replaced; this would cost about £1600, but he had only been able to raise £1000. Thanks to your generosity we were able to send out £500, which was enough for the operation to go ahead.



Shibu with Mahesh, one of his patients.



Babu.

There are many other people in a similar situation, and Pastor Wilson often tells us about them. One that we have been able to help recently is Suja Thankachan, a very poor woman. Glaucoma has damaged the nerves in her eyes, and she needed surgery to prevent further damage. This would cost around 40,000 Rupees [£420]. She was able to raise some money, but not enough. She came to Pastor Wilson and pleaded for support. We were able to send Rs. 28,000, enough for the operation to go ahead.

Another was Bhasurangi, a widow whose only son is unable to walk after a stroke, and who is on dialysis after kidney failure. Now Bhasurangi has mouth cancer. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to make a big contribution towards the cost of her operation.

Please pray for these people, that their operations will be successful.

Let There Be Light!!

Yes, it has finally happened!!! The new dining room at Nanga school has been equipped with solar panels. There is now lighting and power for computers and television within the dining hall. This means that it can now be used as an extra teaching and learning space in the evenings, and as a recreation facility on the weekends. The head teacher, Mr Bweupe, in his letter of appreciation to HHI, explained that the solar lighting will ensure that the risk of snake bites is reduced as the students have improved visibility at night. Literacy levels will also improve as special needs students can receive extra tuition.

We are so pleased that this final stage of the Nanga school improvement project has come to completion. We sincerely thank our Scottish supporters for raising the £10,000 for the panels and their installation. It will certainly improve the lives of residential disabled students and help them to feel that they have not been forgotten. We are really looking forward to visiting Nanga school in September and, all being well, we hope to add to their IT resources with some extra laptops. We give thanks for a successful outcome, and we pray that the solar panel system will bring smiles and joy for a long time to come.



Nanga students can learn computer skills because of the solar panel installation.



Zambia Here We come

By the time you receive this edition of Tidings , Edmund Plummer, Alun and Jute Williams will be carefully packing their cases to make a long-awaited trip to Zambia. It has been three years since any of the HHI team have been able to visit Monze and catch up with the hard-working HHZ staff and trustees. The pandemic has kept us apart. There will be poignant memories as Carole Nzila will no longer be there to welcome us. Sadly, Carole died last October, and we know that she has been greatly missed by the staff in Monze and by the people who received her help. But there will be new people to greet, particularly Brenda Chileshe, who has taken on Carole's administrative role, and her assistant, Mr Frank Sichama. The itinerary includes visits to Nanga and Muumba schools where we will see the impact of the funding which has been so generously provided by all our supporters. We will also accompany the Menstrual Hygiene team on its work programme, and it will be a joy to see Priscilla, Grace and Bibian once again.

A very busy schedule is planned, and we hope to keep you all informed with a daily blog on our website - www.hhi.org.uk. So please do join us and see for yourselves how your giving is making a difference. We hope and pray that the trip will be safe and successful.



Ephesians Chapter 3:20

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us . . . this was one of the Bible verses which encouraged the formation of HHI over twenty years ago. It has inspired many people to support HHI, and, as a result, great things have been achieved, more than we or Ron Prosser ever imagined.

While preparing articles for this edition of Tidings, an email came directly from Dr Ibrahim of Monze Mission Hospital. He asks for help to buy a new autoclave machine for the hospital. Of the four machines which they have in the operating theatres, two are beyond repair and two are running on their last legs. They have tried all avenues possible to repair the machines but to no avail.

For those who are unsure of what an autoclave machine is, it provides a physical method for disinfection and sterilization. Autoclaves operate at high temperature and pressure to kill microorganisms and spores. Therefore, it is an essential piece of equipment to enable operations to be conducted safely.



A quote of £16,000 has been received by Dr Ibrahim for a replacement machine. This is a huge amount of money and more than we can manage at the moment but we live by faith. We have provided other equipment in the past and we will continue to do what we can. Here are a few examples of the equipment we have already sent to Monze Mission Hospital:



Oxygen concentrator



Diathermy machine



Suction machine

The Smile Says It All

Why is Mark Chimbulu smiling when, aged only 14, he has endured an amputation because of a suspected cancerous growth on his left knee? His mother is a widow, and, due to Mark's constant hospitalisation, she couldn't continue to earn the little income from her vegetable stall in the market. Mark needed £100 to make the hospital trips to Lusaka with his mother. Last March we were notified of his plight, and because of your giving, we were able to send the money, and Mark received the necessary treatment. A few months later he came into the HHZ Monze office to say "thank you", and his smile brought joy to Brenda and the staff. On the same day, in the same office, Mrs Hango'mba sat with her grandson, Dunford, on her knee. She was not smiling. She also needs £100 to take her four-year-old grandson to Lusaka teaching hospital for medical assessment. Dunford's mother abandoned him when he was two. He has multiple disabilities and is malnourished. Can we bring a smile to Mrs Hango'mba's face? With prayer and your help, we are sure we can.



Mark Chimbulu bringing a thank-you smile to the HHZ office.



Mrs Hango'mba who has come seeking funds to take her grandson to hospital.

Don't Forget the Leaf Cards

The artists in India are still painting and they need your support. Please take a moment to check out the range of cards available. The leaf cards are suitable for all sorts of occasions, and the painted leaves add a special touch to your greetings. Most of the cards are blank for your own message, so they can be used for almost any reason. In fact, they are so lovely you can send them for no reason.



The cards come in lots of bright colours and, as they are all hand-painted, each one is unique. All cards are £2.00 each.

To order cards go to www.hhi.org.uk or phone Kath on 07916 171 830.

Where there's a will . . .

When it comes to anything and everything HHI, it's always a 'can do' from SFHHI. Due to the grey cloud and forecast of rain, the hotly anticipated Car Boot Sale became a Tabletop Sale and Coffee Morning in Trinity Church Hall, Lethame Road, Strathaven where £520 was raised for the work of HHI.

Iain commented, "As it turned out, that was probably a much better idea. Everyone was in the one place, and it turned out to be quite a sociable occasion." Iain's networking skills generated enthusiasm for future events too, with the newbie Tabletoppers pledging to return!

Always a hit, delicious refreshments were provided by Ian Gow's catering team - strawberry tarts (thanks to Renie Gow) and pancakes topping the bill! The Leaf Cards were, as always, popular and Helen Baird sold some of Iain's very readable Tom Sutherland books too. There are no clouds in Strathaven, only silver linings!

So, here's the challenge . . .

We ask for your prayerful and practical support so that all of us, with God's help, may recognise silver lining opportunities and be inspired and willing to enthusiastically continue the work of HHI as He guides us.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28



Supporters' Evening

Our next Supporters' Evening has been organised for

Saturday 22nd October 2022

to be held at 7.30 p.m. in

Nant Coch Church

68 Fields Park Rd, Newport NP20 5BH

Please come along, hear details of HHI's latest progress, share in worship and enjoy refreshments with fellow supporters.



Hot News!

Our new website is nearing completion, and its features will be demonstrated at our October Supporters' Evening. (see above)



Need a mid-week speaker or someone to lead a Sunday service?

If you would like one of our team to speak about the work of HHI at a meeting of a church group or of an organisation to which you belong, or to lead worship at a Sunday Service, please contact us using the 'phone number or the email address given at the bottom of this page, and we'll do our best to accept your invitation.



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