

# Health Help International Tidings

## Safe arrival in Zambia

At midday on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022, three of the HHI team arrived safely in Lusaka airport after a long flight via Rwanda. They were met with great excitement by two of the HHZ trustees including Mr Gondwe, who is the hardworking chair of trustees. The HHI team pay for their own flights and none of the trustees in Zambia are salaried. All your money is used to help those in greatest need.

On arrival they had three suitcases full of stoma and colostomy packs which are unused and no longer required by patients in the UK. These cannot be returned to the NHS but are desperately needed in Zambia and so they were tightly packed to fill three 23kg cases.



The 8 members of the HHZ staff gave a very warm welcome to the HHI volunteers. Together they spent two weeks visiting beneficiaries like the special needs schools, individuals needing help and enterprises supported by HHI funding. The new administrator for HHZ, Brenda Chileshe, received hours of training on accounts keeping. Rest assured that every kwacha/penny has been accounted for.

Monze Mission Hospital staff were delighted with the stoma supplies which were handed over. They will help to keep the Monze colostomy patients in good health, and reduce infections.

We give thanks for their safe and successful time in Zambia, and pray that HHI can continue to support the HHZ family in serving those who are in greatest need.



## Sustainable success

During our September visit to Zambia, we were really heartened by the stories of individuals who are now making a living, supporting themselves and their families because of training and equipment received from HHZ. These disabled people would otherwise be dependent on handouts. Thank you to all our loyal supporters for enabling HHZ to provide training and education. We give thanks to God for such good outcomes.



**Lynn Himanga** has been physically disabled since she was four years old but, thanks to a knitting machine she received 10 years ago from the HHI container, along with free training from the HHZ seamstresses, she now makes school jerseys for all the surrounding rural community. She supports her extended family and she has three sons of her own. HHZ keeps in regular contact to ensure her knitting machine is serviced.

**Grace Mushiba** is only 19 years old but, because of recent amputations, she is unable to walk or seek employment. She, too, has received HHZ training in tailoring skills and is now able to make shirts, skirts and dresses to order using the new sewing machine she received from HHZ.



**Prisca Hatembo** received a HHI wheelchair many years ago so she could attend school. After completing school, she attended teacher training college. She was funded by HHI throughout college and was then employed as a teacher at Muumba school. She has recently been promoted to senior teacher. Congratulations Prisca!

## Successful education for those with special needs

Visiting Nanga Special School was an absolute joy. The students care for each other and enjoy a good environment. There is a borehole, a productive irrigation scheme, a dining-cum-recreation room with solar panels, and easy access to flush toilets with handwashing basins. The headteacher, Mr Bweupe, was extremely grateful for all these improvements which HHI has supplied. 'People think that we are a private school' he said.



The new dining/recreational room has solar panels which provide power for light and IT equipment. The 35 disabled students who reside in Nanga school are well catered for in terms of education and pastoral care.

The chairperson of HHI, Dr Edmund Plummer, handed over three laptops, which the Nanga students can use with solar power. Cabbages, bananas, sweet corn, onions and tomatoes are all ready to harvest because of the successful Active Daily Living scheme with irrigation provided by HHI. We give thanks for all the blessings enjoyed by Nanga school.



## Challenges ahead

There are always great needs in a country such as Zambia, which is still classed as one of the poorest in the world with 60% of the people living below the poverty line.

HHI has managed to transform Nanga Special School, but Choongo Disabled Unit has similar needs. Monze Mission Hospital requires necessary, but expensive, equipment, and one individual is lying on a dirt floor because he was born with cerebral palsy and has been unable to get help.



This is the building in which the house-mothers prepare meals for the disabled students of Choongo school. The cost of providing a kitchen/dining area, as we did for Nanga Special School, will be about £6,000.

A new autoclave is desperately needed by Monze Mission Hospital before the one which has been repaired ceases to function. Without an autoclave operations cannot be carried out, as surgical instruments cannot be sterilized to the standard required. A new one is expensive at around £20,000. Some funding has already been raised but more needs to be found before we can meet this need.



Matelo Razolo is 36 years old, and his life is grim. He lies on the floor all day in the dust and dirt. He is incontinent, and his only carer is his aged father. Matelo's mother left him when he was young. The shelter under which Matelo spends his time is poor and will disintegrate with the coming rains. How can his situation be

improved? A new home? A bed? Incontinence pads? Funds for him to enter residential care if they can be found?

We ask God for help so that we may be able to find the resources to meet some of these challenging needs.

## Thanal House – a refuge and home for destitute women

Things are more or less back to normal in India after the disruption of the Covid pandemic and lockdowns. Edmund is planning to visit in January, so there should be a lot of first-hand stories for our next *Tidings*! As you can see from what follows, the work goes on.



*Salini (centre) collecting Mamadha (right)*

Shortly after our visit in April, Salini was contacted by the police. Mamadha, a young woman from Odisha (Orissa), was wandering around. Salini and Shanil took her back to Thanal. She had come to Kerala looking for a job. Salini contacted the family who promised to pay for her travel costs back home, but the money never arrived. After a week Salini realised that it wasn't going to come and agreed that Thanal would pay. So, her brother and a friend came and took her home.

Salini continues: "For the past 3 years, we have not been able to find new supporters and we have been struggling every day. After the arrival of Covid, local support and help was not available. Many who used to help regularly stopped helping completely, but God has miraculously worked so far, and God will continue to work. Our situation will change."

Salini is expecting her second child about now. There have been some difficulties. Please pray that these will be overcome and that Salini will have an easy birth. And please pray that Salini will be able to find more support for Thanal House – our finances are stretched to their limit, so we cannot increase our contribution.

## Work around the Neyyar Dam



The work around the Neyyar Dam with Pastor Wilson continues to flourish. Every month we send out about £500 which covers the cost of training disadvantaged women in tailoring skills, a contribution to the cost of a sewing machine or a goat

for an impoverished family, help with ongoing or one-off medical costs, and the cost of administering over a hundred credit unions.

When we can afford it, we also make a larger contribution to someone who has a specific medical need – hospitalisation and/or an operation. One such was Joel, a seven-year-old boy, who was admitted to a hospital ICU with viral fever. The family is very poor and the cost was over Rs. 22,000 (£250). We were able to help. He completed his treatment, recovered and returned home.



We were also able to provide books, pens, pencils, erasers and geometry sets for 32 children.

As Pastor Wilson says, “Many families convey their thanks and have smiling faces.” All because of your generosity.

## Happy Valley



The centre recently bought another second-hand small school bus which was funded by our supporters in Scotland. This provides an instantly recognizable, safer and more appropriate vehicle for transporting the children than the previous Omni van. The two buses run about 236km every school day.

Philip Matthew, writes: *Thank you for your valuable support for the special school.*

*There are 63 children on the roll, 44 of whom are coming regularly. We teach language and maths. We provide physiotherapy and speech therapy for the special needs children. For older children, above 19 years old, we arrange vocational training. We celebrated Independence Day on August 15, hoisting the national flag in our school. And we also celebrated the Onam festival for which we arranged a special food with sweet payasam. We also provide breakfast and noon meals - our president arranged the fund for breakfast. Our children and parents are very happy.*

*Once again we thank you for all you are doing for us.*

*With love. Philip*




For an update on the work of **Asha Kiran Ashram**, see our website, in particular <https://hhi.org.uk/latest-news-from-asha-kiran-ashram/>

Dear Friends,

As you will know the Royal Mail is striking throughout November and December. In order to save time sending out your Alternative Catalogue gifts, an alternative to the paper form is to use the online ordering system on our new website. Simply go to 'Shop' on the main page and click on 'Alternative Gifts' and 'Purchase Gift Online'.

But if you prefer to use a paper application, please use the form we sent with the last *Tidings*. Further copies can be printed off from our website at the same page as the online order.



**Are you using our website**

**OPERATING ACROSS SOUTHERN INDIA AND ZAMBIA**  
working with communities and individuals

HEALTH HELP INTERNATIONAL AIMS TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THE LESS FORTUNATE IN OUR WORLD

Providing help to both individuals and communities, our work is currently focussed in India and Zambia. Our projects are wide ranging, concentrating on health and education. From supplying infrastructure for hospitals and clinics and medical equipment to funding medical and to those needing treatment. Schools and training centres are supported across these areas for both adults and children that have disabilities.

Our work in the UK is undertaken by a small number of volunteers, who not only give up their time and energy freely but also contribute financially to HHI's work. This ensures all the money that is contributed by our supporters is distributed to our projects overseas.

100% OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION GOES DIRECT TO OUR PROJECTS

## 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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