

# Health Help International

# Tidings



August  
2024

## Caring for the Choongo Children

Congratulations to you all!! The HHI 25-year anniversary challenge to raise funds for a much-needed dormitory is progressing very well. Thanks to your amazing 'brick buying', at the time of writing, 73% of the total cost for the new dormitory for the disabled students at Choongo School has been raised. Building blocks, river sand, building sand, gravel and crushed stones have been procured and the walls are now up to roof height. What an amazing achievement! The students are really excited by the progress being made.

Mr Musila, the head teacher of the Choongo all-inclusive Primary/Secondary School is absolutely delighted and surprised by the kindness shown by you, our HHI supporters, to help the disabled students in his school.

The building will include cupboard space to allow the residential students to keep safely some of their own personal possessions. Ultimately, the extra dormitory will allow the school to enrol more learners with special needs so that more children will not be left behind.

It is our hope and prayer that by the end of 2024 the dormitory will be complete and with your continuing contributions we may even have some funds to purchase necessary beds and mattresses!



In his letter of appreciation Mr Muzila writes to say that the materials bought are of good quality and he is confident that the building will be of a high standard. He concludes, *'I say thank you so much for hearing our cry. May the good Lord continue blessing you and the team as you continue working for the needy around the world'*.

## India update

HHI has a number of dedicated Indian partners with whom we work. These have set up their own organisations and many of them were doing wonderful things before we got involved – but with your generous support they are able to do even more. And one of the delights of working in India is that our money goes a long way – often ten times as far as it would go in the UK, or even more.



All of them are inspirational, but Shibu is particularly so. Shibu works tirelessly in the main teaching hospital in Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), looking after the basic needs of the many patients who have no-one to do this for them, and who wouldn't be treated if he wasn't there. No job is too menial or too hard for him – indeed, he seems to relish it. If a patient needs 24/7 care, he will be there, sleeping under their bed.

He recently told us about the eight patients that he is looking after. Several of these have met with accidents, another has chest pains, and one has a recurrent infection. All of them are benefitting from his dedicated care – a true work of grace.

In our last *Tidings* we described how successful the women's credit unions (self-help groups) that we foster have become, so much so that another administrator (AKA animator) was needed.

The good news is that another animator has been appointed already. Pastor Wilson writes:

*"We selected an Animator from April. Her name is Mrs. Nahu. She has one child. He is studying. And she adopted one girl. Her sister passed away four years back. She was working with our organization. When her sister died suddenly Mrs Nahu adopted her sister's daughter."*

She is an excellent choice, and she has already started nine more groups. Each group has 10 to 20 members, and the whole family benefits. So that is another 500-600 people who have been empowered to lift themselves out of poverty, in addition to the 12,000 or so that we are helping already.





Manchu was able to buy two younger goats

Santha's goat has already produced two kids

When we were in India, a number of people asked us if we could give them a goat. Goats eat anything, breed rapidly (two sets of twins a year), are a good source of milk and can be sold for meat at a great price, so are an ideal way of helping a poor family to lift themselves out of poverty. We were able to leave money for everyone who asked, and we have recently heard that they now have their goats.

And HHI's core work of providing medical help goes on. Every month we are able to send out money to fund operations or other expensive medical treatment – our usual contribution is usually about half the total cost, so about £300: the patient and their family and friends then provide the rest.

One such is Shivalakshmi, a 13-year-old girl who had been studying at school until SLE (Lupus, an autoimmune disease) struck, forcing her to suffer at home.

Treatment is available in the form of daily pills, but these cost about £200 a month, as much as, if not more than, her father can earn as an autorickshaw driver. We were able to provide money for a month's treatment, but the need continues.



Shivalakshmi's mother came to collect a contribution to her daughter's medicines



Another person we have been able to help recently is Solomon. An MRI scan revealed a growing tumour in his brain. Fortunately, it was operable, but where could he get the money for it? A regular HHI supporter stepped in, and we were able to make a great contribution. The operation has gone ahead, and Solomon is now recuperating at home.

And finally, Esther Ratnam, a widow without support from close family, had mouth cancer. The cost was beyond her, but thanks to your generosity we were able to make a good contribution and she too has had a successful operation.

All these people are keenly aware that they are only alive and well as a result of so many people who give so wonderfully, and every month we hear their grateful thanks. So thank you very much, our loyal supporters, who make this possible!



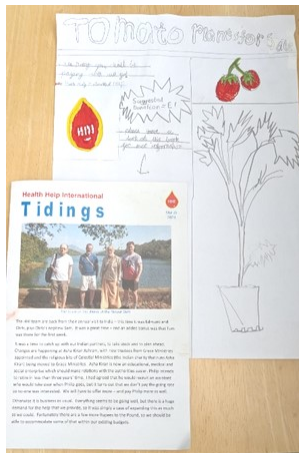
### **Inspirational Fund-Raising Activities**

This year we have been busy raising awareness of HHI, and with this our donations have increased, which means we are able to do more to maintain and expand our projects in Zambia and India.

Here in Wales, the HHI team has been invited to speak at U3A meetings and two church groups, and as always, we take our craft table with us! New friends and our valued longstanding friends continue to find ways to help our work, by donating hand-made cards and old ties to be reused to make craft items.

The Big Picture Charity Film's productions continue to inspire everyone who views them, either at meetings or on our website [hhi.org.uk](http://hhi.org.uk), and accordingly our donations increase.

Jute and Alun delivered a wonderfully inspiring church service to their new congregation which has resulted in many of them becoming generous supporters of HHI.



Amongst our supporters we have two entrepreneurs - Barnaby (aged 8 years) and his little brother Jacob (aged 5 years) sold tomato plants from their garden, raising an amazing £87!

Up in Scotland, Cafe Bridge (see next article) has yet again raised HHI profile in the communities around Strathaven, generating an enormous income of donations. The Round Strathven 50 cycling event is due shortly, yet another inspirational fund-raising event.

The Choongo Challenge has inspired a music concert in Abergavenny recently and we look forward to the main event for the Choongo Challenge using three different venues - a Musical Concert arranged by our patron Mr Ronald Prosser.



We invite you all to put on your thinking hats and come up with more ideas to generate donations – and please let us know. Be inspired, be HHI happy!

## Café Bridge



Presentation of Café Bridge Day prizes

In June 2024 Strathaven Friends of HHI ran their second Café Bridge Day. This, again was a great success with bridge players coming from far and wide to play in cafes and restaurants in Strathaven.

The day was rounded off with a meal in Taal, the award winning Indian restaurant in the town, and then a superb concert in Avendale Church in the evening. As a result of the day £2,000 was passed on to HHI for the Choongo Challenge Appeal.



Lunchtime in one of the cafés



**In your prayers, please give thanks to God for His wonderful provision, and for all that He has achieved, though HHI, to improve the welfare of the less fortunate in our world.**





# CHOONGO SCHOOL DORMITORY APPEAL



I would like to help Choongo School build a new dormitory for its students.

Please purchase, on my behalf, the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ brick(s) @ £4.00 each . . . . . £ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ set(s) of 6 bricks @ £20.00 per set . . . £ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ row(s) of bricks @ £40.00 per row . . . . £ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: . . . . £ \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to **Gift Aid** your donation, and thus increase its value by 25%, please tick the box below:

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.



## Reminder (1)



If you are not currently using 'easyfundraising' whenever you shop online, please consider doing so. Every time you use the system, HHI receives a donation, if you have nominated us to do so! It's easy to join: go to

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

## Reminder (2)

**Indian Leaf cards:** A gentle reminder to all of our supporters that the hand-painted leaf cards are always available from the "shop" on the website (<https://www.sfghi.org.uk/shop2/>).

These cards make any greeting extra special whether it's a 'Happy Birthday', 'Get Well', 'Thank You', or just 'Thinking of You', and there is a wide range of Christmas cards (no it's not too early!) The cards are still £2.00 each – a real bargain! If you prefer to phone your order through call Kath 07916 171 830.

## Reminders (3 & 4)

Please use the **Alternative Gift** catalogue online at <https://hhi.org.uk/get-involved/alternative-gifts/> or by post (in which case, ask us for a form by email or phone).

Have a good look at our **website**, particularly the **films** section, at <https://hhi.org.uk/films/>

## 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.



**Health Help International**

(registered charity no.1078353)

**Stow Park Church Centre, Brynhyfryd Road, Newport NP20 4FX**

tel: 01633 671055 email: [office@hhi.org.uk](mailto:office@hhi.org.uk)



web: [www.hhi.org.uk](http://www.hhi.org.uk)

