



Health Help International,  
Registered Charity: 1078353  
Stow Park Church Centre,  
Brynhyfryd Road, Newport,  
South Wales, NP20 4FX  
tel: 01633 671055  
email: healthhelp@live.co.uk  
web: www.hhi.org.uk

Produced by the HHI publication team



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Health Help International's



News and Reports from Far and Near  
May 2010



## Supporters' News

After the coldest winter in 31 years, we are being treated to a spectacular display of spring blossom and clear blue skies. We are always grateful for reminders that new beginnings are possible and, at HHI, we strive to help people in difficulties to get a new start in life. This magazine gives some idea of how we attempt to do this.

Staying on the spring theme for a moment - our annual sale of the hand painted daffodils on Banyan tree leaves went especially well this year. The shoppers at Asda and Tesco did us proud and we managed to raise £1000 for our work.

From time to time, we also share with you the things that concern us. A particular challenge at the moment is funding the annual container to Zambia. We are always grateful to Hazel and Ceinwen. Through their stall in Pontypool Market, they contribute hugely to the cost of this vital work. This year, however, HHI is finding it difficult to make up the deficit and we are asking once again if you can help us. You may wonder whether or not it is worth it. A couple of facts may help you decide. Last year the goods donated freely for the container amounted to £60,000 in value and were of direct help to those in Zambia who most needed them. This year we have an ultrasound scanner to send which alone is valued at £60,000! It is unlikely that we will find the funds to send the container out in May, but we hope that it will be on its way before the end of the summer.

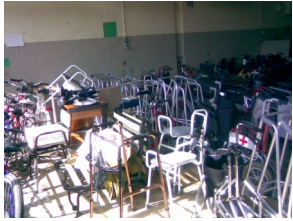
The list of people and organisations to thank grows every time we send out a new edition of 'Tidings' and we hope we haven't missed out anyone on our *Thank You* page. This time we must say a special thank you to Johnsey's Estate. They have provided a wonderful, dry and very spacious storage space in Mamhilad. Without it we couldn't collect and send to Zambia the mobility aids and other goods which make such a difference to peoples' lives.

At the risk of exhausting your patience and generosity, can we ask that you consider giving regularly through banker's standing order? Knowing that we have a regular income helps us so much in our planning. We have included a standing order mandate for you, together with a gift aid form, if you feel you can help us in this way.

Finally, we wish you a happy Springtime and thank you again for making our work possible.

## Container Appeal

We estimate that it will send a container to



cost around £8,000 to Monze this year.



### Can you help?

Please send any donations in the enclosed envelope. Any amount will be welcomed. £10 will pay for a cubic metre of space to be filled with mobility aids and other equipment to help our partners in Zambia.



### Thank you very much

All the ladies in the Blaenavon Dorcas League and the ladies in Caerphilly URC, who are busy knitting garments for babies and young children in Zambia.

All the churches who supported HHI by purchasing hand painted Indian leaves and the ladies in Stow Park Church who bagged and counted all the leaves as they arrived from India.

Hazel and Ceinwen who maintain regular funding for the container through out the year with their tombola sales.

Hope and Market Square Uniting Church for continuous fund raising through card making and coffee sales.

Nigel Counsell, Phillip Counsell and Cardiff Coin Dealers who convert all our donated foreign coins into valuable sterling with out taking any commission!

## Banker's Order

To the Manager ..... Bank

Address: .....

.....

Post code:

.....

Sort Code:            /            /  
.....

Please debit my account, number .....

and pay the sum of £ ..... each month\*/quarter\*/year\*

beginning on the first day of ..... (enter date)

for \* ..... years / \*until further notice            \* delete as appropriate

to:

The Manager, Lloyds TSB  
42 Commercial Street  
Newport  
South Wales  
NP20 1WX

Account in the name of "Health Help International"

Account no. 0016215

Sort Code: 30 - 96 - 00

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Bank payments to quote  
this reference:



## Gift Aid Declaration



Registered Charity no. **1078353**

Please treat all donations made by me to Health Help International as Gift Aid Donations

Full Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Post code: ..... Tel No. ....

I enclose a single donation of £ .....

**OR**

I pledge the sum of £ ..... each month\*/quarter\*/year\*

beginning on the first day of ..... (enter date)

for \* ..... years / \*until further notice \* delete as appropriate

**Declaration:** I am UK taxpayer and have paid an amount of tax at least equal to the tax refund being claimed by the charity from my donations. I will inform the charity if I do not pay an amount of tax that equals the tax deducted from this or any future donations.

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....

Office use only

Schools, hospitals, surgeries and the British Red Cross who have already donated so many valuable mobility aids, medical equipment and furniture which will bring benefit to so many disabled people. Thanks to the people who transported them freely to Mamhilad.

Rev Bill Stewart and churches in Strathaven, Lanarkshire whose Holy Week collections for HHI amounted to nearly £1000.

Iain Park who held a supporters' evening in Strathaven and shared his India pictures and experiences, raising a further £650.

The folk of St John's Church in Harrow who ate 'Smarties' throughout Lent and then filled the empty tubes with notes and coins. They raised over £800 for seed and fertilizer for disabled communities in Zambia.

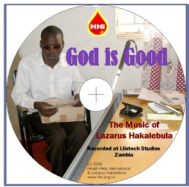
The League of Friends of Deeside Community Hospital for their generous donation of an ultrasound scanner.

### Donation Day in Zambia

There is so much good news to report from Zambia that it is difficult to know where to begin but if you had visited the HHI Compound in Monze on April 28<sup>th</sup> then you would have had a flavour of all the aspects of HHI's success. On this day 9 medical institutions from the Southern Province sent representatives to the HHI premises to receive free donations of medical items ranging from baby weighing scales to reading glasses. Donations in Zambia do not happen lightly or without proper invitations and correct procedures have to be followed. Senior Government Officials, the District Commissioner and Chiefs attended along with living beneficiaries of HHI's charitable work.



Prisca Hatembo was invited to attend in her wheelchair to represent the many disabled school children who have been helped with school fees and mobility aids. Moscow Chilindu, who has completed his 3year training sponsored by HHI, was also invited. Moscow is testimony to the fact that Albino Africans can become qualified Clinical Officers and do not need to hide away from society because of their condition. Chisonga, the motor vehicle trainee who has dwarfism was there as testimony that someone with a physical disability can achieve a successful place at a vocational college.



Everyone received a cool drink and a bun while they listened to the music of Lazarus's CD playing in the background. Lazarus was there too, promoting his two CDs recently received from the UK. Each CD has a Braille label on its case so that he and visually impaired customers can distinguish between the two titles '*God is Good*' and '*Atukomane*'.

The invited guests had a wonderful opportunity to experience HHI hospitality and learn about the skills and resources available to them from HHI, such as the printing facilities, the making of hospital operating gowns by the sewing department, the library and the recording studio. They also heard about the success HHI has had in the community and how the disabled group Chipembele have started to repay some of the cost of the hammermill from their profits. This will mean that HHI can in turn finance further charitable work.

All in all it was an excellent day which happened only because of your financial support and God's guidance. You too can celebrate our success as they did in Monze.

#### **Pictures from the Prison**



For the first time in 5 years, since HHI started giving free medical assistance to the Monze Open Prison and the police cells, we have been granted permission to take some pictures of this important Christian outreach. The inmates are treated each week by Linus, the HHI clinical officer and last month two British medical students attached to Monze Mission Hospital assisted him. Orijit and James, from Oxford University, have been staying in the HHI Guest House and they were appalled by the terrible conditions in the prison which are contributing to the poor health of the inmates.

If the inmates have any relatives they are often too poor to travel to help by bringing clothes, soap or food to supplement the poor diet. In Zambia the cold season is approaching and there



### **An Opportunity for a Volunteer**

Have you a couple of afternoons a week spare?  
Would you be interested in running and developing our online shop selling goods from India and Zambia?

IT skills and an interest in selling would be helpful.

Plenty of job satisfaction and great to put on your CV

Free tea and lots of 'thank yous'

If you're interested, contact Jute Williams at the HHI Office  
tel 01633 671055

### **Supporters' Evening**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2010

Nant Coch Church

68 Fields Park Road,

Newport NP20 5BH

7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

**Come along and join in a time of worship, receive up-to-date information about HHI's work in India and Zambia and enjoy refreshments in the company of fellow supporters.**



## North Wales School links with Zambia

Over the last few months we have worked to establish a school link between Drury County Primary School in North Wales with Choongo Basic School which is just south of Monze. The link will provide an opportunity for school children from two different countries and with very different cultures, to share stories and experiences. The good news is that the link is now set up and ready for the first exchange of information and letters. Of course it would be nice to set up e-mails and internet contact but unfortunately Choongo School does not have electricity let alone computers and network links.



Choongo School teaches able and disabled children. In fact, some of the pupils are over 21 - because of their disabilities they have missed a lot of education. Most of the children come from remote areas and board at the school. Their parents are small scale farmers who grow crops, mainly maize, for themselves and their families. The school has

many needs including a special needs teacher and a new dormitory with bunks. The toilets are 50 metres from the building and unsuitable for some of the disabled children and the water supply is 250 metres away. Add to this lack of electricity and snakes in the grounds and you can imagine the difficulties. There is plenty of land and this could be used for sport and games if they had the basic equipment and funds to create a play area. HHI will do all it can to help. We are sending out desks, books and shelves they need and we are planning to install a play area.

At a recent visit to the Drury School, Chris Byrne - the North Wales representative for HHI, spoke to the children in their assembly and shared names, photos and ideas for the link. The programme has the backing of Mark Biltcliffe, the headteacher and one class has produced a pack of information about themselves and their community. The materials will be sent to Mrs Himukama, the deputy head at Choongo, which will start to build the relationship between both the schools and the pupils.

The link will enable the children in Drury to understand the needs at Choongo. We hope all those taking part will find the link both rewarding and informative. Who knows how it might develop!

will be no protection from the low temperatures which will result in many cases of pneumonia. The whole scenario is grim and hopeless. HHI is the only organisation which offers outreach visits to these two institutions in Monze and it is the only time the inmates are shown care and compassion. As a result of the money you raise, 54 men were treated in the months of February and March.

### A visit to our work in India (as reported by Dr Edmund Plummer)



Three of us - trustee Chris Byrne, supporter Iain Park and I - went out to India for 10 action-packed days in February. It was a very useful visit and what we saw was very encouraging. Things are going well and we were able to see ways in which that some of them could run even better. We also identified

some other projects that we would like to get involved with when funds allow.

The highlight of our visit must be travelling over to Tamil Nadu, where Asha Kiran Ashram, our centre for disabled children, has been set up over the last year by our partner Pastor Santhosh, with funding from Newport and Strathaven Scouts. This has enabled us to build a large school-room for the children, plus four other rooms - a store room, two offices and a physiotherapy room. At present, there are 33 children on the books, of whom about 25 come on any one day. Each child has been assessed and has a number of goals assigned to them. Two teachers then help the children to work towards their personal goals, helped by three care assistants. A physiotherapist comes each day and provides exercises for the children who need them. The more able-bodied children are also encouraged to join in some basic sports and games which are cleverly structured to build up their coordination and physical abilities. The children are given lunch and their physical needs are looked after. The result has been great gains in what the children can do, even in the few months that the centre has been running.

The centre is the first of its type in the area and is attracting a lot of interest from the local government; I was able to speak to one

government official, who was full of praise for what is happening. This is a wonderful Christian witness in a Hindu-dominated part of India.

Since our visit, the state government has given official recognition to the centre; this will entitle it to a small state grant, as well as enabling it to operate as a residential centre for the most needy children.



There have also been developments at Thanal House, our home for destitute women. Some of the residents have died; but they have died having received the care of Sam and Valsala and having been shown the love of Jesus. Some 28 remain. The building has been developed and a large room has been added, where a number of the women are learning craft skills. This gives them the opportunity to make a small contribution to the running costs and also gives them the dignity of helping to provide for themselves. A wall has also been built, creating a large safe area in front of the building, where the women can go to enjoy the sunshine and do a bit of gardening and look after the animals.

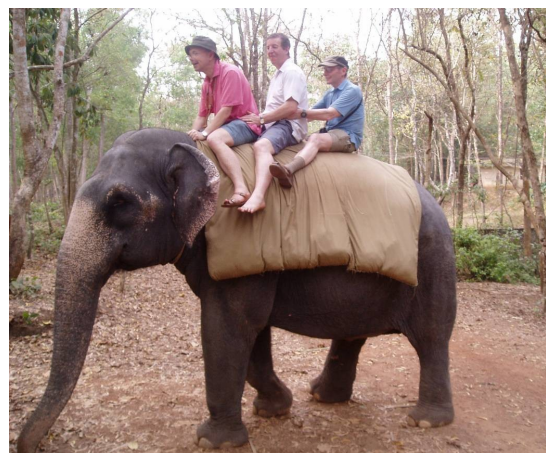
Another home for the destitute that we help to support is Shanti Bhavan, Rani and Johnny's home for destitute men and women. Your contributions make HHI the only regular contributor to this wonderful place. A supporter gave us some money and we were able to use some of it to put a new roof on the building. Not only does this make it watertight - something that is very necessary during the monsoon season - but the builders have added a few sheets of plastic into the corrugated iron roof, making it much lighter and airier. A number of the walls have also been rendered and painted, making a huge difference to the place.

But HHI is not just about projects; it is primarily about individuals and we were able to meet many of these. One of these was Lali, who was involved in a motor accident and who we have been helping with operations. Last year he was bedridden; now he is able to move around on crutches and is running a small restaurant on the road out of Nedumangad. While we were there we met Sanilkumar, whom HHI helped following a severe motorcycle accident. Sanilkumar and his whole family are now Christians.

There were many more who came for help. People like Mohammed, who came with a letter from the local Imam in support of his appeal for help with a heart operation. It was wonderful to be able to give him some of the money that you provide so generously and to pray for him - in Jesus name!

The needs in India are huge. One place that we visited was Shanti Maduram, another home for the destitute, where about 100 men live in cramped conditions. They have asked if we could help them by buying a plot of land next door, which would enable them to expand. We have sent out enough money for a small plot, but ideally they would like more land and help with a new building.

Another work that we would like to get more involved with is Janini - a home in Nedumangad for disabled children. It is run by five women of various religions: they have lots of vision and energy, but not much money. Boundary Mukkam is a home for orphans, which is currently financed by a civil servant out of his salary - but the needs are more than he can afford and we have been asked to help. So the list goes on - a list of little organisations run on enthusiasm and faith, but which would run so much better if they had a bit more money; a list of individuals in need of an operation or of medicine, of a job or a little bit of seed capital to set up in business or to pay off a debt. It is thanks to you that we are able to meet so many needs and to demonstrate the love of Jesus in practical action.



It wasn't all hard work though; we were able to do some fun things as well. One thing that all visitors to India ought to do at some time is to have a ride on an elephant and Tom was able to arrange this for us. You're a long way up on an elephant and there isn't much to grab hold of! It was indeed a memorable visit.