

AWARENESS

www.survive-miva.org Getting others back on the road to self-help

Missionary Vehicle Association - UK Registered Charity No. 268745



FREE The twice-yearly magazine of SURVIVE-MIVA - **JANUARY - JUNE 2018 - ISSUE 63**

NOW AVAILABLE: QUALITY SERVICES FROM TRAINED PERSONNEL

*Sr Fomenky Memorial Clinic,
Molyko, Diocese of Buea, Cameroon*

Built and owned by the Catholic University Institute of Buea, a town of some 150,000 people located at the foot of Mount Cameroon, and capital of the Southwest Region of the country, this clinic is run by the Sisters of St Therese of the Child Jesus, an indigenous Order founded in Buea in 1963.

"We are located in an area in which the average life expectancy is 45 years for men and 46 for women," said Sr Superior Sr Mary Kombe SST, our contact based at the Clinic, "and we have continuous deaths from curable diseases. The absence of high quality medical care in the ten villages surrounding us - the biggest, Wokoka, has 16,000 inhabitants - combined with low levels of literacy and high levels of poverty account for part of this, as does the prevalence of malaria, typhoid, TB, dysentery, HIV, and other related diseases which become killers when the immune system is attacked."

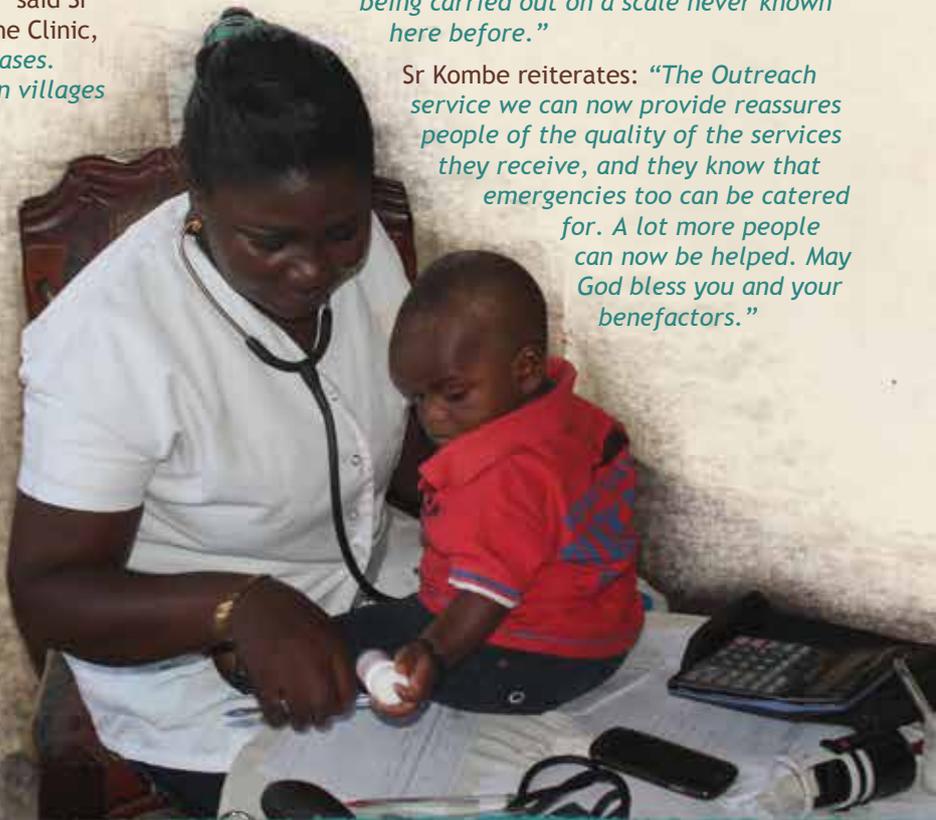
The Sisters provide the only medical cover of any reliability - *"misuse of over-the-counter drugs, often fake ones in convincing packaging, and poor, ineffective traditional practices are common"*, Sister tells us. What help they could give, without transport, was limited by the distances involved, and this was what first motivated them to call on our assistance.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to provide a grant for them to acquire a sturdy four-wheel-drive vehicle to take their skills and experience out to the whole of their catchment area, as you can see, and also help them now cover places even further afield.



"The availability of this vital asset the locals call 'the Big Vehicle' has increased both our access to them, and our ability to transport vital laboratory testing equipment and genuine medications," Sr Kombe has informed us. "Crucially, it has made possible the regular presence in the villages of trained personnel, including a doctor, a nurse and a lab technician. This means that test kits and reagents for rapid testing and confirmation of diseases is being carried out on a scale never known here before."

Sr Kombe reiterates: *"The Outreach service we can now provide reassures people of the quality of the services they receive, and they know that emergencies too can be catered for. A lot more people can now be helped. May God bless you and your benefactors."*



OVER
40
YEARS'
SERVICE

Read on to see how your support is providing practical, everyday mobility to our beneficiaries overseas, and how your contributions bring hope to so many...

Who's who at...

SURVIVE-MIVA

Karen Moss

Graphic Designer



Karen Moss, from Gecko Design, has been working as our graphic designer for over 15 years now, and is responsible for the design and layout of all our literature.

This magazine is just one example of her work, which also includes the production of our prayer cards and bookmarks, as well as (more recently), our Annual Accounts and Trustees' Annual Report, and our annual Vehicles Update booklet.

She says: *"I really enjoy working with everyone at SURVIVE-MIVA, and over the years we have continued to develop the brand so it represents them and their work clearly. They provide real help for the fantastic work those they support are doing - work which takes place in very difficult circumstances."*

We much appreciate your skills, Karen - many thanks.

Patron:

Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool

Chairman of Trustees:
Paul Robbins

Appeals Organiser:
Sue Valentine

Finance Officer:

Margaret Jackson

Office Volunteer:
Margaret Johnson

Director:
Simon Foran

Assistant Director:
Theresa Codd

SURVIVE-MIVA is a Catholic Lay Association and a Registered Charity (No.268745) founded in Liverpool in 1974. We exist to provide funding for essential transport for health outreach work in isolated rural areas, and for the Church's pastoral care in places of difficult access.

We have some 70 lay Speakers based across Britain who make appeals for funds in Catholic parishes via short lectern talks about those we do our best to help in a very practical way.

We are grateful to the Bishops of England, Wales, and Scotland for their support in our endeavours as the only UK-based charity to fund exclusively for transport in the way we do.

For more information on our work and a booklet with details of all grants made in 2017, contact us at

5 Park Vale Road, Aintree, Liverpool, L9 2DG.

Tel: 0151 523 3878 **E-mail:** info@survive-miva.org

Visit us at: www.survive-miva.org



EDITORIAL

Nothing stands still

Thus spoke Heraclitus, one of the philosophers of old, who lives on in common parlance as the sage credited with being the first to say *'the only constant is change'*.

The reason I mention this is that when preparing the current issue of our magazine (and welcome to you all, by the way - both established and new readers), I realised how easy it would be for a small, single-focus charity like ours to run the risk of losing sight of the changes that go on, non-stop, all around us these days - whether we want (or indeed like) them, or not.

What SURVIVE-MIVA does remains in essence *unchanged*, of course, but even so, we do have to keep abreast of innovations and amendments that often have a direct effect on how we go about things.

This is a constant challenge for us here in the office, but especially for my colleague Theresa, to whom falls the nebulous task of investigating and clarifying such mysteries as our capacity to receive online donations and keep on top of our website (Theresa has already been taking care of this for years now), in addition to planning for the future inevitable trials of secure online banking, keeping track of all donations to ensure our continued compliance with Charity Commission/HMRC whims (our thanks also go to Margaret Jackson here), and perhaps one day accepting 'contactless' payments - as well as anticipating the delights of the 'versatility' we all no doubt have at our fingertips thanks to the incessant use of our smartphone and its 'apps'. While I think on, if you haven't been simultaneously checking for updates while reading this, then now's probably a good time to catch up - we're almost reaching the foot of the page...

But back to the here and now, and matters at hand. In these pages we present the stories of those who cannot, literally, stand still, if they are to use their vocation and skills to reach communities who rarely get to celebrate Mass, and have no access to healthcare - the *real* 'contactless'.

Theirs are the challenges and updates which matter, and which never change. Our beneficiaries' success comes about only because your constant support ensures that so many good people have the essential transport that prevents them and their work coming to a complete standstill.

We hope you enjoy reading about what your help has enabled them to do for themselves, now you have made them truly mobile.

Thank you all, and God bless.

Simon Patrick Foran, Director



All images in this edition provided by those you have made mobile.



www.survive-miva.org



NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

Each issue we do our best to keep you up-to-date with the progress being made by those you have supported. There are no easy or quick solutions to the problems our beneficiaries face each day, but we know that being mobile does enable them to tackle jobs they would otherwise have great difficulties doing. Here is an update on just some of the work being carried out:

INDIA

St. Joseph's Health Center, Agarakottalam, Pondicherry

The Franciscan Sisters of St. Aloysius Gonzaga started their healing ministry in Agarakottalam in the year 1989. Agarakottalam is a large village located in the Viluppuram district in Tamil Nadu, where the Sisters established St. Joseph's and started providing treatment to the sick of the surrounding villages.

Sr Charles Mary Aruldass FSAG said: *"Our team consists of a Doctor, a Nurse, and several Sisters and volunteers. Although we can provide limited cover, our longer-term aims are the following:*

- *To provide antenatal and postnatal services to women in the remote villages.*
- *To create health awareness and create access for healthcare support.*
- *To reach more villages with first aid and medicine for sick and aged.*
- *To promote a healthy society among the target villages.*
- *To provide an ambulance service at times of emergency.*

In these circumstances we approach SURVIVE-MIVA to extend its financial assistance to purchase a vehicle for our health ministry."

Once again, the provision of such an essential item as a form of transport has completely changed their working lives, to the extent that Sr Aruldass can now write with confidence: *"Earlier, people did not have access to health care facilities.*

With our vehicle we have started visiting isolated villages and have conducted health camps and awareness programs to the people. Antenatal and postnatal care is now given to the women. We have also identified some people affected by tuberculosis and treatment was given to them. We can provide referral services to larger centres. We were not able to go to twelve remote villages on regular basis as we did not have the means, and our healing ministry to the susceptible people in these distant villages was often affected due to lack of vehicle. The people there are very happy with our services. This is all because of the support we received from SURVIVE-MIVA, so we say: 'THANK YOU SURVIVE-MIVA FOR YOUR GREAT SUPPORT!'



Getting others back on the road to self-help



TANZANIA

Saint Mathew Nyakanazi Parish, Rulenge Ngara Diocese

Located in northwest Tanzania, this parish was inaugurated as recently as 2012 . PP Fr Gaudence Talemwa provides further details : *“The Parish covers a large area and has a total of 11,300 Catholics, served by two priests. The parish has four main outstations served by us, each with a catechist, and along with this, over a much wider area there are 36 schools (preliminary, primary and secondary) with 2 religious studies animators in each school.”*

It was to address their needs that Fr Gaudence first contacted us: *“The main functions of the animators include teaching religion in schools and presiding over Sunday liturgies in the outstations - otherwise there would be no regular worship. They are also responsible for guiding and leading and Small Christian Community services. They identifying those in need of the Sacraments, like Holy Communion for the sick, and they prepare children for Holy Communion and Confirmation, just to mention a few of their tasks. They really do keep us informed of what is going on and of the problems our parishioners have on a daily basis.”*

Fr continues: *“Being Parish Priest, I am responsible for co-ordinating pastoral activities in my parish, but the problem is that the Parishioners lack income generating activities, and therefore the church cannot be easily sustained. That being the case, I present before you this project which intends to request funds in order to purchase 40 bicycles, 4 for our catechists and 36 between the religious studies animators.”*

We know from long experience that the work lay animators and catechists carry out so faithfully is unpaid, and that rural parishes especially do not have much disposable income in the form of collections at Mass - after all, *‘nemo dat quod non habet’*.

We also know that when we can provide a grant for this most down-to-earth, comparatively maintenance-free form of getting about the place, then the knock-on effects can be very positive indeed. A simple bicycle costing just £67.50p, in this setting, is seen by the recipients as functional, no-nonsense recognition of the value of the sacrifices they make, day in day out.

We know too that community cohesion and parish life in general are given a big lift. *People on the ground see that others far away believe in them and in their work, and want to support them, directly - and in what is surely the most tangible way possible.*

For that reason, requests for bicycles, whenever feasible, are always given priority.





INDIA

Sacred Heart Centre, Kelavalli, Diocese of Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu

Our first contact with this Centre came via an e-mail which read: *"Prayerful greetings from the Bethlehemite Sisters! We are also known as the Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and were invited by Bishop Lawrence Pius Dorairaj to serve in Dharmapuri. We accepted his invitation and landed in this remote diocese in January 2012.*

Five of us began our socio-pastoral work based at Nellimarathupatti, a remote village within Dharmapuri District. We cover 15 villages in a radius of 22 kilometres for our socio-pastoral activities. We organize health awareness camps, health check-ups and clinics, and promote women's self-help groups and children's clubs. We find it very difficult to continue our mission without a vehicle, which greatly limits the amount and the grassroots impact of the work we can do.

We have one irregular bus facility from this village to reach the main road only two times a day, and we never know when or even if it will arrive. The main road is at a distance of six kilometres. It is impossible to go to the surrounding villages for our socio-pastoral ministry in any organised way because of the lack of transportation facilities. If we miss the evening bus, or if it fails to appear, then we are stranded, which makes for all sorts of uncertainties and dangers.

We kindly request you to help us in this regard and to send us an application to apply for a vehicle.

Yours sincerely, Sr. Rita Thondan, Sr Superior"

A £10,000 grant was approved by our Committee and duly made from the resources you, our donors, provide via your donations, and it has meant that after allowing time for the transfer, purchase and registration paperwork, the Sisters were provided with the transport they requested. Sr Rita then told us of the difference that being independent in this regard has made to their work and to their everyday struggles:

"When able, we would have to hire a vehicle when we went to the interior villages for our ministry which was very expensive. All our good efforts were in vain, as we were not able to follow up on the activities implemented in these villages on a regular basis. We were in a dire need to have a vehicle of our own to build on what we had started.

We approached and requested SURVIVE MIVA to help us financially to purchase a four-wheeler for our ministry. Supporters were so kind, and gave us financial help we could not gather on our own. We are now regularly going to the villages and our Sisters do wonderful work for the betterment of the people. It is all because of the support we received. We the Bethlehemite Sisters working in Dharmapuri Diocese are ever grateful for this timely and essential financial aid.

We thank all the benefactors of SURVIVE-MIVA and assure them of our special prayers for their intentions.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Sr Rita Thondan."



Getting others back on the road to self-help



MADAGASCAR

Discalced Carmelite Friars, Manaratsandry Parish, Diocese of Mahajanga.

According to UN parameters, or classification thresholds, Madagascar, having become independent of France in 1960, still belongs to the group of least developed nations. Rich in natural resources (Madagascar currently provides half of the world's supply of sapphires), it is a country of contrasts, with UN figures indicating that 69% of the population live on less than one US dollar a day. The people share traditional or Christian beliefs, or a mixture of both, and the island nation is also known for the unique nature of its rich biodiversity to be found nowhere else - a consequence of its geographical isolation.

That very isolation and the nature of the island terrain itself make land communications difficult, a point emphasised by Fr Flavio Caloi OCD, who applied for funding for a type of transport for which we receive few requests - a small but appropriately-sized 115cc outboard motor and a locally-purchased boat to go with it: *"Almost five thousand people make up my parish, living in settlements along the banks of the river Betsiboka. They have no income other than what they can earn from growing rice along the shore and from fishing. We are cut off here and there is only one dispensary for the entire area, the electricity supply only runs from 9 am to 6 pm if we are lucky, and there is no drinking water supply. What dirt roads there are become impassable from November to April because of the rains, and our pastoral and health care work suffers."*

Fr Flavio continues: *"the absence of transport makes pastoral and health care very difficult, especially in emergency cases, when we need to take the sick to the nearest hospital some ten miles away down the river, and, on occasion, lives have been lost."*

Thanks to the boat and outboard SURVIVE-MIVA was able to fund because of our unique ability to use donations received to provide something that is tangible, practical - and in essential use every day - many things in Manaratsandry Parish have changed for the better.

"Whereas before, most parishioners would not see a priest for months, we have been able to plan our work much more effectively now we know transport can be relied on. Mass is



celebrated regularly here and in the nearby villages, and we can even reach the furthest three communities, Ankarobato, Mavozaza, and Kandrary, which are 35-40 miles away, twice every three months. Our parishioners are always very happy to see us."

We are pleased to use these pages to pass on Father's word directly to you:

"Nous vous adressons nos sincères salutations de Madagascar par l'intermédiaire de cette lettre. Le bateau nous a donné vraiment courage. Nous prions pour que tous les membres de votre organisme et tous vos collaborateurs reçoivent de notre Seigneur toutes les grâces dont vous aviez besoin. Merci, grand merci, et que Dieu vous bénisse."

[We send you our sincere greetings via this letter from Madagascar. The boat has been a real boost for us. We pray that all members of your organisation and all your donors receive all the favours you may need from Our Lord. Thank you, many thanks indeed, and may God bless you.]



Getting others back on the road to self-help



INDIA

St Joseph's Hospital, Puliyal, Diocese of Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu

Sr Motchalangaram is a Religious of the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception, and wrote in to ask for our help with transport, describing her situation thus:

"I am 60 years old, and have served the welfare of the sick and poor people of the interior villages here for the past 38 years. St. Joseph's is a rural 50-bed hospital and serves the local people as best we can. There are 35 villages in and around Puliyal, off the beaten track, and the village people are economically very poor former cooly [i.e. 'daily paid' - Ed] workers who, due to the hot sun and dry land, are hard-pressed to do the daily wages work, and are out of reach of healthcare facilities. In this critical situation, twice weekly we conduct a free mobile health care camp to certain villages. Our field workers walk for long time to reach the unreachable villages where there are no transport facilities at all, and because of that we cannot do our work thoroughly. Under the circumstances, I kindly request your valuable support for us to provide the healthcare and health awareness programmes to all the unreachable areas."

Well, we do pride ourselves at SURVIVE-MIVA on coming up with what transport we can, where we can, and, as regular readers will remember, we do receive requests for motorised rickshaws, or 'tuk-tuks' with canopies, but the model now in service thanks to your help is certainly one of a kind!



www.survive-miva.org

A FEW FROM THE QUEUE

We receive on average more than 400 requests for some form of mobility every year. We do not have the funds to meet the needs of all those who match our basic criteria of urgency, impact and sustainability. This means there is always a queue of applicants hoping and praying we can increase our funds. Our aim is to provide suitable means for them to carry out their important work, and what follows is a 'cross-section' of different projects urgently in need of a vehicle.

Please note that all donations are paid into a central fund, to be distributed by the Allocations Committee, who between them have over fifty years of service on overseas mission. The administrative costs involved in having a separate audit trail for each and every donation made would make our core work impossible. This means that we cannot say in advance where your particular donation will be distributed - but what we can say is that together we are much, much greater than the sum of our parts...

INDIA

The Bishop of Gumla, Rt Rev Paul Lakra, writing in from India's north east State of Jharkhand, has contacted us to request a £750 grant for a motorbike for use at one of his parishes - *"the most remote mission station of Karondabera, where we have a young and enthusiastic man doing wonderful work. This is a genuine and urgent need as a lot of travel is required for him to visit the villages to visit the sick and celebrate Holy Communion, and so I whole-heartedly recommend this request for your kind consideration."*

RWANDA

A further request for a motorbike comes from the Musenyi area in the Diocese of Byumba, where one Parish priest has responsibility for ten village outstations or Mass Centres, in which he has to serve the needs of 217 different communities who rarely get to receive the Sacraments, although there are currently 261 adults and 2,379 school age children waiting to follow initiation and baptism in the Church - quite a workload for one man on Shanks's pony!

TANZANIA

Still on two wheels, we move on to the north-western corner of the country and the Diocese of Rulenge-Ngara, specifically to Murusagamba parish, where the population of 5,636 people is served by one Parish Priest with the aid of twenty catechists. It is for them that a bicycle grant of £1,250 (or £62.50 each) has been requested by their PP. He tells us: *"In recent years the number of private motorcycles has been increasing, but our catechists cannot meet the fares demanded as they do not have salaries. That is why we humbly and confidently present our request to you."*

We are pleased to report back to you that those featured in this section of issue 62 have now been funded. It may take time, but in common with our beneficiaries, and solely thanks to you, our supporters, we reach our goal in the end.

END OF THE ROAD?

We hope you found this issue of 'Awareness' informative, and you have enjoyed reading about those your donations help. We also hope that we have managed to illustrate just how important mobility is for those who share their lives with the poor. We are the only UK based Catholic charity which funds exclusively for all different modes of transport. Making a donation will help ensure this is not the end of the road for the aspirations of so many people.



CAN YOU HELP? If you would like further information/support for any of the suggestions given below, then tick the appropriate box & return to SURVIVE-MIVA together with your contact details.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make a one-off donation (and, if possible, 'Gift Aid' it) by:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using the form below;• Donating online from our website: www.survive-miva.org;• Texting MIVA29 followed by a space and then £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10 to 70070. | <input type="checkbox"/> Make regular donations by Standing Order. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADD MY CONTACT DETAILS TO YOUR MAILING LIST to receive the 'Awareness' magazine twice a year. | <input type="checkbox"/> Organise a fundraising event in aid of SURVIVE-MIVA. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Leave a legacy to the Association in your Will. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Represent us as a volunteer Speaker making appeals in Catholic parishes. |

Pray for the work of the Association and our beneficiaries - *rest assured that they pray for you!*

READ OUR NEWS AND HELP US TO SPREAD THE WORD. facebook.com/SurviveMIVA twitter.com/SURVIVE_MIVA

I wish to donate the sum of £ to SURVIVE-MIVA (Reg. Charity No. 268745).

By cheque postal order CAF voucher made payable to 'SURVIVE-MIVA' (please tick appropriate box)

Or, please debit my: Mastercard Visa Maestro Delta Charity Card

Card no:

Expiry date: / Valid from: / or Issue No:

Tick if you require a receipt E-mail address:
Please provide your address below. Prefer to receive 'Awareness' by e-mail, rather than by post? Please tick this box

GIFT AID DECLARATION: Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.
Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

giftaid it

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick this box: I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ to SURVIVE-MIVA & any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years.

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

MY DETAILS (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY):

Title: First name/ Initials: Surname:

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Full Home Address:

Postcode: Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Please notify SURVIVE-MIVA if you: want to cancel this declaration; change your name or home address; no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher rate or additional rate & want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

For established readers, please use this tick-box if you wish to be removed from our mailing list

For new readers who wish to receive the 'Awareness' magazine (twice a year) please let us know by using the opt-in tick-box in the **CAN YOU HELP?** section above.

PEACE OF MIND: WE WILL NEVER ENGAGE IN THE UNSAVOURY BUSINESS OF 'PASSING ON' YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS TO ANYONE ELSE.