

MM&M

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF METHODIST MEDICAL & MISSION

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CHERISH EVERY MOMENT

FRANCIS LOH - MM&M CEO

With the many uncertainties and the ever-changing situation in Australia, life is looking far from normal. Many aspects of life has changed which will require years to return to the pre-pandemic state, e.g. travelling, conferencing, personal hygiene etc.

However, there is one aspect of COVID-19 which has changed many of us forever, and that is, many are more grateful than ever before. With many lives lost during this pandemic, we are grateful for those still around us (our family, friends, colleagues, school friends).

“

*I will sing of the Lord's
great love forever;
with my mouth I will
make your faithfulness
known through all
generations.*

— PSALM 89:1 NIV

Australia is a very blessed country with relatively low infections and low mortality rates. God has been merciful and has showed His great love to this country. “I will sing of the Lord's great love forever (Psalm 89)”.

I hope that as we start to meet up with our family and friends, we can cherish every moment with them. Most importantly, praise God for them.



INDIA FOOD RELIEF FUND

MICHELLE TING

As India tries to battle against the COVID-19 crisis, masses of marginalised communities are driven into deeper poverty and hunger since the sudden declaration of nationwide lock down in March. With the restrictions prolonging, many of these poor families, especially widows were starving and struggling to survive.

“The people are struggling so much, every day they come to my door to beg for food. I really don’t know what we are going to do with all this suffering, it is so hard on the people,”

“
*All of them are affected
and all of them don't
have enough to eat*

says Vijaya* MM&M’s local partner who are based in the outskirts of Hyderabad. “Many people depend on small businesses or work as day labourers. All of them are affected and all of them don’t have enough to eat. My wife was crying when we visited a family and saw children in just skin and bones.”

Food relief for the community

In May, MM&M launched the fundraising for India COVID-19 Food Relief Fund to help mitigate and provide relief for these communities. Despite the economic downturn that looms across our country, God has

moved many generous hearts to give towards this initiative, which enabled MM&M to send help within a short period as donations were pouring in.

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*People and churches
in Australia stand
with the poor*

The funds have since availed the purchase of ongoing emergency food kits and essential items to 125 poor families, widows and disabled. The distribution of food kit items include rice, dhal, oil, onion, flour, sugar and vegetables were carried out fortnightly to these villagers.

“Praise God! The people now have food to eat and they are very grateful to the church,” Vijaya was deeply encouraged. “People and churches in Australia stand with the poor.”

SHARING GOD'S LOVE ONE JEEP RIDE AT A TIME

KOMI FUM

NEPAL - These letters, meant nothing to me. It was just the name of a country.

Thanks to MM&M, I was able to join their Nepal short term mission trip. By God's Grace, our preparation, team training, and offerings from brothers and sisters in Christ, made the trip possible and smooth sailing. Before departing, our team leader gave us some insights into Nepal's culture, their religion and also their daily life. It opened my eyes and had I a better understanding of Nepal!

I was really anticipating this trip, and embarked on my journey with an adventurous attitude! When we arrived at Kathmandu (Nepal's capital), we immediately started our medical ministry after meeting up with the local pastors and missionaries. I thought it will be an easy task! But to my disbelief, everything was so much different than what I've expected!

First and foremost, the language barrier was a huge challenge! Another challenge that I faced was that I had to help the locals fill up their information without any translator! I ended up using the world's most universal body language to communicate with them!

The first two days was still alright for me, but things were starting to get harder on the third day.

It was physically draining for me as we had late nights and started early every day, and we usually depart at 4am, meaning we usually skipped our breakfast and get into work right away. The road to our destination was really bumpy, we had no choice but to walk down to the village. As we were walking, I was amazed with God's creation! As we walked, we saw beautiful sceneries, the paddy fields, terraces, the sound of the river, the smell of the wind that blew over my face. God used His creations to take away all my worries and negativity.

The simplicity of village life, the children's laughter, the adult's pure smiley faces, they are all God's precious child. They have never heard of the gospel, nor experienced God's love. They knew that we were from Australia, and when we arrived their village, they made some beautiful fresh flower garlands and welcomed us warmly saying Namaste. I was so touched by their enthusiasm. I truly believe that they can one day praise God with even more passion and love.

“

Grace is riding on the back of a jeep to serve at a village

When we are back to our accommodation, our team leader will lead us with thanksgiving prayers and we would always share and reflect on what happened that day. Although we were all exhausted after a whole day, it is very important that we always come before God and refill our hearts. We would also pray and sing together! It was such an amazing experience.

As I recall my two-week mission trip, all the walking, mountain climbing, tricycles, van and jeep rides, from trying to get used to the new environment and leaving with a heavy heart, I experienced God's presence through it all! My colleagues couldn't understand why I would use my annual leave to go on such a challenging trip, and was shocked about my decision. I could only say that I have experienced God's love and grace, He loved me even though I'm a sinner, and I would love to share this love with others.

If you were to ask me what Grace is, I would say that Grace is riding on the back of a jeep to serve at a village. Grace is also taking a photo with the team on a rock to record God's plan after a tiring day. Grace is also re-counting the day's joy and sorrow.

If you were to ask me what going on a mission trip is, my answer to that would be: Mission!





PARTNER WITH US IN PRAYERS

MM&M

- Pray for MM&M workers to have wisdom to carry out their projects despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic. MM&M needs to think of other ways to reach out to people who are need help to maintain basic daily living standard.
- There are still many regions in the world where social discrimination and persecution are prevalent. Pray for MM&M to be active in promoting justice and fairness in these regions.

CAMBODIA

- Pray for Cambodia's bad economy that has been affected by COVID-19. God to have mercy on Cambodia.
- Lots of already poor families now have lost jobs and are suffering hardship - unable to cater for families. Pray for local churches to show love and care for them.

INDIA

- Pray for MM&M Food Aid project to continue providing for those who are struggling without food and essentials during this lock down period.
- Pray for the Lord's hand to be in the whole process of a woman tailoring training centre project, aimed to assist the hundreds of widows and marginalised woman in the village.

NEPAL

- Pray for the government and health care system to have wisdom to control the pandemic.
- Many people are struggling as a result of economic downturn caused by the pandemic. Churches (GN Nepal) are trying to help church members and those around them with food aid. Pray for church to continue to be the light to look after the people in needs.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Pray for the wealthy people in PNG, especially those locals and immigrants working in management sector. Let them be humble when they are resourceful and know that what they have is from God.
- Pray for those who despise the current COVID-19 situation. Remind them that the virus is still not under control, and that we are very limited and cannot be in charge of any situation

EAST ASIA

- Pray that East Asia Christians to be beacons of hope and love to people around them during this difficult period.
- Churches to see the opportunities to serve and make this time to draw near to God and prioritise Him in their life



Be Involved!

If you, your community or your organisation would like to get involved in our programs or want to know more about MM&M, please do not hesitate to contact us below or support us through donations.



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