



The   
**MissionHouse**  
providing help & hope at home and abroad

NEWS FROM THE MISSION HOUSE

Summer 2018

**YOUR**  
**help**



**BRINGS**  
**hope**

# 'WITHOUT HELP, WHERE IS THE HOPE FOR THE WORLD'S POOREST?'

The other day I had opportunity to share with a group of people about how it always fascinates me to see how much has been and is being accomplished through The Mission House, with so apparently few resources.

There will always be opportunities to help meet the needs of others and we all have our part to play – if we have a heart to do so. In this Newsletter we update you about some of our activities and accomplishments in meeting those needs.

So please enjoy the following short updates from two of our trustees. They are insights into how, together, we are 'providing help and hope' and how we are changing lives.

## WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

If someone turned up at your door and asked to use your toilet, would you say yes or no?

In our 'developed' society that would certainly be an unusual 'ask' because toilets and effective sanitation are part of our everyday life. But that's not how it is in developing countries, especially in rural areas. So, as part of the outreach of The Mission House we help people by funding the provision of toilets and septic tanks.



Kevin Honor



Building latrines in Sri Lanka.

Last December, as part of the follow up process to these sanitation and other projects Nigel and I visited Sri Lanka. Our visit started with trips to the areas of Mannar and Trincomalee, the former being one of the remotest and least economically developed regions of the country.

It took almost the whole day to journey to the village of Pesalei on Mannar Island in the North West Region of the country, an area rich in forests and rural life. In many ways this is both a good and a bad thing because the provision of proper toilet facilities is a rarity in both Mannar and Trinco' regions, so the norm, day or night, is a trip into the forest, not the safest or healthiest option and potentially dangerous, especially for ladies.

So, working with our trusted in-country Partners we have been providing dozens of brick-built toilets and when we have the funding will provide even more.



Nigel Kiernander,  
Director, The Mission House

It's probably hard for us to fully understand how a secure, hygienic toilet gives people dignity and safety when performing a normal body function because, as I said above, having a toilet is part of our everyday life.

But in one village we visited having a 'proper' outside loo is something people are willing to share with complete strangers.

As there is no such thing as a public toilet in a rural area, it is common for a woman to call at a stranger's house and ask to use the loo, (men have to make their own arrangements) and good etiquette requires that the answer is 'yes'.

One poor Hindu lady who would never in her life been able to afford to add a 'privy' to the outside of her wood and palm leaf hut is so thrilled with it that she readily offers its use to neighbours and indeed strangers in need if they ask, she says it's her way of sharing with others.

Inevitably, this leads to conversations about who provided the toilet i.e. a local Christian Pastor with funds from The Mission House, a UK based Christian charity, and 'why?'

We have so much in our society that we take for granted it's hard to imagine being 'joyful' because we have a toilet, and though we may not have to answer the door to a lady in need, we can, by extension, answer 'yes' to my original question by helping provide a toilet for others.

Incidentally, it currently costs about £250 to build a toilet and septic tank so if God challenges you to help, even in a small way, in this matter please be assured your donations really will bring help and hope to those in need.

## COOL, CLEAR, WATER

Those words may remind you of the old cowboy song, but for the people of the village of Kurunegala, in the central hill country, cool, clear water is a new reality.

The Mission House together with Zurich Community Trust (the philanthropic arm of Zurich insurance) have built two large wells and helped improve the lives of over two hundred people.



The well at Kurunegala, Nigel (left), some of the villagers, Kevin (right)

One of the significant by-products of having clean water immediately available is that it gives women more time to pursue micro-enterprise. After inspecting the wells, we had a lunchtime session with most of the local women who described some of their successes and frustrations as they take their enterprises forward.

## HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

After visiting the water and sanitation projects we travelled back to Colombo, the capital, for a series of meetings and other visits about past, present and future opportunities to do what we do i.e. bring 'help and hope to those in need'.

One of the organisations that we partner with has taken on significant responsibility at a strategic level in caring for and bringing healing into the lives of hurt and hurting children and young people. The Mission House has already helped in the past by funding emotionally damaged young children to experience a short vacation by the sea but this visit we were introduced to a special centre, on the outskirts of Colombo, for 20 teenage girls who have had the very worst of life's experiences.

We were privileged to have the opportunity to visit this Centre and witness first-hand both the setup and what is being achieved with the girls. It is really impressive.

But... there is an equally great need to provide similar accommodation and counselling for boys who also have had the very worst of life's experiences and this is currently high on the agenda.

It is always an emotional challenge dealing with children, seeing the situation on the ground and exploring what is needed, as it does pull at the heart strings, but the opportunity to be involved in supporting our local Christian partner is, I believe, critical so that these girls and boys have hope for the future.

## LIFELINES

Imagine if you will, a life very different ....

It is summer in the remote Malagasy village that has been your home since birth. Summer is the rainy season, so this morning as you tend the land there is stifling heat and humidity. Each afternoon, the weather breaks, the rains come and the dirt roads that are your lifelines turn to mud.

As you work, you hear the birds singing and the happy chattering voices of your children playing in the nearby trees. Then suddenly a scream, followed by a sickening thud. You rush to the spot where your youngest son has fallen. He is trying to be brave, but you can see his right leg is badly broken.

There has been talk in your village of a new clinic in a neighbouring village, so a makeshift stretcher is made from bamboo poles and a blanket. Your son cries out in pain as his brothers lift him onto it and each step they take jars his injured body, but there is no other choice. Over an hour later, you reach the clinic. Your son, rapidly developing a fever, is bathed in sweat and is becoming delirious.

The doctor is good, a real professional but your heart sinks as she shakes her head. Your son's leg has a compound fracture and she does not have the facilities to treat him. He must go immediately to the hospital in the city. Your fears turn to despair as she explains that they have no vehicle and a moped must be dispatched to the city to fetch a taxi.

A whole two hours later, a tiny 2CV taxi arrives. It is too small for your son to lie down, so he must sit upright, his leg jarred continuously as the vehicle negotiates the deeply rutted road. The skies darken as the afternoon rains start, and soon the taxi is bogged down in a quagmire it was never designed to cope with. In desperation, you get out to push, but already exhausted, you trip and fall into the mud. You drag yourself out and sob in frustration and desperation at the side of the road. Getting your son to hospital is becoming like a hopeless dream.



Stuart Forman

Passers-by come to help and after a struggle get the taxi moving again. About an hour later you arrive at the hospital ...

What an awful situation to imagine? But although the above story is made up it is nonetheless typical of real events.

The clinic in the story is real and has been built by Faly Rafieferana and his wife Clara (the doctor) on the "House of the Nations" base located in the rural village of Ambohitrinindriana, 20 kms from the capital, in Central Madagascar. It is, reached mostly over unmade deeply rutted roads (front page photos).

Faly and Clara have also built a church and a school on the base to serve the local villages. The school has grown from 3 pupils in 2002 to over 200 pupils today. The level of education and Christian teaching is such that it has developed an excellent reputation and Faly is now very much in demand as a (Christian) speaker at educational conferences throughout Madagascar.

(You, our supporters have played a significant part in making all this happen).

Incredibly, since their last vehicle became unserviceable in 2009, they have achieved most of this progress with only a moped for transport. But this is about to change.

The Mission House are pleased to announce the delivery of a 4x4 Toyota Land Cruiser to Faly and Clara.

This will equip him, Dr Clara and their helpers to provide medical help and education to a far wider group of communities. As well as emergency trips like the one described in the story above, it will also be used for transporting provisions for the clinic, the school and for outreach, bringing education, healthcare and other



Used Toyota Short Wheelbase Land Cruiser delivered to Faly

help to people living further out in the bush.

Thanks to some significant donations we were able to buy the vehicle in the picture in France and ship it to Madagascar.

But acquiring and delivering the car is only the first stage of the project.

The next stage is to provide ongoing maintenance using our trusted friends in another European charity, as they have work-shops and the skills to provide a servicing function for us.

Of course, there are plenty of garages offering car maintenance, but one can never be sure about the level of motor mechanic skills, but of far more concern is the very real risk of having good parts from your own car swapped with worn out replacements from someone else's ...

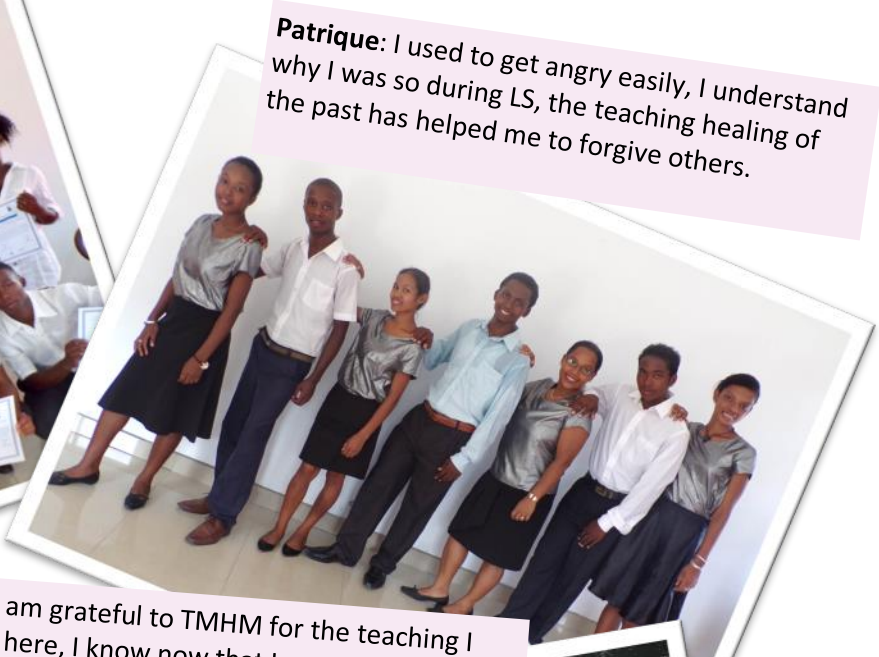
And finally, we need to start accruing funds to cover the depreciation of the vehicle and provide for its replacement. This is another project opportunity - will you partner with us?

# Life Skills Course

The Mission House Academy in Fort Dauphin in the South of Madagascar continues to run the highly respected Life Skills course. On 7th May 2018, the third group of the year graduated. This was the 48th group to graduate since TMHM started running the course. Below are some photographs over the years, together with some of the testimonies from the most recent group of graduates.



**Apolin:** I start to use my time in the right way, I still looking for a job now, but LS has boosted my motivation again.



**Patrique:** I used to get angry easily, I understand why I was so during LS, the teaching healing of the past has helped me to forgive others.

**Monja:** I am grateful to TMHM for the teaching I received here, I know now that I am precious, start to love myself, Life skills has opened my eyes.



**Soafiavy:** I thank God for the LS, it has opened my eyes and my mind, I didn't like my life before, I didn't understand why I am on this earth, but the LS touched my heart and my life.



**Roger:** I used to be very shy, to stand in front of many people like this would be impossible but today I stand in front of you I am free.



**Michella:** LS has helped me about doing budget in life, I used to spend all the money I have, no discipline, LS has saved my life.

## Life Skills Course - Core Modules

Introduction, Self Esteem & Motivation, Vision & Goal Setting, Worldview, Relationships (physical & spiritual), Communications, Healing of the Past

## Life Skills Course - Variable Modules

Volunteering/Community Involvement, Leadership, Finances, Job Preparation Skills, Entrepreneurship, African Renaissance, HIV/AIDS, Conflict Resolution, Personal Development/Self Leadership.