

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 - JULY - DECEMBER 2019 - ISSUE 66

ADDED BOOST FOR HEALTH COVER

St Mary's Health Centre, Thanjavur Diocese, India

Run by the Sisters of St Anne of Madras and located in a small village called Arasadipatti, this community clinic is the result of an entirely local initiative. To complement this achievement, Sr. Sebastiammal, the Superior of St. Mary's, contacted us to tell us more about their needs, and to ask us to add some practical assistance of our own, saying:

"The Sisters originally started their mission at Arasadipatti in 1978, when there were no medical facilities in this village at all, and people had to go far for medical aid, with no transport facilities even for emergency cases. They suffered unattended for years, and for want of medical care many even lost their lives, especially women during pregnancy.

Under such circumstances, the people of Arasadipatti felt the urgent need of having a small health centre close to them, so they requested the Sisters to join with them to bring this about. They themselves were ready to put aside some land as a donation for putting up a small clinic building and a residence for the Sisters to stay nearby.

A portion of the residence was at first used for medical work, and what is now St. Mary's Health Centre was constructed in the year 1983.

Since then, this health centre has been catering to the different health needs of the people around, but apart from working in this centre, the Sisters also make house visits and talk to the people about the need for hygiene, mother and child health care and the preventable diseases which abound. People from distant villages know of what we have already established here via word of mouth, but do not have access to our health centre due to lack of proper transportation facilities. For the same reason, we are not able to reach their villages very often. Our health ministry needs to grow but is severely hampered. If we had vehicle of our own, we could go to all the villages regularly and carry out our health ministry effectively for the betterment of all the people."



Thanks to your support, we were able to respond with a ten thousand pound grant, and the availability of a dedicated means of transport means that Sister could later write:

"We are now able to organize regular health clinics and camps in the remote villages. We provide medicine to the sick people. We create health awareness and create access for healthcare support to the people in these distant villages. After our intervention, the health condition of the people started improving. We can reach out to more villages with first aid and medicine for the sick and aged. It's all because of the support we received from SURVIVE-MIVA. Our heartfelt thanks go to all its benefactors for your generous contribution provided to us and also to other Missionaries working throughout the world. Best wishes and blessings to you from us all."



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

Chris Lovelady

Volunteer Speaker



This issue we introduce Speaker Chris Lovelady, based in the Archdiocese of Liverpool, who tells us: "I volunteered to be a Speaker with SURVIVE-MIVA when I retired from teaching Religious Education nearly three years ago. I knew I would have time on my

hands and wanted to use it in ways that would be of benefit to others both far and near. I became a governor of a local primary school for the 'home leg' of my activities, and SURVIVE-MIVA was the perfect match for the 'away leg'. I like how the charity supports communities at grassroots level, and I find the projects relating to women and children particularly encouraging, as they aim to promote independence and empowerment. A pleasantly surprising plus point has been travelling around my Archdiocese, meeting so many friendly people, and seeing some of our beautiful churches."

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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 60 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 2018, 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

NOT PURRING BUT GROWLING

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest update from HQ Aintree. Since I last wrote, my colleague Theresa has added full details of all grants made last year to our website, for those interested, or you can contact me for a booklet if you prefer.

Health/outreach vehicles ('four-wheelers')

9 to India, 2 to Uganda,
and one each to Zimbabwe and Rwanda

Motorbike grants:

13 to India, 4 to Tanzania, 4 to Uganda, 1 to Malawi

Mopeds/Scooters:

64 to India

Authorickshaw:

1 to India

Boat and outboard motor:

1 to Papua New Guinea

Bicycles:

140 to Tanzania, and 280 to Uganda

Meanwhile, later on *this* year, we will reach our 45th milestone - we were founded in December 1974 - and just as my thoughts turn to past achievements, so too we must look to the challenges of the future. Preparing for the coming years will certainly be thought-provoking, to put it mildly - and in a new and testing way.

I say this against the background of the new government target of reaching zero carbon emissions by the year 2050, said by many to be a difficult but attainable one, if - amongst lots of other carbon-saving measures - we can all convert to electric vehicles.

Tough questions arise immediately, for us at least. How will we adapt, and continue to fulfil our charitable objects, when most of what we do, *pace* bicycles, is to fund the purchase of internal combustion engines? We would be as happy as Larry to convert, but the limits on this, where our beneficiaries live and work, are much greater than those here, where at least some choice is available. That said, it is estimated that the known reserves of metals (lithium, nickel, and cobalt) used to manufacture batteries are only half of what would be required to satisfy the demand - just for the UK. What's more, these are mainly to be found in the African and Asian countries whose resources we have already been exploiting since at least the industrial revolution...and whose people never benefited accordingly.

In the developing world, the presence of EVs (electric vehicles) is currently so thin as to be a non-starter (pun intended) in terms of uptake. Obvious problems to be overcome include the wait for much-needed improvements to battery technology, and the installation of charging infrastructure, for example, not to mention a 'green' source of generation for the electricity itself. If we here are facing such problems, what of those who currently benefit from your support of SURVIVE-MIVA?



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



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Perhaps one positive outcome may reside in what can be termed the 'leapfrog' effect. Technology today develops so quickly for some, that those initially left behind can sometimes 'leap' a few rungs up the development scale and miss out intermediate stages. More years ago now than I care to remember, you would see individuals on street corners in Lima waving an arm in the air, which usually meant they were holding calculators to show they were money changers - a common enough site in countries where the national currency vies with the US dollar. Then there was a period when they were joined by other arm wavers, this time holding chunky mobile phones, offering cut-price calls for small change - a sort of human phone box (remember them?) without the box.

It was a comparatively short-lived way of earning a few bob though, as suddenly (or so it seemed) everyone was walking round attached to a device of their own...The installation of land lines in rural areas never materialised; it was 'leapfrogged'.

Returning to the present, a quick mooch around the internet reveals that in Kigali (Rwanda) you can get electric motorbike taxis, which perform much better than the standard petrol ones,

last longer, are cheaper to run, and are ideal for short journeys - so who knows if in the near future, the Parish Priests and Sisters you see in these pages might be reaching out to those in need on machines that produce more of a purr than a growl?

Whatever the outcome, you can be sure of one thing - you will have seen it here first.

We and they, meanwhile, will continue to do what we do with what is made available thanks to your generosity.

Our beneficiaries will continue to vaccinate and care for those in their catchment areas, which can only grow if some form of essential transport is in *their* hands, under *their* control, letting them do what *they* know best.

Thank you for making all this possible.

God bless,

Simon Patrick Foran,

Director.

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:

UGANDA

St Kizito Nattyole Parish, Diocese of Kasana – Lunveero, Uganda

Fr Alex Kimpi is a recently (2017) ordained parish priest who wrote to us for help, with the full support of his Bishop, the Rt Rev Paul Ssemogerere. St. Kizito Nattyole has 19 outstations and is located in a rural area which was devastated by the civil war, famine, and HIV. It is against this background that Fr Alex wrote:

"The work assigned to me in this parish includes - but is not limited to - the celebration of the Sacraments, school apostolate, visiting the sick in their homes, conducting church burials, doing outreach ministries in different parts of the parish and linking up with Diocesan headquarters."

A grant of £3,400 was sufficient to provide the motorbike pictured, and Fr Alex then wrote back with this update:

"Ever since I received this motorcycle, I have been able to reach three sub-parishes on a Sunday and celebrate Mass there, yet formerly I could only reach one out-station, moreover, on a gifted bicycle. I have also been able to use that for visits to schools (both primary and secondary) and do apostolate there, yet in the past, my visits to these schools were irregular due to lack of an efficient and effective transport means."

With this new motorcycle, I am now able to visit the old, the sick and the youths, especially those living in the remote and furthest out-stations from the parish to give them Sacraments which originally they could not easily have access to, due to their isolated locations and lack of a convenient transport means."

Fr Alex is far from the only beneficiary of your generosity, as he makes clear:

"In the long run, over 10,000 people are expected to directly benefit from this facility. This includes; 5,000 children in 10 primary schools, 3,000 youths from 7 secondary schools and 2,000 Christians from the 19 outstations which constitute St. Kizito Nattyole Parish. We are truly very grateful for the contribution from SURVIVE-MIVA towards this noble cause."



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INDIA

Bon Secours Sisters, Poonamallee, Archdiocese of Madras/Mylapore

Sr Pauline Agnes contacted us with a request for a block grant for fifteen mopeds, costing just £750 each. This was aimed at providing transport for each of their communities in Tamil Nadu, and has greatly improved their effectiveness and the impact of the Sisters' work throughout the whole of the state, as outlined below by Sister herself with these examples from some of the beneficiary projects:



Sirumalai – Dindigul Diocese

Three Sisters work here, alongside the Tamil Srilankan Refugee Camp. The Sisters go to the camp and visit the families regularly and organize basic health education classes to the people. They conduct evening study centres in 6 places, and help the parish priest to coordinate the Catholic people in different areas of the parish, along with visiting their houses and preparing them for Liturgy and the Sacraments. Now, the Sisters have been able to start three more evening coaching class centres to improve the academic performance of the children in the rural areas.

Tamil Pannai – Othakadai – Dindigul Diocese

This Mission centre was established in the year 2005, and there are 3 sisters working in the field. They cover 11 villages there. They conduct meetings for farmers on natural farming, carry out youth formation, hold a children's parliament, and teach skills development. Book binding, paper folding and embroidery are given to the girls and women. They can now go regularly to the interior slums and villages where there are no proper roads. Mopeds only can be used for transportation to reach to these places, and therefore the Sisters have been able to improve the wellbeing of the women and children in the slums and rural villages.

Pannur – Archdiocese of Madras – Mylapore

Bon Secours Convent at Pannur was established in the year 2007. There are 3 Sisters in the convent, whose main mission is Medical and Evangelization. We have a small dispensary here. We visit old people at homes and give treatment. We take catechism in the substations of the Parish. The Sisters in this mission also cover eight interior villages for the healing ministry. Our dispensary is near the main road whereas the villages are very interior. To continue their health ministry effectively, a two-wheeler is essential.

Nugambal Porur – Chingleput Diocese

Our mission here is one of medical attention and the running of a craft and embroidery centre to provide income for the women. The Sisters tour village by village to recruit the young girls for Skills Development programme. They also organize health camps and provide medicine to the poor people at free of cost. Sick people are screened and acute sicknesses are referred to the District Government Hospital for further treatment. The two-wheeler based here helps them to be regular to the villages and continue their ministry.

Vadakarai- Kumbakonam Diocese

Vadakarai is 35 kms away from the main Town. We get transport to reach the place very rarely. Our 4 Sisters there started women's developmental activities in the remote villages and organized the unorganized women into Self Help Groups and inculcated group affinity and savings. They then linked them with banks to make small loans and motivated them to embark on self-employment programmes to free them from the money lenders. The moped helps them monitor the women's programs and improve the status of women in this locality."

Sr Agnes wrote back to express her thanks on behalf of all the beneficiaries, and said:

"Thank you is the best prayer that anyone could say. We say that to all your benefactors for their timely financial help."



Getting others back on the road to self-help



RWANDA

Rwesero Health Centre, Gicumbi District, Diocese of Byumba

Rwesero Health Centre, run by the Sisters of Our Lady of Good Counsel, is situated at high altitude in the Gicumbi district in the north of the country, and serves a population of about 13,500 in a mountainous area with poor communications. Sr Veneranda Mukankundiye, who heads the Centre, tells us more:

"We began our work here in 1989, when there were no health services at all in this area. There was originally only one nurse, but with the help of the Diocese, after some ten years in all, we began to get some qualified nurses who were able to take a measure of healthcare out into the community. However, we have no transport, which severely limits what we can do, and so we can only respond to problems when they reach us.

With the ability to carry out programmes of our own, we could greatly increase the cover of our services like pre- and post-maternity care, HIV testing, and the administration of antiretrovirals, as well as immunisation and voluntary counselling and nutrition via home visits.

We have tried our best to get a budget for our vehicle, but purchase is very expensive in our country and far beyond our reach. In this regard we come to you to help us overcome these challenges."

We received further documentation from Sr Veneranda after a £38,800 grant was made, which included these kind words for you all:

"Your generosity goes beyond our understanding, and we consider that for your actions for the poorest, only God can reward you. The vehicle helps us carry out community health activities and transport medicine and medical equipment around our area, and acts as an emergency ambulance, too. What you have done will never be forgotten here in Rwesoro."



INDIA

Holy Family Dispensary, Diocese of Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh

Sr Arockia Mary is another beneficiary of your support for SURVIVE-MIVA, and contacted us to explain her situation thus:

"The Franciscan Sisters of St. Aloysius Gonzaga established Holy Family Dispensary in 1990, mainly because as there were no facilities available for the diagnosis and treatment of the diseases in the area of Motakondur. They then began to provide treatment to the poor and the needy. Pregnant women were given special attention both during the ante-natal and post-natal period, and infant and maternal mortality were reduced tremendously in this locality via the availability of trained personnel.

By witnessing the Sisters' service, people in the 14 neighbouring villages requested them to take up similar activities in their respective villages too, but the Sisters were unable to visit these villages to continue their health ministry due to the lack of any vehicle."

We later received this update, written after a grant of £10,900 was made, which, we should point out, is typical of so many we receive from those you support:

"We thank SURVIVE-MIVA from our bottom of hearts for extending its financial assistance to procure a vehicle for our Dispensary. We can now regularly visit the 14 villages and organise health clinics and health awareness programmes. People in our working villages are very happy as they get good treatment in their vicinity. We hope we will bring 0% infant and maternal mortality rate amongst them, as we are regular visitors and provide the very best and consistent care we can. People now have access to healthcare facilities and show a keen interest in improving their health conditions. We are very proud to share that these things are possible because of the support we received from you. We are ever grateful to SURVIVE MIVA and all its benefactors for their timely support, and we continue to pray for you and all the good works you bring about."





UGANDA

Holy Trinity Parish, Bisozi, Diocese of Fort Portal

Fr. Aloysius Maniragaba is responsible for consolidating the foundation of this newly- opened parish with a current population of about 50,000 Catholics. He says: *"There are two of us priests based here, with one hundred thirty-eight Catechists who carry out the work of evangelisation in the village chapels to supplement what we ourselves can do.*

We are a remote Parish made up of local ethnic groups along with poor underprivileged peasant refugee immigrants from Burundi, Congo, Rwanda and South Sudan. These people live a very basic life style of hand hoe cultivation with very low incomes. The refugees were allocated a quarter of an acre of land to raise a tent for sleeping in, and it is on this piece of land on that they also depend for some cultivation and they grow maize and some vegetables to improve their nutrition and general livelihood. The refugees are unable to contribute financially to the parish because they have neither money nor crops or animals to sell to support their Catechists. The major economic activity of the natives is subsistence farming.

The general income of all the people is very low and that is why it is difficult for them to fully support many of the Parish projects that require lots of money whereas they often fail to take their own children to schools and have proper medical care.

It is from this poor population that our Catechists come, and they cannot afford purchase their own means of transport. Because the largest part of this Parish is occupied by the refugees, there is a need to share their anxieties and hopes. The Catechists who assist the priests in coming nearer to the Christians to share the Word of God and console people in their situations walk long distances, and after visiting the Christians, catering for the sick, burying the dead, caring for the weak, elderly, disabled , traumatised refugees and all God's people, they have to bring reports on all this to the parish. From this background I request you to support us with the funds to purchase 138 bicycles for the Catechists for transport means.

With the acquisition of the means of transport, this will greatly help the Catechists to effectively meet the

social and pastoral programmes in the Parish, attend to the sick calls as a matter of urgency, attend Catechists meetings, and attend workshops, conferences, seminars and homes of Christians to assist them in their social and spiritual growth."

A bulk buy meant that each bicycle cost just £57, and a further local contribution served to provide lunch for the workers who assembled them. In return, they also offered their lorry to take the bicycles to the different final destinations, as they were assembled at the parish headquarters and so needed delivering to the different communities.

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Date: 20/10/18
Invoice

M/s: HOLY TRINITY BISOZI CATHOLIC PARISH

Qty.	Particulars	Rate	Amount
138	HERO BICYCLES	270,000	38,640,000
TOTAL			38,640,000

Amount in words: Thirty eight million six hundred forty thousand shilling only
Signature: Kumbura Kato



Getting others back on the road to self-help



UGANDA

Kasaala Parish, Diocese of

Kasana-Luweero

Fr. James Patrick Jjumba lives and works in this parish, and so knows its people and the challenges they face very well. He tells us:

"Agriculture is the mainstay in our area. It is estimated that 85% of the population are engaged in agriculture, which involves both crop and animal husbandry, and small scale horticulture for domestic consumption is also practiced. The majority of the population in the Parish are illiterate, with some at most semi-literate, and it is increasingly difficult for such a population to meet the daily demands of modern life. The poverty of life-choices and the harsh everyday realities they face just to get by mean they cannot appreciate the value of education."

In terms of parish life, having transport is essential for effective grassroots evangelization; most especially in the rural areas of Kasaala. The parish has 44 Catechists and 30 leaders whom we want to assist with bicycles so that they can be effective in their work, but the economic situation in the country means the majority of the Catechists here cannot afford to have one. For the Catechists and lay leaders to be successful in their social pastoral duties they must be able to move about, and a bicycle is relatively cheap, easy to maintain, and can reach remote areas at almost no extra cost. Therefore, we request your help to enable us purchase 74 bicycles for the Catechists and Leaders who walk long distances to deepen the faith for our Christians, who, like them, struggle to survive on less than a dollar a day."

We later received this in Father Patrick's report:

"The project was well realised; the 74 bicycles were procured and distributed to the Catechists and lay leaders, and their effectiveness at grassroots evangelisation will be greatly improved. Kasaala Catholic parish is so grateful to SURVIVE-MIVA for the financial support given towards the procurement of the bicycles. We promise prayers to all our benefactors and give thanks for our collaboration with SURVIVE- MIVA."



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. 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 Sisters of St Joseph in the Diocese of Rourkela in the north east of the country have contacted us to request a four-wheel-drive vehicle in order to expand their healthcare work in the communities surrounding the small dispensary they have set up. With no transport available, they walk up to ten or twelve miles to reach the sick, and sometimes people arrive at their base carrying patients on makeshift stretchers. A grant of £10,200 would change this virtually overnight.

MALAWI

The PP of St John's parish, in the northern Diocese of Mzuzu has written to us to request a grant for 25 bicycles, to be distributed among the Catechists, who have to take pastoral care to eighty-eight substations of the main parish, which is spread over a rural area of difficult access, where the locals are subsistence farmers in the main. £80 would provide a sturdy alternative to the current trudge on foot in the form of a bicycle for each lay parish worker.

TANZANIA

Three thousand pounds would ensure that an off-road motorbike was available to the Parish Priest of Holy Family, in Nundu, in Mwanza Diocese. The parish is only five years old, but already has a diverse group of parishioners spread over 95 small Christian communities. There is a need, given that many are new to the Faith, for regular services and guidance, as well as for the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments, and a practical way of reaching them such as this is essential for their hard-pressed Parish Priest to be effective in his ministry.

We are pleased to report back to you that those featured in this section of issue 65 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."



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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; | <input type="checkbox"/> Organise a fundraising event in aid of SURVIVE-MIVA. |
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Pray for the work of the Association and our beneficiaries - *rest assured that they pray for you!*

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