



# insight

Spring 2013

REPORTING ON SILOAM CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

*Expressing God's love by providing medical aid, education, social help to individuals and small groups in the UK and worldwide.*



Martin Mackenzie

*Every person should have the human right to speak for themselves...*



project 042

*These children enjoy their newly arrived clothes – including those with the logo of St. Peter's C of E Primary School donated by Stoke-on-Trent residents.*

## Speaking out for the deaf

The reality is that children in an isolated area of Ogongo, Kenya, lack the ability to speak that most of us take for granted. They are deaf, coming from a background of extreme poverty, including many AIDS orphans. Social prejudice often isolates them and puts them at risk.

Now, dedicated people in Kenya and Britain are helping to turn their plight around for a more hopeful future at Lambwe Christian School for the Deaf

An urgent concern for these children has led Martin Mackenzie of Warwick to engage in demanding activities. He successfully undertook the mammoth task of raising both the funds and means to bring electricity to this remote area. Now he is working equally hard to provide a source of safe water for this residential community.

But perhaps Martin's real achievement is more difficult to measure. It is the personal concern for each child faced with such disadvantages – and the determination to make a difference.

On his latest journey, he noted, 'I have frequently prayed to see the children healed and talking. Today, whilst I was videoing, one of the year seven girls started talking to me. Obviously, I was surprised but realized that she couldn't hear me, at least not well, and she couldn't understand me when I asked her name. When I asked her if she could lip read, she signed, "Partially."' This special touch reflects a welcome breakthrough because some of the students now benefit from speech therapy. A new development, it presents a stark contrast to the background of most students as no one communicated with them prior to their coming to Lambwe.

Networking widely, Martin Mackenzie and others ensure that these vulnerable young people will realise their potential – and also speak out for themselves. ■

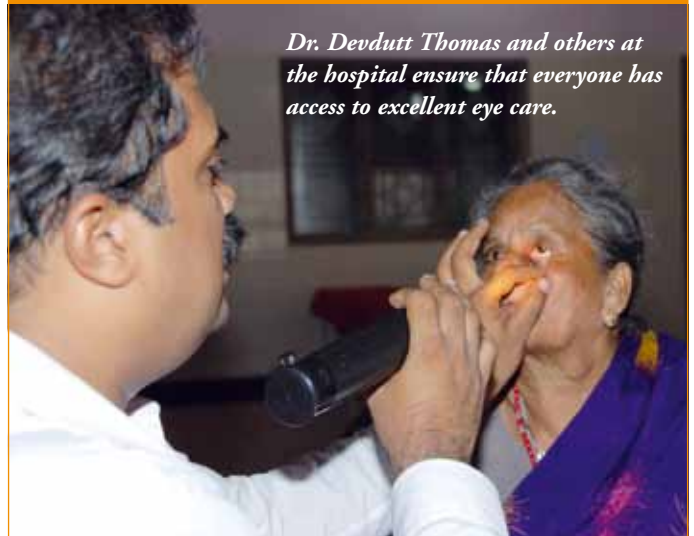


*Everyday life presents hardships for children who lack basic amenities.*

*On the 8th of March, the International Woman's Day offered a focal point for championing human rights of disadvantaged women...*

## Help In Sight

project 009



*Dr. Devdutt Thomas and others at the hospital ensure that everyone has access to excellent eye care.*

*In many cultures throughout the world, women face social, financial and medical disadvantages. Charities point out that in countries like India, from birth, females do not receive the same basic provisions as their male counterparts. Siloam Thomas Eye Hospital in India aims to help all who are in need. Dedicated staff ensure that excellent eye treatment is given to everyone, without discrimination based on gender, ethnicity or social standing. ■*

### INSIGHTFUL EQUATION

**Females = less food, less health care  
in proportion to male counterparts in India.**



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*On an island, your reputation soon gets around...*

## All change in later life

Living on Putik Island in the Philippines, Lita was known to have a bad attitude and to treat people unfairly, especially her own children.

With her children grown and getting older, she sometimes found herself sickly; yet none of her children wanted to care for her. Lita felt alone and also had a need for someone who would care for her.

Then she attended the church of Evangelist Michael Rosagaran, hoping to make friends. By regularly attending the service, Lita is not only acquiring friends but people, including her children, also notice the change in her. She is now happy in her life with God.

'Recently five people have come to faith through the ministry of Evangelist Michael Rosagaran,' says Tyrell Johnson of our Childcare Worldwide (CCW) partners. 'He asks prayer for his ministry as well as for good health.' It would be a great encouragement for more people to experience how their lives can change – whatever their age. ■



project  
070\*

*Evangelist Michael Rosagaran helps Lita to grow in her new found faith.*

*Annet expresses her joy and thankfulness because her family will now have enough food to eat.*



*'It is now three years since my husband disappeared...'*

## Disappearance, difficulties and blessings

In Uganda, Mrs. Annet Nalongo explains how her husband disappeared from their family home. Since then, she must depend on casual work to support their five children. Yet some days they go without food. Annet says

that God has seen them through difficult situations with His mighty hand.

Living in a one room mud structure, the family knows only bare necessities. The children range in age from four years to seventeen. 'When Annet received her survival pack, she was so thankful for food to help her needy family,' notes Tyrell Johnson of our CCW partners, 'She lifted her palms and gave glory back to God and also wished many blessings to those who now help them.' ■

### SURVIVAL PACK

**In Uganda, 37.7% of the population survives on on less than \$1.25 a day. Recognising that the lack of women's rights contributes greatly to poverty, Uganda is seeking to address gender inequality.**

project  
073\*

## Child sponsorship offers a changed life – for everyone involved...

### Together Child Sponsorship

When British schoolgirl Hannah Rees and her father Andrew visited their family's sponsored child in India several years ago, she said, 'My life changed hugely. Seeing children in poverty put everything into perspective.'

'It was a relational thing. Our sponsored girl Suganiya and I were of a similar age. Language was no barrier as she just took me by the hand and we ran around, playing games together. Then too, I visited her family home, a straw hut with a mat on the floor.'

'We sponsored Suganiya for eight years and it gave her a better life. She gained emotional stability as she no longer had to worry about basics like having enough food to eat. In the long term, she will benefit from the education, Christian training and social skills she has acquired.'

'This made a big impact on my own life. As a 14 year old, I became much more sensitive to poverty. It led to my giving most of my pocket money toward sponsoring another child.' ■

#### Update:

Andrew and Julia Rees, with their children Hannah and Benjamin, continue to help sponsor vulnerable children through Siloam projects in various parts of the world. Also, Andrew Rees has become a Siloam Trustee. To find out what Hannah went on to do, just keep reading...

project 045



Andrew and Hannah Rees were able to communicate with their sponsored girl Suganiya with help from Lydia Gomathy who so lovingly cares for the children.

project 006



Hannah and friends enjoy their time together at Rehoboth.



When Hannah Rees planned her gap year, she knew she would be spending part of it doing mission work...

#### THE GAP!

**Q:** Hannah, what is the connection between India and the Rehoboth's Children's Home in the Philippines?

**A:** Going to Rehoboth would never have happened if it hadn't been for the trip to India.

It was putting a face to the statistics. It's one thing when you just see TV adverts. It's another thing when you actually experience being with children who suffer from poverty.

**Q:** Can you say that you had a hands-on experience?

**A:** Positively! I spent a few days cleaning drains – and enjoyed it.

**Q:** How do you feel that you made a difference to the children?

**A:** Although I related to children of all ages, there was one baby named Ludy. He was suffering from tuberculosis, so was often isolated. I spent early mornings with him, reading the Bible out loud, singing, and talking to him. I took him outside and helped him with lifting exercises. By the time I left, you could actually see an improvement in him.

**Q:** What would you say to anyone considering doing overseas volunteer work like this?

**A:** Definitely go! It will absolutely change your life. No amount of talking can compare with experience.



Physical fitness and fun blend well for these energetic children.

#### A CHILD'S VIEW

Every two months, 100 children are abandoned.