

## Mercy Mission News Up-date 29/09/2020

Dear Friends, Sponsors and Prayer Partners

Greetings from Whanganui. It is nearly three months since I last wrote to you all, one waits in anticipation of good news. As you will be aware, Covid-19 has been on the increase in India at an uncontrollable rate. Charly tells me, if it continues at this rate, the predictions is, that by December, hundreds of millions will be affected. The hospital, and other facilities have been, overwhelmed by this pandemic and those that catch the virus, are advised, to isolate at home. Now the government has relaxed the the lockdown rules in some areas for the sake of the economy.

At the mission, they are keeping an eye on the situation and continuing do what-ever they can to help their people. With request from a number of their fellowship, they have recently started worship services with small numbers of people at one time.

With the closing of the Welfare Home and School in March, made mandatory by the government, Mercy Mission lost a huge amount of income from the fee-paying students. With no help from the government, they have struggled to pay, and retain their teachers. Charly has been endeavoring to help the poor families of our children with food parcels as well as providing education. For some children, who are able to access a cell phone or some other media within their village they are receiving on-line education from teachers at Mercy Mission and for others they have been given workbooks. In July, about 40 children visited the mission to pick up schoolbooks and food parcels and I received about 18 little videos, which I distributed to the relevant sponsors, of Charly talking to these children individually; in some cases, a family member came to pick up the goods.

As you would know, the virus has spread like wildfire across India; social distancing and hand sanitizing is not in their vocabulary in the rural villages but the leadership of the mission is doing the best they can. So far, the virus has not affected any of our children although it is definitely in many of the nearby villages. Evidently, one previous student has contracted it. The government have announced various times for the schools to reopen but none, have so far eventuated. Thank you so much for your continued financial support, this is so appreciated and we can assure you that your donations are being used wisely. The emergency funding has been used to supply food for the destitute, including Pastors and families under their care.

### **Stop Press:**

The latest up-date is that, The School Principal has the virus. I am assuming he is not on campus. He is evidently OK at present but Charly asks for prayer for his healing and for his wife who is expecting a baby.

The good news is, they opened the school on Tuesday, for the year nine and year ten students but Charly was not sure how many will come as many parents are frightened to send their children because of the virus. The hope is that students will increasingly return over the next few days and weeks. I assume this will mean the return of some of our children to the the hostels. I will up-date you when information becomes clear.

Over the past few weeks, Charly has had to replace about 100 feet of a boundary wall at the back of the school. It had eroded over time from a water problem on the adjacent land and finally collapsed. The urgency was to keep out stray dogs and other animals roaming at large. The approximate cost is NZ\$2,600.00 of which Mercy Mission UK have already

donated NZ\$1,000.00 to pay for the materials. At our meeting on Thursday Our NZ Trust Board agreed to pay forward \$1,000.00 towards this project with the hope of retrieving, this via donations, in the near future. Consequently, the UK Board have agreed to donate the balance. This project is giving some of the local people paid work, so this is a win-win situation. Most of our money on hand, apart from Child Sponsorship, is from from our regular donors and committed to the Education Fund; this, will be paid out, as soon as the older students return to their colleges and will require a considerable larger amount than what we have at present.

### **Sales table**

We are again, having a sales table, at the Whanganui Anglican Church Fair on 7 November. (We raised \$300.00 last year.) We would gladly receive any saleable jewelry or 'knick-knacks' from our local supporters; but realize, 'cost-wise,' this would not be feasible to receive such from out-side Whanganui. We would be happy if any of you could promote this concept within your churches, or local communities, to raise funds for the mission. If this is possible, please contact me to see what we can do to facilitate this option.

### **For donations to our Emergency Relief Fund, please use the following details.**

Bank Account: BNZ 020152 0154770 00 Code 03 use reference: ERF

For Education Fund: BNZ 020152 0154770 30 Code 02 Reference EF

For General Donations: BNZ 020152 0154770 00 Code 09 GD

For Funds for the wall replacement to our Project Fund: BNZ 020152 0154770 30 Code 11

Charly and Liz send their greetings and words of appreciation and love to you all.

May God bless you richly as we work together in this part of His Vineyard.

Arohanui

Anne

**Anne Martin (Administrator  
for Mercy Mission NZ Trust  
Board)**

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