

**Mercy Mission of New Zealand Trust Board 'Partnering with'**  
**Mercy Mission Welfare Society, Andhra Pradesh, India**  
**NZ CC No. 45443**

**The founder**, Dr. Charly Tom, was born in Kerala, India on 20th March 1962. He is married to Liz and they have two daughters; Jasmine, married to Daniel and working in Canada, and Jessica married to Jeffrey and now working in administration for the mission. Charly gained most of his theological qualifications in the UK including a Doctorate in Theology in Birmingham. After 8 years in the UK, Dr. Charly returned to India in 1997, where he has been serving the Lord, along with his family, ever since.

**The Mission:**

Mercy Mission Welfare Society is based in Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh in rural India, and was founded by Dr. Charly in 1998, after his call by God to return to India from the UK to rescue homeless children. The population of Andhra Pradesh is 76 million. It is India's fifth largest state and one of the poorest. Many people are reliant on agriculture or fishing to earn a living and the literacy rate is just 61%.

Approximately 40% of people in the state live below the official poverty line. Mercy Mission is situated in the North East of the state, close to the coast. Today there is a Welfare Home with over 140 children, an English-Medium School with approximately 750 pupils, a Vocational Training School for Widows, a Medical Centre, a Bible College, and a Theological Seminary.



He is the Senior Pastor of Christian Renewal Churches with an outreach to hundreds of villages in seven States of India as well as a Mission Centre in Nepal, with approximately 100 full time missionaries; Charly is the International Director of MMWS.

**Support:**

In December 2009 The (late) Very Rev. Nick Kirk, (at that time Vicar of Christ Church Whanganui and later Dean of Nelson Cathedral, along with Selwyn Stevens, the Director of Jubilee Resources NZ, visited Mercy Mission whilst in India. Selwyn made comment in his January 2010 Newsletter, "This would be the most balanced mission group we have come across and is very fruitful."

Mercy Mission Welfare Society, which is a registered Charity in India; is totally funded by sponsorship from partners in the United Kingdom, where it all began, the United States of America, New Zealand since 2008, and more recently in South Africa, Canada and Australia.

Mercy Mission New Zealand was established in 2008 and registered as a New Zealand Charity in July 2010, gaining 'Donee Status' with the New Zealand Government for the year ending 31st March 2017. We established specifically to raise funds for Mercy Mission Welfare Society (MMWS) in Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, India.

### **Aims:**

Our aim is to help sponsor the children in the Mercy Mission Welfare Home and raise funds



for Capital works at the Mission and surrounding villages. To date we have funded an extension, (the second floor) on the Girl's Hostel to better cater for approximately 64 girls, at NZ\$58,000; a Solar Power System which covers most of the campus at a total cost to us of NZ\$26,500; (This was subsidized by the Local AP Government.) We have established two Community Development Projects at approximately NZ\$15,000.00 each, which comprise a

Community Centre, a Pastor's House and a village well and recently another Rural Community Centre. We currently have New Zealand Sponsors for 38 of the children, and many other periodic donors of varying amounts including several monthly sponsors for a Tertiary Education Fund. We have been working effectively alongside our UK and USA counterparts over the past few years.

### **Administration:**

We are administered by a Trust Board with five members; four in Wanganui, and one in Auckland. Stephen Rostron an Accountant, is currently our Chair person; Peter Newton, a now retired legal executive; Graham Moore, a retired Elim Pastor and currently Prison Chaplain, Leela Wati from West Auckland, a Manager in a large National Food Company and Anne Martin, Administrator who held a marketing position in World Vision for many years. We have an active Committee working for us in Auckland, mainly of Fijian Indian heritage, under the Leadership of James Kumar, who is the Official Representative to the Board, in the Auckland Area. We all work in a voluntary capacity with our funds raised mainly through churches and their members from a variety of denominations, to enhance the lives of the marginalized and the poor in rural Andhra Pradesh, India

## **Hurricane Hudbud:**

Electricity supply in rural India is extremely unreliable at the best of times but on Sunday 12th October 2014 it became something of the past. When Hurricane Hudhud hit the East Coast of Andhra Pradesh, Mercy Mission was directly in the eye of the storm with winds up to 200 kilometres per hour. There was considerable damage both on the campus and at the Guest House where many overseas volunteers visit from time to time and where the Mission Family reside. The Mission lost roofs off buildings, had windows blown in, lost all power and communications; the outside ablution block for the Girl's Hostel, where there are 64 girls housed, was totally demolished, as was the 'temporary' campus kitchen and also the cow shed along with all vegetation, fruit and ornamental trees which have taken many years to grow.

We were extremely relieved that the solar power panels, newly erected, survived the onslaught; they were well mounted on concrete slabs, for which we were very thankful. With the final component arriving for the Solar Power System on 25th October 2014, and along with a generator funded by the UK team, there was power to most of the campus by the 28th October 2014.

We in New Zealand funded an emergency kitchen of sustainable materials at the cost of \$5,000.00. Later this became part of the Bible College dining hall when supporters from the UK established a beautiful new multi-purpose kitchen / dining room that can seat the entire campus at one sitting and cater for conferences and such like on the campus. NZ also funded the new ablution block for the Girls' Hostel at \$6,000.00, and helped with the funding of a new community building on campus to replace the previous meeting hall, a converted bus shelter, which was annihilated by the cyclone.

We were greatly encouraged to hear that that all the buildings previously built with over-seas funding stood firm in the storm; apart from windows blown in and the ensuing water damage. This gives due credibility to the expertise of their engineers and the construction methods and in particular to the oversight of Pastor Charly who is a man of many talents.



## **Projects:**

Over the past few years we have worked along-side the UK to raise funds to establish a rice paddy large enough to feed all on the campus; Mercy Mission has so far purchased just over 4.3 acres; our contribution to date is NZ\$20,800.00 of approximately NZ\$110,000.00. With the first harvest completed in November 2017, it is estimated that with two harvests per year they would require a further 8 acres to meet the present rice consumption for the entire campus.

Recently the UK established a Water Treatment Plant on the campus, so now the children have clean safe water; they also funded new dormitories for the Bible College. Last year we in New Zealand raised the NZ\$2,800.00 required for the Annual Christmas Clothing for all the children at Mercy Mission Home.

**Current Initiatives:**

To establish an on-going Education Fund for our Mercy Mission Welfare Children who are now studying in Pre-degree and Senior College / Universities and including those studying at MMEMS. This year the total cost for all the Children was approximately NZ\$50,000.00. Our contribution to date is NZ\$20,000.00.

MMWS is now looking at purchasing further land for rice fields so this is an on-going project, but our current initiative was to raise approximately NZ\$30,000.00 for a tractor and ancillary implements. Miraculously In August 2018, we received an anonymous donation of \$55,000.00, of which \$30,000.00 has purchased the tractor and implements, and \$25,000.00 will go towards one acre of land for rice fields. Our benefactor's hope is that we will raise an equal amount of \$25,000.00 to purchase at least two acres of land. This cost we hope to share with the UK.

In August / September 2018 MMNZ raised approximately \$7,000.00 for the Kerala Disaster Fund.

Project Donations can be made to; BNZ Project Account: 02 0152 0154770 30

The code for Education Fund is 02, for Rice Field is 11

Thank you for your interest in Mercy Mission.

For more information on Mercy Mission, please visit <http://www.mercymissionvzm.in>  
Alternatively Email: [mercymissionz2010@gmail.com](mailto:mercymissionz2010@gmail.com)

Anne Martin (NZ Administrator for Mercy Mission NZ)