

News from Global Care and our partner projects

Summer 2023

# NEWSBRIEF



# Filling in the gaps for girls.

## NEW PROJECT IN MALAWI

**The sexual abuse of a 15-year-old girl, who had sex with a primary school teacher for money to pay her secondary school fees, inspired Global Care's new partners in Malawi to start a ministry supporting vulnerable children.**

*"Coming from a poor family of five children whereby affording two meals a day is a challenge, being selected to a boarding secondary school is a nightmare for both me and my parents, who are mere small-scale farmers," the girl explained.*

*"I wondered 'where will I get school fees and basic needs?' ... A primary school teacher offered me money in exchange for sex."*

**“** *Muthange are a truly grassroots organisation; local people taking simple steps to improve the lives of children in their communities* **“**

In rural Malawi, secondary schools are often too far away for students to easily walk each day, so some young people need to find lodgings and board nearby. This leaves vulnerable young people – especially girls – at terrible risk of exploitation and abuse, and drives high levels of school dropout, particularly among girls.

This situation – and this particularly awful story – brought the Muthange Community-Based Organisation (CBO) into being. Muthange are a group of Malawian Christians moved by compassion for vulnerable children.

They began providing school essentials for a tiny handful of students at one primary and two secondary schools and running a termly mentoring programme for secondary aged girls.

They have a particular focus on girls as they recognise their additional vulnerabilities, but also support some marginalised boys. They aim for a caseload of 70% girls, and also have a strong focus on children

living in families affected by HIV/AIDS.

Now, thanks to their new partnership with Global Care, they will be able to expand their ministry to support more children with school fees and supplies, as well as improving the effectiveness of their mentoring programme by meeting the girls monthly. They will also run

**Global Care has agreed to fund a 12-month pilot programme, equipping Muthange to provide school fees, uniform, shoes, a school bag and essential stationery for 30 children identified as especially vulnerable, across the three schools. We will also cover the costs of all mentoring sessions and materials, including the new joint gathering, and associated transport costs.**

The entire programme will cost a total of £9,528, and has been funded through our Children at Risk programme. At the end of the pilot year, we will review the project, with a view to expanding into a new three-year partnership if appropriate.

a special termly gathering of up to 50 students, drawn from both secondary schools and identified in consultation with teachers.

Head of Operations, Steve Wicking, said: *"Malawi is a country which has been in our hearts and prayers over recent years and so the opportunity to partner with Muthange CBO is really exciting. Muthange are a truly grassroots organisation; local people taking simple steps to improve the lives of children in their communities and we look forward to reporting further as the partnership develops."*





## Dropout due to poverty

**The headteacher of Mpando Secondary School, one of the schools in the project, says 50 girls and 50 boys join his school each year as new students, but as many as 80% of the girls will drop out.**

*“Most of these dropouts are necessitated by poverty,” he says. “Out of quest for education, some girls will do piece-work (casual) jobs to earn fees for themselves.*

*This means they will be absent from school for a big part of the term. They return when they have managed to raise the fees needed, but their performance is affected.*

*In the long run, they become frustrated and get tired of the recurrence of the situation every term and every year. They finally give up on their dream. Consequently, many smart and intelligent students whose only hope is education are left impoverished.”*



## Helping \*Helen

**11-year-old Helen receives essential school supplies from Muthange, including school fees, uniform, stationery and shoes.**

Helen’s father is blind and unable to work, so her mother moved to Blantyre, a city over 10 miles away, to find casual work to help feed the family. Helen was left in the care of her elderly grandmother, who also has impaired vision.

On top of the family’s difficulties, Helen faces challenges of her own, including a chronic illness and a

health condition which makes her hallucinate, both of which impact her school attendance.

Yet despite it all, Helen came 16th in a class of 82 last term. Our partners believe she has the potential to do well, especially now she is receiving support.

Helen’s grandmother told our partners it was her dream to see her grandchildren do well at school and succeed, but she could not see it happening due to her “daily livelihood battles.” “But now my burden has been lifted,” she said, “and I can see my wishes coming to pass.”



# Filling in the gaps for girls. ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

Girls are the focus of our 40th Anniversary Appeal. We can see so clearly in Malawi why they need our help.



## 40th Anniversary Spring Ball

**Over 120 guests enjoyed summer sunshine and a party atmosphere at our Anniversary Spring Ball and Auction in May.**

The event raised just over **£8,000** for our Anniversary Appeal and was a wonderful

opportunity to celebrate Global Care's achievements over 40 years, with friends old and new.

Huge thanks go to the 32 individuals and organisations who donated prizes for the auction, to the company which donated table decorations, to the musicians who gave their time on the night, and to all the generous donors who raised so much money to help meet the needs of marginalised girls worldwide.





We aim to raise £100,000 to support initiatives like this during our anniversary year. So far you've raised a wonderful **£50,415** – thank you so

much to everyone who has given. Every penny you donate will help change a child's life. [globalcare.org/girls](http://globalcare.org/girls)

# CAN YOU HELP?

Could you run a marathon, shave your head, diet, cycle, swim or sleepout your way to raising funds for marginalised girls this summer?

If hosting a tea party (see right) doesn't appeal, perhaps something more active is your cup of tea?

We need your help to reach our £100,000 goal – why not have fun trying? Let us know if you need any fundraising resources, we'll be happy to help!

## Global Care's big tea party



**Change a girl's world with cake.**

In 3 simple steps, you can give vulnerable girls a better future.

1. Host a tea party.
2. Raise money for girls.
3. **Eat cake.**



Can you extend our Big Tea Party to cover your area of the map? Find out more at

[globalcare.org/Big-Tea-Party](http://globalcare.org/Big-Tea-Party)



# Filling in the gaps for girls. LIGHTING THE Spark

**\*Myla was just a girl. The fourth child. Her family had no real expectations for her. But Myla had a determined streak, and it didn't let her down.**

In 2003, as a young child, she joined the Pavement Club, run by our partners in Kolkata, to help children from the slums access education, and offering a wide range of extra-curricular activities to enrich the lives of children with few opportunities.

Here Myla found a place which encouraged aspiration, and even though she was an average student initially, she worked hard to improve. She just needed something to light the spark, and in the Pavement Club she found plenty to set her ablaze.

**Myla wants to pay her own experience forward.**

Myla went on to become the first child in the history of the project to graduate from Chitteranjan College, part of the University of Kolkata. She earned a Duke of Edinburgh Gold award, and also completed an advanced course in tailoring.

When her parents moved away, Myla stayed in the slums to look after her elderly grandmother. She then challenged her family with great determination to fight an unjust eviction. A greedy uncle tried to have her grandmother thrown out of her

home to take it for his own family, causing no end of misery. But Myla single-handedly stood up to him, bringing in the

local authorities and the police, until, eventually, he backed off.

After graduation she remained with her grandmother and started her own

business sewing beautiful salwar suits and saris. Knowing Myla, our partners expect her business to grow!

But it won't just be her grandmother that she's supporting – Myla wants to pay her own experience forward. Myla tells our partners she hopes to use her earnings to support other needy children in their education, because *“otherwise they have no opportunity at all.”*





## \*Arya's story

Seven-year-old \*Arya was accepted onto Global Care's sponsorship programme at the Pavement Club late last year.

When her father died, her mother re-married and abandoned Arya and her baby brother. They now live with their paternal grandparents.

Arya loves the Pavement Club. She loves the large space in which



to play, and all the trees and flowers in the compound. She loves drawing and dancing. She is just beginning to read and write and says she wants to be a teacher one day. Now the spark is lit, who knows what will blaze forth?

Could you light the spark as a sponsor for a girl like \*Myla and \*Arya? Details at [globalcare.org/educate](http://globalcare.org/educate)

Child sponsorship is...

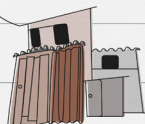


...an extra hand

which holds their education secure today



to break the poverty cycle



and bring a better future.

# FUTURE-PROOFING A MINISTRY



**Global Care received a legacy gift last year in support of Emmanuel Ministries, our partners in Kolkata, India.**

Our partners will use the donation to undertake urgent repairs and repainting at their two residential shelters, to keep in line with government guidelines for children's homes. The gift will also cover other expenses needed to ensure the homes remain compliant, and some of the expenses of the central Emmanuel Ministries team.

In addition, the team will carry out painting and repairs at Calcutta Emmanuel School, and repair or replace some classroom furniture.

The remainder will go towards the cost of a new minibus, as the vehicle which transports the Pavement Club children will need replacing in the next two years.

CEO John White said: *"Gifts in wills are a real blessing! Budgets are always tight, and it can be hard to find money for these kinds of expenses, which may not be appealing but can be important in helping to future-proof a ministry."*



# A SEASON FOR EVERYTHING: 40 YEARS OF LEARNING

In 40 years of serving vulnerable children, we have learned to embrace change, even though it can be painful. We are constantly learning! Here our Operations

team reflect on the outcomes and learning journeys springing from two long-standing projects which have recently ended.



Transforming  
children's lives  
for 40 years.



**Over almost a decade, The Ark, a day care centre in Soroti, Uganda, provided exemplary care for a total of 32 children living with disability. It closed during the Covid lockdown and never re-opened. However, the work to care for children with disabilities continued in the form of a community-based outreach project.**

The Disability Community Outreach (DCO) team is now supporting

around 40 children per year, providing specialised equipment, helping children access treatment, and providing training for carers and family members. Our intervention is short-term, but has a long-term impact. Our team can continue to help new children, whilst disseminating skills to families.

The DCO project was a year old in April and Operations Manager Steve Wicking was able to meet some of the children whose lives have been transformed in the last 12 months.

*"Change is always challenging, even more so when it comes in the middle of unforeseen events such as the pandemic," says Steve. "Thankfully God is never taken by surprise and the closure of The Ark has enabled Global Care to reach and care for even more children living with disability."*



# Freedom for \*Nelson

**16-year-old \*Nelson became blind after contracting measles as a young child. When his parents died, he went to live with his elderly grandmother. His brother dropped out of school to support them both by making groundnut paste to sell in the market.**

Nelson had dropped out of school because of pain in his eyes and difficulties in getting around. He had no independence or privacy and had to be led everywhere, even to the toilet.

His was a hard life, of discrimination, isolation, stigma and poor health. *"I lost hope, my family gave up on me,"* says Nelson. *"Yes, I was blind but I didn't deserve to be ignored."*

Our DCO team referred Nelson for assessment, which recommended medication and a white cane, both of

which were provided by the project.

The white cane was a revelation to him, as it enabled him to regain his independence.

The team also enrolled Nelson at a School for the Blind in Soroti. Steve met Nelson at school, where teachers told him Nelson had learned to use a Braille

typewriter in less than a month and is now an outstanding student.

Nelson says our DCO project has changed his life: *"I have learnt that this stick is not just merely a stick but it's a powerful and respected tool. Whenever I raise it, even a big truck stops. I find myself respected and considered. I have full access, I can visit, I no longer have painful eyes, I am independent. I attend my class regularly and can participate, I have the hope to achieve my career dream. This has been a breakthrough in my life."* Nelson wants to become a radio presenter.



## \*Mikey learns how to walk

**Four-year-old \*Mikey couldn't put any weight on his legs, but with monthly visits from a physiotherapist and a walking frame provided by Global Care, he has built up strength in his legs and can now walk unaided!**

Mikey will be starting school later this year, thanks to the DCO project,

which helped him to get registered with the local health authority.

Mikey's grandfather told Steve that, thanks to the DCO team, they have hope for the future. He has already signed Mikey up for school, something he used to think was impossible!





# NEW HOPE, NEW HOME

Since 2004, New Hope Children's Home in Poi Pet, near the border with Thailand, has provided a haven for a total of 120 orphaned or abandoned children. Through child sponsors, fundraisers and trusts, Global Care supported the children, and, over time, created a sustainable model for running the home. This investment in sustainability eventually meant our support was no longer needed and our formal partnership ended in 2021. In April, John and Steve visited Poi Pet to see how project director Titus, and the children, were faring.

*“Visiting the children's Home in Poi Pet was a strange experience,” writes John. “Seeing the home, built to house the large family group, was disappointing. The wonderful countryside site, the various trees and plants which give such good fruit. The rice fields, which are still being harvested as are the four fishponds. But the children aren't there!”*

*The Home has moved back into Poi Pet town. With only eight children left, almost all in high school, it made sense to move back to the city so the children could attend the high school there.*

*I was concerned that the children would be missing their wonderful home in the countryside, with so much room to play. Now they lived in a small apartment which felt very cramped.*

*But when Steve and I began to talk to them we realized how happy they were to be living there.*

*They love the new opportunities the city offers them. More choice of friends, more activities. As young people they enjoy the urban hustle and bustle.*

*The high school they now attend has more options for learning. Information technology is much more easily available, which is very important to them. All the children agreed that they love their life here.*

*It reminded me that as we work with our partners we need to be ready for change as the needs and lives of the children change. Although the home in the countryside was great when so many of the children went to the local*



*primary school, once the majority moved to secondary school things needed to move on.*

*Titus and the Home are now self-sufficient. The move to the city meant he could open a small fee-paying primary school and run ICT classes for High School pupils. These, with the sale of excess rice and produce from the land where the old home is situated, mean the children can be cared for with minimal outside funding.*





*During the life of the Home 120 children have been cared for. Children who were in desperate need have been given a home, love and a future.*

*I left Titus with a deep sense of sadness that I will probably never visit him and the project again. After being so much part of Global Care for so long, to say goodbye is sad. But my sadness was swamped by a sense of gratitude that God has allowed us to be partners in this wonderful expression of the gospel. His act of liberation for 120 children. How can you be sad when you have been part of something so wonderful!*

*When we left we asked Titus to keep in touch and promised to remember him and the children in prayer. I look forward to hearing the stories of the final eight, formerly vulnerable children, as they make their way to adulthood.*



During the visit, John agreed with Titus that the old countryside home should be sold, allowing NHCH to buy a much bigger property in the city to house the home, school and ICT classes, and continue to develop their ministry for vulnerable children.



## GRAVEYARD SCHOOL

**During their visit, John and Steve met with potential new partners in Cambodia, and agreed to fund a small education programme helping families who live in a disused graveyard near Phnom Penh.**

The project is aimed at children aged between 8-14. They attend government schools in the morning and can then attend the education centre for extra

classes in English and Khmer in the afternoons. Around 35 children attend.

The initiative is run by Bethel Ministry Organisation (BMO), who have worked hard to support this slum community. The families have built shacks over the graves in the graveyard, in fact incorporating many of the graves as household furniture like tables and tidying them up when families come to visit their deceased ancestors.

Global Care has agreed to fund the project until the end of 2023, whilst our Operations team work with BMO to look at what the next steps in partnership could be.



# Giving Thanks

**Two stalwart friends of Global Care died earlier this year: George Verwer and Doug Wood. As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, we take time to remember and celebrate those who made possible all the achievements of those four decades.**

Doug Wood was a former trustee and Patron who served Global Care

faithfully for many years. Doug knew our founder Ron Newby, as a young man, and was someone Ron trusted implicitly. Doug was instrumental in the establishment of Global Care as a formal charity, serving as a trustee for many years. Even after stepping down as a trustee, Doug continued to speak on our behalf at churches and



other groups throughout northwest England. Doug was passionately committed to our work in India, in particular the work of our partners Emmanuel Ministries in Kolkata. We are so grateful for his life and all he contributed to the growth and development of Global Care. Thank you, Doug.

George Verwer, founder of Operation Mobilisation, was also a great friend to Global Care for many years. He served on our council of reference for over 25 of our 40 years, and latterly had a keen interest in our work with children with disabilities in Uganda. We thank God for his life and ministry. Thank you, George.

## 40th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service: 11th November



**Join us to thank God for his many blessings over the last four decades of Global Care's ministry, at our 40th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service.**

Worship will be led by singer-songwriter Rob Halligan. We will also be joined by Sriyani Tidball, a leading expert in the fight against

human trafficking in Sri Lanka and in the USA. Sriyani has partnered with Global Care for 25 years in Sri Lanka, as founder and director of Community Concern, and has a fascinating story to tell.

Sriyani will lead a short seminar from 4-5pm, discussing practical ways of combating human trafficking, and the work funded by Global Care in Sri Lanka.

**Then we will gather for refreshments and a light tea before the service begins at 6pm. Please put the date in your diary now!**

**Join us at the Salvation Army, Lamb Street, Coventry, 6-8pm.**