



**African Mission  
Annual Report  
2010-2011**

The Aim of African Mission is “To fight disease and poverty in Africa by supporting educational & medical projects”.

**Background:** African Mission was started in 2003 to support the work of Dr Ray Towey MB ChB FRCA. Dr Towey left his post as a Consultant Anaesthetist in Guys Hospital, London to work in Africa and for the last 18 years has dedicated his life to the improvement of health care for the poor in Africa. He has worked as an Anaesthetist in rural hospitals in Nigeria and Tanzania and has spent the last nine years in St Mary’s Hospital, Gulu, Uganda, training medical and nurse students in the safe administration of anaesthetics. He has also helped upgrade Intensive Care Units (ICUs) in both Tanzania and Uganda. African Mission raised the funds needed to buy the necessary ICU equipment and continues to support Dr Towey with medical equipment or training materials when the need arises.

On visiting the projects supported by the charity and being aware of the extreme poverty in Africa, Nannette Ffrench, who began the charity, decided to expand the work of African Mission. In July 2009 following a visit to Zimbabwe by Nannette & Dr Towey, African Mission decided to support three new projects based in Zimbabwe. The projects are (1) Fatima Mission (2) Fatima High School and (3) St Patrick’s Hospital. After a follow up visit by Nannette & Paddy Boyle to Zimbabwe in January 2010, Paddy offered his services as an Administrator. His offer was accepted and from March 2010 he became African Mission first employee and part time Administrator.

## CONTENTS

Aims, Background, Contents & Trustees .....	Page 2
Dr Ray Towey.....	Page 3
Fatima Mission .....	Page 4
Fatima Mission .....	Page 5
African Mission 10-11 Accounts.....	Page 6
Fatima High School .....	Page 7
Blind & Deaf Project and St Patrick’s Hospital .....	Page 8

African Mission Trustees: Tony Charlton, Nannette Ffrench, Pat Flood & Bernadette Hunt



African Mission  
4 Edmonton Court  
London SE16 7BQ  
Tele: 020 7231 1756  
Email: [office@africanmission.org.uk](mailto:office@africanmission.org.uk)  
[www.africanmission.org.uk](http://www.africanmission.org.uk)  
Registered Charity 1099264



## Dr Ray Towey



Dr Towey has been working as an Anaesthetist in Uganda at St Mary's Hospital Lacor, Gulu since 2002 and this has involved teaching medical students since the Medical School opened 7 years ago. St Mary's is a church supported general hospital of 476 beds where 87% of patient costs are subsidised. It is in a remote rural area where for the last 20 years there has been a significant security problem. For 10 years it has had a small four-bed ICU near the operating theatre, which was recently upgraded to an eight-bed unit. It is a teaching hospital for Nurses and Laboratory Technicians and it is attached to Gulu University Medical School.

The majority of the patients are the rural poor and can come from up to 70 miles away. African Mission has provided Dr Towey with medical equipment consisting of oxygen concentrators, monitoring equipment, ventilators, laryngoscopes and intravenous catheters. We have also provided text books for training and drugs when needed.

### Equipment bought in the last 12 months:

- Back up battery for Glostavent ventilator
- Oximeters x 3
- Oximeter probe extensions x 3
- Oxygen connectors x 6
- Endotracheal tubes x 10
- Catheter Extension x 50
- Safe Anaesthesia' book & CD



Oximeter in use

### Two case studies



Mother and father with baby.

*"In rural Africa any form of major surgery especially in a new born baby has many dangers. The baby in the photo was 2 weeks old when he came to the hospital and had an obstruction to his small bowel because it was stuck in a hernia which he had been born with. The operation went well and he was in ICU for about 2 weeks afterwards and he has done well. All the staff are pleased that he can now go back to the ward and then back home very shortly".*

*"This is another patient who has benefited from ICU care and ventilation of the lungs. She developed a psychiatric disease and took a poison of insecticide which paralysed all her muscles and made her unconscious. After 48 hours of ventilation of the lungs she was able to breath on her own and woke up. Of course she will need a lot of psychiatric care to get her back to normal yet but the ICU has done a major part in getting her back to her family alive and her 7 month old child."*



# FATIMA

Fatima Mission is a Franciscan run Mission in rural Zimbabwe. The Priest in Charge is Fr Jeya, a Franciscan Friar who has been working on the Mission for the last nine years. It is 900 sq kms in size and has a number of primary schools, secondary schools and a clinic (Lubimbi Clinic) within its boundaries.

The vast majority of those living within Fatima Mission's boundaries are very poor. African Mission intends to work with Fatima Mission to improve the life chances of these people through the provision of new and improved educational and medical facilities. We envisage that this will take a number of years to achieve.

Dungu Primary School is in an extremely remote area, a two hour drive from the main road (the only tarmac road in the vicinity). The children are very poor, coming from the Tonga People, one of the poorest groups in Zimbabwe. In January 2010 the school consisted of 3 buildings; a single clay brick classroom with a thatched roof and 3 small windows (no glass), a double breeze block classroom with a tin roof, several window frames without glass and a sand floor and a small clay brick teachers cottage too small for purpose.

## Dungu Primary School

### Between February & August 2010 African Mission:

- Supplied Dungu Primary School with textbooks, exercise books, chalk & pens.
- Supplied school fees and uniforms for 187 orphan children.

### In the last 12 months African Mission has:

- Paid for a new double classroom (see below)
- Provided school fees for children who are orphaned or from single parent families
- Paid for a new teachers cottage
- Paid for tables & chairs for 4 classrooms



# MISSION

## St John's Primary School

Another primary school within Fatima Mission is St John's. Once again it is in a very remote rural area, 3 kms from the nearest road. The children are very poor and the literacy rate is extremely low. This is due in part to the very poor condition of the school. Although there are 9 classes in the school, there are only 2 classroom blocks (with 2 classrooms in each) only one of which had a roof. This meant that 7 of the 9 classes were open to the vicissitudes of the weather – see front cover.

As there are no tables or chairs available (either inside or outside of the school), the children share a small number of wooden benches. The older children write in their books whilst balancing them on their knees, whilst the younger children only have the sand outside in which to write.

### How we have helped to date:

- Paid for a new roof, windows & floor for double classroom – see below photo

### What we are in the process of doing:

- Raising funds to pay for tables & chairs for 4 classrooms.
- Raising funds for a new teachers cottage.

### What we hope to do in the future:

- Provide textbooks as needed.



### Future project - Lubimbi boarding & study centre

Lubimbi ward is in a very remote rural area, 22 kms from the main tarmac road. The houses are very scattered making it impossible for some children to walk to and from school. In order to give the children an opportunity to obtain a secondary education Fr Jeya has opened a Church hall near Lubimbi Secondary School. The children can board here and also study in the afternoon when they come back from school.

In order to provide the children with running water Fr Jeya would like to drill a borehole and eventually to provide a separate male and female dormitory. We hope to help him with this new project in the coming year.

**AFRICAN MISSION 10-11 ACCOUNTS**

	Year ended 31st March 2011	Year ended 31st March 2010
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations	42448	47854
Interest received	36	46
	-----	-----
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>42484</b>	<b>47900</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Medical/educational		
Uganda	3841	12316
Zimbabwe	42763	15486
Shipping costs		456
	-----	-----
	46604	28258
Administration		
Office costs	905	1762
Bank charges		58
Fundraising	1002	374
Salaries	12729	
Travel		1969
	-----	-----
	14636	4163
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>61240</b>	<b>32421</b>
<b>Receipts less exps.</b>	<b>18756</b>	<b>15479</b>

---

**Statement of assets and liabilities**

	Year ended 31st March 2011	Year ended 31st March 2010
Cash at bank	14115	32206
Debtors	-----	-----
	-----	-----
	14115	32206
Liabilities	665	-----
	-----	-----
	13450	32206
Reserves	32206	16727
Surplus/ deficit for year	-18756	15479
	-----	-----
	13450	32206

A Charlton - Treasurer

## Fatima High School (Fatima Mission)



Fatima High School is by Zimbabwean standards a good school. The level of education is similar to that of Secondary education here in the UK. Despite the lack of basic infrastructure e.g. broken windows and desks, one text book between 10–15 pupils, the pupils are very industrious and keen to learn.

Sr. Yeyani, the Assistant Headteacher at Fatima High School, writes,

*“20% of the school population are given priority at Fatima [High School]. These are normally the local children who would have done their primary education at the local primary school. Most of these are very poor children whose parents cannot afford to pay fees at all. We as Sisters sponsor quite a number of these children. Among these children are some hard working ones who could do with some funding”.*

### **In the last 12 months African Mission has:**

- Sponsored 5 children, (3 girls & 2 boys).
- Provided Science textbooks
- Provided Science equipment
- Provided Classroom Boards x 20
- Provided costs of satellite broadband

The children who have benefitted from African Mission sponsorship are children like John, a very bright student from a poor background. He had to walk 7 kms to and from school every day. By paying his boarding fees John was able to stay at school and concentrate on his exams.

Two of the other sponsored students were constantly being sent home as their parents could not afford their fees. Samantha’s parents are small farmers and could only afford the school fees whenever they had a good harvest. Leon’s school fees were dependent on the sales of the vegetables he grew himself.

What sponsorship means to the children is well expressed in the following letter:

*“My name is Hannah. I am in [the] upper sixth form at Fatima High School. I come from a family of six and I am the fifth born. I would like to write this letter to show my gratitude and to thank you fro helping me to finish my Advanced level at Fatima.*

*First of all I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to be at school at this moment. This was my wish ever since my father stopped working and he could not afford paying my school fees. I could not finish my A levels in 2009 [nor could] my two brothers who were also [in school at] that time. My mother passed away and my father got marries again. This has been a big challenge for us to survive, my brother had to work and look after us.*

*Staying at home doing nothing was my last option, that is why I came back to school and asked fro assistance. I’m looking forward to doing my level best and to achieve my goals. I also want to recover the time lost when I was at home. I am a church goer and I always ask God to guide me in everything I do.*

*I am doing a combination of pure arts that consists of literature in English, History and Ndebele. My wish was to proceed with my education after I finish my A levels and I would love to study law at tertiary level.*

*I don’t have much to say but only to say that I’m so grateful for this chance you have given me to be able to fulfil my dreams. I also want to thank you for sponsoring me, without you I wouldn’t be at school at this moment. I do promise that I will do my best and pass my A levels.*

*Thank you very much and may God bless you.*

*Yours faithfully,  
Hannah”*

### **Blind & Deaf Project (Fatima Mission)**



In the beginning of March 2011 another boy who is totally blind whose name is Believe came to the project. Oscar & Believe are doing Grade One. Oscar is very happy since he now has a companion to talk to and to play with. In March 2011 there were 2 adults and 6 children staying at the Blind & Deaf Project.

In May the 2 adults went to Bulawayo to learn further skills. Out of the two deaf and mute children, Daniel who is 6 years old has returned home leaving 5 children at the project.

#### **In the last 12 months African Mission has:**

- Paid the costs for the school going children for food, accommodation and clothing.
- Paid the Boarding & School fees for the two adults, Collin & Helen.

### **St Patrick’s Hospital, Hwange.**

St Patrick’s Hospital is on the outskirts of Hwange, a Colliery town in the North West of Zimbabwe. St Patrick’s is the main hospital for Hwange’s 45,000 population and surrounding rural area.

#### **In the last 12 months African Mission has:**

- Paid for a new incinerator
- Paid for a new industrial washing machine

