

MISSION WORLD AID
AGM REPORT 2006-2007

Eleven containers were sent overseas this year:

1) Philippines

A second high cube forty foot container was packed in July 06 for the Vicente Gustilo District Hospital in Escalante, Negros Occidental. Our first consignment, in June 05, prompted the Philippine Government to provide funding for a new hospital. This container also contained 56 hospital beds and mattresses, together with other hospital equipment such as overbed tables, commodes, walking frames, wheelchairs etc, as well as 54 school desks and chairs, and bicycles. We used soft toys for packing, and these were distributed to 40 day care centres catering for disadvantaged children in 21 barangays.

2) Tanzania

In September, we packed a forty footer with 68 double compacted bales of clothing, as well as over 200 boxes of assorted humanitarian aid at the premises of the Australian Wool Handlers at Port Adelaide. We were amazed by the expertise of the forklift driver assigned to help us pack the container, and the whole process was accomplished in less than three hours!

The contents were taken by Ps Daniel Nyalusi, of the Maranatha Revival Church to many centres all over Tanzania., to be distributed to the poor.

3) Israel

In November we packed another forty foot high cube for the Joseph Project, in response to the urgent needs stemming from the war, by which over 6000 homes were destroyed and half a million people displaced. This container was packed with 23 office desks as well as other furniture, which was enthusiastically received, besides the usual high quality clothing.

4) Uganda

In December we packed a forty footer with 24 hospital beds, 425 boxes of assorted humanitarian aid, as well as school desks and chairs for the Bushfire Children's Home, run by Eva and Sam Kitanya of the Uganda Family Resource Link. Sam visited us this year and was very encouraging. He commented on how pleased they were to receive bed linen and curtains, which they hadn't thought of asking for, and told us that they couldn't imagine what hospital beds would look like! Not one thing we sent was wasted.

5) India

Also in December we packed a second twenty footer with over sixteen and a half tonnes of school books for the New India Church of God to continue stocking the libraries in five orphanages that we sent books to last time. This time there was no difficulty with customs.

6) Uganda

In February we again packed a forty footer for Uganda, this time for Bishop Patrick Okabe and his orphanage/school of 900 children in Mbale. Bishop Okabe oversees many churches in that district, and was able to arrange delivery of the container to his premises, and to distribute any items sent in excess to the orphanage's requirements to others in the area.

7) Papua New Guinea

In March we packed a forty footer for IT Share, an organization which has kindly supplied us with reconditioned computers for several of our containers in the past. This one was destined for the Goroka Hospital, and fifty computers and accessories were packed for installation in the hospital, together with some excellent hospital equipment sourced by Dymphnia and Kieren Fitzgerald, of the Highlands Midwives Association.

8) Burundi

In April we packed another forty footer at the premises of the Australian Wool Handlers, this time for the victims of war, drought and floods in Burundi. 115 bales of clothing, an 800cc motorbike, rice, and over 300 boxes of assorted aid were packed into the container with the invaluable help of Jarrod, the forklift operator. We are very grateful to the Australian Wool Handlers for their help in storing the bales of clothing until we can send them on, then compressing them when we need to pack them, as well as their help in packing the containers.

9) Uganda

Also in April we packed another forty footer for Ps Fred Mukasa and his schools in Uganda, and the poor of the Kiboga District of Uganda, with 40 bales of clothing, 48 computers and accessories, beds, pews, and nearly 400 boxes of assorted aid. This is presently undergoing customs formalities in Kampala.

!0) Philippines

In May we packed a third forty foot high cube container for the Vicente Gustilo Hospital in Escalante with 45 hospital beds and other hospital and humanitarian aid. The new hospital was due to be opened in early June.

11) Israel

In June we packed another forty foot high cube container, with furniture and clothing, again for the Joseph Project, which distributes the aid to the poor through thirty centres throughout the country. The Joseph Project targets Russian, Ethiopian and other immigrants, as well as Jewish, Arab, Druze, Bedouin and Christian populations in need through the Israeli Government Department of Social Assistance. This container arrived in Haifa on June 20th and is still undergoing clearance in the port.

We have continued to donate clothing and household goods to remote Aboriginal communities through Helen Murray and Ian Hopton, who arrange transport through their contacts. Sometimes groups have come to the shed to choose items for themselves.

We have also helped a few refugee immigrants in Adelaide with warm clothing, blankets and furniture.

We have begun co-operating with Lyn and Ken Begley of Melbourne who initiated a project of knitting for babies with AIDS, and other vulnerable babies, but who were overwhelmed by the response. They sent us three tonnes of baby clothes, which we are happy to pack in the containers. Some were included in the Israel container.

What a privilege it is to work with such a capable and dedicated group as the shed team! Their productivity is envied by certain businessmen who have visited the shed. Many thanks to Pat and Bob Tremlett, Malcolm and Barb Morgan, Alan and Joan Frick, Frank Leane, Ozzy and Robyn Ozolins, Trevor Ellis, Dick Burdorf, Delma Ireland, Ruth Jenkins and her twin, Heather, Gloria Kimber, Louis Leake, John Smiles, and all the other volunteers.

We are very grateful to Sally Phillips, who has held garage sales at her home for us.

We pay tribute too, to Worldlink International, especially Marc Ford, the shipping agent, who serves us free of charge, as well as the Australian Wool Handlers who store the bales of clothing until we need them, and who compact them for us

I would also like to mention the teams who help pack the containers. Special thanks are due to the Moore family: to Anthony for his inimitable skill in utilizing every square inch of space in each container, as well as his administrative skills; to Dan and Phil for giving us so many of their precious weekends to help, and also to Christie for feeding the troops with such delicious lunches each time. Thanks to Andrew Lothian for always being there in the thick of it, and Jeff Edwards too for his invaluable help, and to all the other faithful volunteers, who wipe and clean and mark off each item before it is packed. We couldn't do it without you!

When we consider the need in the developing world, we could well be overwhelmed. However we do make a difference for those who actually receive aid from us, and it filters through the communities in various ways to impact many more people than are immediately apparent. When we send sewing machines, computers, typewriters and even bicycles which need fixing, we contribute to the micro economies of those communities by providing some people with a way to earn a living.

We thank God for His continual guidance and removal of obstacles, and we thank our generous donors for their sacrificial giving to this cause.

Gael Harrison
Aid Administrator