

# WHATEVER YOU DO

Justice, peace and social responsibility at St Joseph's

## The tiny mustard seed grew into a tree



**Health Help International** is a charity, created in 1999 by Ron Prosser. Like many of us, his first international aid involvement was sponsoring a child in the developing world, with a group of others.

He became involved with the International Children's Trust, and on a visit to India in 1994, he looked out of his hotel room window in Chennai (Madras) one evening, to see young children bedding down on the street outside - having been relieved of much of the money that they had begged during the day by a senior beggar. *And God spoke to him.*

That night Ron became ill and ended up in hospital. As is usual in India, he needed a **bystander** - someone to look after him in the hospital - and this role was provided for him by the local boys' hostel that he was working with. In gratitude for this help, Ron determined that, on his return to the UK, he would raise £1,000 to provide a really good television for the hostel. He raised this money - and more.

In 1997 there was an extraordinary event. A brown paper parcel, delivered by post to Ron's home in Newport, South Wales, contained an All Bran box with bundles of pound notes - £12,025 in all - and a note saying "*For church, for chapel, for Newport, for India.*". It was distributed as asked and still the donor is anonymous.



Later that year, when in a mud hut at Luansobe in the Zambian bush, Ron was told, "You are the answer to our prayers. We want you to find us a doctor". The local health clinic, Mpongwe Mission Hospital, had no doctor or medicines.

On his return, Ron advertised for a doctor - no real salary, just a real need. A Dutch couple

answered the call. Ron promised air fares, £1,000 a year living expenses, and a supply of medicines. To fund this, Health Help International (HHI) was born in 1999.

It aims to help improve the health and education of disabled and vulnerable people and to support their sustainable living in both Zambia and India.

The UK committee is made up of volunteers from across the UK, whose contributions cover all overhead costs, ensuring all funds raised by supporters are directly used to help those in greatest need.



Over the last 23 years HHI has funded many disabled children into education, most of whom are now supporting themselves and their families. It has built schools, toilet blocks, wells, irrigation systems, bore holes, rebuilt homes, provided hospital equipment, physiotherapy, care for the mentally ill and destitute and supported many families into independent living through income generating ventures. Over 500 people are helped in Zambia each month and 1000+ receive HHI support in India.

Donors support this work by:

- Buying a gift from the 'alternative gift' catalogue: providing education support for a term or fund a hospital visit or a goat for a struggling family instead of buying a 'don't know what' gift for someone! Details are on the website: [www.hhi.org.uk](http://www.hhi.org.uk)
- Praying for their work
- Putting loose unwanted change in their collecting box,

The free quarterly newsletter, **Tidings**, has updates on their work in India and Zambia.

*Also, we have **RTU**, but you may have a dream...*