



During the summer a group of 20 younger Medical Mission Sisters from different parts of the world gathered in Germany for a 3-week workshop. They shared about the realities of life in their home countries and in their mission involvements, and the major issues they are confronted with every day: What challenges do Christians face in India and Pakistan? How do African and European sisters

respond to the needs of so many refugees? There was so much common ground to discover and explore together. Many creative ideas came up on how to shape the future together and continue mission for the poor and marginalised from a more global perspective.

The sisters had the opportunity to visit neighbouring countries where MMS are in mission: Laura from Germany, Mary Linda from Uganda and Judith from Kenya crossed the channel to experience MMS life and mission with the sick, the homeless and refugees in London.

The highlight of the sisters' time together was a visit to the birthplace of our foundress, Mother Anna Dengel, in Steeg, Austria, in which Medical Mission Sisters from the UK, Germany and the Netherlands/Belgium also participated. Apart from the serious input and sharing, there was plenty of time for joyful encounters and, of course, for music and dancing!

Your Medical Mission Sisters

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Please pray for Medical Mission Sisters in: Belgium, England, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, The Netherlands, Uganda, USA, Venezuela.

Thank you for your support and prayers. We are grateful for your interest in our work and we hope to keep in touch with you from time to time through this newsletter.

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Medical Mission News

Winter 2018

Therefore, Choose Life!

*We experience God as a God of life who calls us to defend and promote life;
as a God who sets us free, and calls us to live in freedom,
helping others to become free.*

Core Aspects of MMS Spirituality 2001

Our world is full of insecurities and uncertainties, where most people living in poverty will not find it easy to 'choose Life'. These people may have been living in destitution for years because of systemic injustice that exists in our society today. We may find people who are deeply wounded because of the loss of their loved ones, those who are sick and dying, those who are displaced or trafficked and seeking refuge and protection. Truly, poor people are being challenged by various difficult situations and yet, in faith and hope, they can choose life!

Medical Mission Sisters are searching and choosing life too amidst the most complex situations of the people they journey with. *"We encounter God in our people who struggle daily to defend their dignity and who at the same time vibrate hope for the fullness of Life!"* (Core Aspects of MMS Spirituality) Time and again, we become witness to God's great goodness and love for all created beings.



Solidarity Kitchen in Barquisimeto, Venezuela

With Venezuela's worsening economic crisis, Medical Mission Sisters continue helping to run a Solidarity Kitchen in Barquisimeto. With inflation now above 1,000%, the kitchen spends in one month what was previously spent in a year for food. Sister Maigualida shares, "We remain hopeful that one day this crisis will finish. Meanwhile we want to continue offering a space, a hand, a word, and we want to continue saving lives."

Flood relief camp in Kerala, South India

Medical Mission Sisters conducted many training camps after the devastating floods of last August, and also provided shelter, food and supplies to people affected by the flood. They are currently helping people to assess the damage to their homes and determine solutions for rebuilding. Now, the people who have lost everything are returning home to pick up the pieces. They are greeted by new dangers, like snake infestations and disease-causing bacteria. Still, our sisters in the region marvel at the unity they are seeing among their neighbours. People of Christian, Hindu and Muslim faiths, from the highest and the lowest castes, first rescued each other from the flood waters and are now uniting to help rebuild.



*'We commit ourselves to promote healing and wholeness
in all aspects of life, to seek to preserve the integrity of life...*

MMS Constitution 2007

Solidarity walk with Refugee Tales, London

Last July, Sisters Magda Pittaro and Rosalinda Maog joined the 60 miles "Refugee Tales" Walk from St. Albans to Westminster. These walks aim to raise awareness about the current situation of people being detained and seeking asylum in UK. Refugee Tales campaigns for a 28-day time limit for immigration detention, since UK is the only country in Europe that detains people indefinitely. This also has been a continued source of hope and solidarity for many of us.



*...to participate in the movement of empowerment of those made poor
and those who are oppressed, weaving care
and compassion into the web of life.*

MMS Constitution 2007

Celebrating 70 years of NHS in Meadow House Hospice, London

Sr Nichola Lovett joined the 30th June "Birthday party" march in support of the National Health Service, which was founded on July 5th 1948. The march started from Portland Place, Central London, and continued to 10, Downing Street. This was to celebrate 70 years of the NHS and to lobby Parliament to save this vital service. Posters advertised some of these requests: one was to stop the insidious privatisation of parts of the NHS; another was to highlight the great importance of so many NHS staff who come from other countries; we continue to need and value them, and cannot manage without them. Sr. Nichola is visiting the patients in Meadow House Hospice once a week.



*Together with others similarly called, we participate
in the birth of the new world reality.*

MMS Constitution 2007

Supporting health for homeless and trafficked women, London

Sr Magda Pittaro is a volunteer in Emmaus Centre, Acton Homeless Concern. She treats homeless people who come in need of massage therapy or alternative health care treatment for minor ailments or illness. She also volunteers in a safe house for trafficked women and children, supporting their health and well-being through relaxation and energising sessions, using various alternative health care methods.

*In the end it is not "our mission"
but God's mission -
a mission into which we are called to participate,
a mission that we hope will change both
us and the world.*

Agnes Lanfermann, Society Coordinator 2009-2016

