



MEDICAL MISSIONARIES of MARY

Special Supplement to
Healing & Development

AUTUMN 2013

MMM

*Rooted and
founded
in Love*

Come visit us at:

www.mmmworldwide.org

*We are an international congregation of women religious,
founded by Mother Mary Martin in Nigeria in 1937.*

*Desiring to share Christ's healing love, we bring health
services to people of different cultures
where human needs are great.*

*MMMs are serving in fourteen countries
around the world, including our
newest mission in the Republic of
South Sudan. Sisters come from
twenty countries and are trained
in a variety of health-related
professions. With Mary as our
model, our special concern is the care of
mother and child and the fostering of family life.*

The Dry Season, Eastern Bank, Republic of South Sudan

In 2013 the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) stated that the number of people in displacement hit 45 million, the highest figure for 14 years. This included significant new displacement from Sudan. MMM's newest mission is in South Sudan.

Amazing Grace



Sister Angela with a young friend

Sister Angela Katalyeba, from Tanzania, is on mission in Kirambi, Rwanda. She is the programme coordinator and told us how MMM helped to give Maria a precious gift.

"I remember the day we went to a nearby village and met Maria*. She had lost her sight three years previously. She is seventy-four years old and lives in a small, broken-down house.

"She told us what happened when she lost her sight. 'I used to see but I haven't been able to for a long time. My eyes are open but I see nothing. I recognize people's voices and have the images and pictures I used to see before me in my mind. I don't know what went wrong. It all started slowly but I had no money to go to the hospital. I just sat hopelessly, waiting for the day I would die.'

"Despite this she seemed to be a happy person. We wondered if something could be done. We arranged for her to be brought to Kabgayi Hospital, an eye hospital run by the Catholic Church. Maria was examined and given an appointment for treatment the next day. I had great hope after getting the doctor's feedback. Maria had cataracts. We prayed that all would go well.



Maria: given new vision and new life

"The next day she had an operation on both eyes. After a few days the bandages were removed. Maria danced for joy. 'I was blind but now I see!' she screamed.

"When she travelled back to our programme in Kirambi, she was deeply grateful and happy. She said that once again she felt human. She went all around the compound and village, seeing the changes that had taken place since she became blind. The most meaningful part for her was identifying the people who used to visit and talk to her when she sat in her house, hopeless and dependent on others for everything. Before her operation they were only voices. She shared how hard it was to adjust to a life of blindness.

"Sight is a very precious gift that God has given us. Let us be grateful and not take it for granted."



Kirambi road: One barrier to health care

*Not her real name

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Photo courtesy of Philou Dubeaux

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