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“My husband dismissed me after all three of my children were born albino. He was angry and I felt as if I didn't deserve to exist.”

After Maria and her children were thrown out of their home, by her husband, Dutch nuns took them in. They also gave Maria a job as a housekeeper, which meant she could afford to send her children to school and buy lotion for their skin.

Maria and her daughter Emmanuel (pictured above) are members of TAS - Tanzania Albino Society. ADD has been supporting TAS since it was first set up in 1999. TAS face a unique struggle because albinism is not widely recognised as a disability. Read more about TAS on page 8.

Welcome to ADD's spring newsletter

If you have any comments or would like more information about anything featured here please contact me on 01373 475723 or email gail.johnston@add.org.uk.

Also let me know if you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email or in any other format.

Thanks
Gail



Jabulani Ncube has been appointed Acting Chief Executive following the stepping down of Isaac Kute on December 31st 2007. ADD's trustees are currently considering succession arrangements.

Inside you can read about...

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Khop Run Primary School in Cambodia

Many self help groups in Cambodia focus on trying to make sure disabled children are able to go to school. ADD counterparts (volunteers) have taken on the responsibility of visiting schools to raise awareness of the importance of making education accessible to disabled children.

Counterpart, Mr Sarin, had several meetings with Headmaster, Mr Phat, and other staff at the Khop Run Primary School in the Kompot province to discuss this issue. Mr Phat was very supportive and has since installed ramps at the school; five disabled children now attend the school.



[Bit Chanly, and classmates, in the school library](#)

The school has also set up a library with a whole section on disability rights, which contains publications provided by ADD Cambodia. Disabled pupils were encouraged to read this information first, but now all children, teachers and members of the community are welcome to visit the library. Being able to access information on disability rights has had a positive effect on people's perceptions and their treatment of disabled children.

One of the disabled children who attend this school is 15-year old Bit Chanly. He found going to school too difficult and, neither he nor his family, saw any point in making the effort

But now, Bit Chanly has decided to stay at school and continue his education. This shows what a big impact, small changes can make to the lives of disabled children.



You may remember Mariam from the front page of the last newsletter, now I'd like you to meet her...

Mariam is 15 and since her mother died three years ago, has lived with her grandmother. While one sister lives with an aunt in Mali and her other siblings live with her father in Bobo Dioulasso – Mariam was sent to live with her grandmother because she is disabled.

"I became disabled after meningitis, since then I have experienced a delay in growth, trembles and difficulty in moving around.

I wasn't sent to school and had to stay in the house, but I had nothing to do. I wasn't given any tasks because of the trembles in my hands.

I joined ADPHO (the Association Djiguya of the Handicapped Persons of Orodara) in 2005 after members of the group spoke to my grandmother. She took me along to join. Now I can speak to other disabled people.



Since I joined the group I realised that I have rights as a disabled person. I participate in discussions and activities which have brought a lot of changes in my life. **I now have a bigger confidence in me**, I can do the dishes, sweep the house and I now wash my own clothes just like other girls my age.

Everyday I go to the group and learn to sew embroidery by hand with other women members. Despite my trembles my sewing skills have improved and **I know now that I am useful.**"

ADPHO was set up in 1992 and provides income generating training; information about micro-credit; and promotion of disabled people's rights through awareness raising within the community.

"I would like to learn to read and to write but I do not know if that is possible with my trembles. I would like to have enough money to open a small business so I can buy my own clothes and kitchen implements for I intend to have my own home in the future. And if I win, children - then I will be satisfied."

"I thank all those that help ADD to help us, we always have needs of their assistance."

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Every year, on December 3rd, ADD supports disabled peoples organisations to organise events to celebrate disabled peoples abilities. Colourful, peaceful marches take place, along with art exhibitions, dramas and sporting events. Every year Ministers attend the events and this year disabled people used this opportunity to call on their governments to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

Each year has a different theme and in 2007 it was “Decent Work for Persons with Disabilities”. **In developing countries up to 90% of disabled people, of working age, are unemployed. Article 27 of the UN Convention recognises the rights of disabled people to work and employment on an equal basis with others.**

A rally in Bangladesh



"Just to congratulate you on a very well run, interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Most worthwhile I thought – I just wish more people had been there for the experience you provided. Excellent speakers!"

Sarah Hodge
CEO, POWER International



Photo: Mark Davidson

Susan Daniels, CEO of **deafchild** worldwide chaired the event in London

This year ADD UK, as part of the BOND (British Overseas NGO's for Development) Disability and Development Group, hosted an event attended by representatives of mainstream international development organisations such as WaterAid, Red Cross, VSO, Advantage Africa and HelpAge International, to name a few.

Speeches were delivered by: Malcolm Bruce, MP; Charles Badenoch, CEO World Vision and Graham Teskey from DFID on the need for disabled people to be included in all development work. Lorraine Wapling (ADD) and Raymond Lang (Leonard Cheshire Disability) held a “taster” awareness raising workshop. You can read more about this event on the BOND website www.bond.org.uk.

A rally in Tanzania





Samuel, Mohamedi & Abdillahi from the Dar es Salaam branch of TAS

Albinos under threat in Tanzania

Using the body part of an albino as a talisman is the reason for a recent increase in the reported killings of albinos, by miners and fishermen, in the lake region. Tradition believes this kind of talisman brings wealth. Although albinos have always been seen by some people as a curse, or accused of witchcraft, this is the first time they have been targeted in this way.

Cases like the one where the exhumed body of an albino was discovered with the limbs cut off have attracted worldwide media coverage. To capitalise on this coverage TAS (Tanzania Albino Society) have embarked on a joint awareness raising campaign with Sightsavers International. They have appeared at press conferences condemning the killings and are in the process of planning a demonstration to pressurise the government to take action to change the law to protect albinos. Christopher Dadenekeye from TAS said: ***“We need to clear out beliefs that albinism is the result of a curse put on the family and the witch-doctors should be arrested.”***

TAS rely 100% on ADD and you for support as they struggle to change attitudes towards albinos

This message was backed up by the President who, in his New Year message, called for a halt to the beliefs that associates albinism with witchcraft. He also promised to review laws, form a committee to research traditional healers who practice these beliefs and take serious action against them.

Even though TAS first came together 19 years ago, they still work from a tiny, ill equipped office in the grounds of the hospital. They find it impossible to raise funds independently because albinism is not recognised as a disability. **Albinos experience the same levels of discrimination and barriers to full inclusion into society as other disabled people.**

Members of TAS take part in International Day of Disabled Persons celebrations



Lifetime Achievement Award for ADD's Chair

In December Chris Gillies accepted an award from RADAR for his continued leadership in promoting equal rights for disabled people in Africa and Asia. Chris, who has been on ADD's board of trustees since 1989 and Chair since 1996 said:

"Action on Disability and Development has a vision of a world where disabled people can participate as fully as they choose at every level of society. I am honoured to receive this award, but the real achievers are disabled people all over Africa and Asia who work together to form groups in villages, districts, regionally and nationally to support one another to bring about positive change to the lives of all disabled people. This award is for them."



Photo: RADAR

Photo of Chris accepting award from the Rt. Hon. Lord Ashley of Stoke

How to help...

Join ADD in the Race Against Disablism

This year, thanks to the efforts of ADD volunteer Kerry, we have secured places in the **Bath Half Marathon on March 16th, the Great Manchester Run on May 18th and the Great South Run on October 26th**. All three events are accessible and open to disabled and non-disabled people, please visit our website for more information.

If you would like to register your interest in these events, or any future similar events, please contact Gail on 01373 475723 or email gail.johnston@add.org.uk.

Gifts instead of presents?

ADD supporter **Chris Johnston** took up this idea and raised an **amazing £730** by asking his friends and family to donate to ADD instead of buying presents for his 40th birthday. **We'd like to thank Chris and everyone who donated!**

Set up a regular standing order and help us plan for the future. Just complete the form on the back page and send to ADD.

Give a one off donation online, call us or fill in the form on the back page and send to ADD.

Remember ADD in your will. This everlasting gift helps ensure we can continue to support disabled people's needs and achieve lasting change.

Payroll giving is an easy, tax-free way to donate regularly.

Donate unwanted shares at www.sharegift.org.

Self Assessment taxpayers can donate any amount of any tax repayments to a nominated charity, please choose ADD - our unique code is **JAHZG**.

Amazon give us around 5% of every purchase you make using the link on ADD's website - easy!



Ebay lets you donate a % of your items final selling price to ADD - thanks to all our supporters who have donated in this way.

Everyclick.com is the UK search engine that donates 50% of its revenue to charity - a free and easy way to raise money for ADD.



Become a fundraiser and join a small team employed on behalf of ADD to recruit new supporters - call Andy on 07979 655081.

Send us your old mobile phone - any condition, any age - we receive £3 for every phone you send in. **Foneaid** either refurbish and send the handsets to developing countries or recycle them. **Please send your unwanted mobiles to the address below (2nd class is around £1.20).**

For more information about any of these ways to help ADD, please contact Gail on 01373 475723 or email gail.johnston@add.org.uk - thank you!

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