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	Sir Mervyn Brown KCMG	Barbara and Allan Prys-Williams

2012/13 was a good year financially for MfM and total income was over £366,000 which is £120,000 more than the previous year, mainly because we received a substantial legacy. However, restricted income, related mainly to Akany Avoko Children's Home, showed a reduction of £29,000 compared to the previous year.

In 2012/13 we spent £296,000 which is £11,000 less than in the previous year. Spending on restricted projects reduced by £69,000 from £232,000 in 2011/12 to £163,000 in 2012/13, while spend of unrestricted funds went up by £57,000.

The charity ended the year with total reserves of £344,000 which is high as trustees are still making plans for the use of the recent legacy. £72,000 of our reserves is restricted, mainly relating to Akany Avoko Children's Home, with general reserves of £272,000. The legacy has given a significant boost to MfM and trustees are evaluating options for how this funding can be used most effectively to support the strategy we are developing and how it should be split between ongoing projects and one-off investments. The needs in Madagascar are enormous and so we have difficult choices to make about how to use the money we have and how best to raise money to support further work in the future.

Our main sources of funding continue to be a very large number of individual donors, Churches, Quaker Meetings, schools, trust funds and, more recently, legacies. We are very grateful to all our supporters for their contributions to our work in Madagascar.

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Twenty-seventh Annual Report

concerning the financial year 1st Oct. 2012—30th Sept. 2013



Monsieur Antoine with his lemons—a successful farmer from Betampona

FOREWORD

After five years of political limbo Madagascar has successfully elected a democratic government. This vital step paves the way for the investment and aid needed to rebuild a country on its knees. The years of crisis have seen the majority of the population slide into very deep poverty so there is a lot of ground to make up. MfM has been there throughout the crisis, supporting our partners who have continued to deliver small-scale development at the grass-roots level. What we can jointly achieve is small in the face of such great need but, as Schumacher said, “Small is beautiful” - a sentiment with which our beneficiaries would wholeheartedly agree.



SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURS

FIVEM is a dynamic women's cooperative in the far West of Madagascar that has benefitted from an **MfM** grant to improve the local market place and build some individual boutiques around it. On our recent visit we were delighted to hear positive feedback from the women who were justifiably proud of their clean and well-organised



market. With the income from letting the boutiques and rent from the market stalls, they made a profit this year. They spent some of it installing mains water and used the rest as dividends for their members. Most of the women used this money to buy clothes and school books for their children. They sell water to people living nearby and use the income to pay the water rates.

The local residents are happy because they no longer have to walk a long distance to buy their water and the women's group is happy because their costs are covered—it's a win-win situation.



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GROWING TREES IN THE FOREST

When the Betampona project started over 20 years ago the local people grew their food in the traditional way by cutting down a patch of forest, burning off the brushwood and growing their rice in the fertile ash. After two or three years, when the soil had lost its fertility, they would move to another patch and leave the original ground to regenerate.



That was fine when the population was small, but with a growing population the increased need for land meant that the forest had no time to regrow. Many farmers saw the forest disappearing and worried about it but the need to feed their families was urgent and conservation or replanting of the forest took a very low priority.

Now, after more than 20 years of help from the Betampona project team, new and less damaging ways of growing rice are widespread, the people grow a wide diversity of other crops, food supply is assured and AT LAST they can think of the future.

Eight years ago, with the encouragement and advice of the team, Roger planted some fast-growing acacia mangium trees on his land. This year he was able to use his own timber to build himself a new house. He still has enough timber to sell to his neighbours which both helps them and brings in some useful extra income for Roger's family. He will replant the trees as he cuts them so his long-term income will be secure.

The final piece in the jigsaw will be when farmers like Roger plant native species alongside their “useful” timber. There is still a lot of education to do regarding the value of conserving or restoring the natural rainforest and all the wonderful and unique species that live there, but planting any sort of tree is a very good start.



LEARNING TO RUN YOUR OWN BUSINESS

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd work with all sorts of people at the very bottom of society—street children, destitute families, single and under age mothers, school drop-outs, prisoners and the elderly. For the past few years **MfM** has funded a programme of work with teen-

aged girls with the aim of steering them off the streets and into education. It is rare for young people to find paid employment in Madagascar nowadays so the emphasis is on preparing these young girls for self-employment. They follow a two-year course in catering, dressmaking, hair-dressing and various craft skills, along with IT and health education.

During the course each girl starts a savings fund. On graduation the Sisters will match the girl's efforts by purchasing start-up tools for her business.



With skills learned at the Centre and a sewing machine of her own this girl can earn her living in the future.



THE CHILDREN WITH GINGER HAIR

Last year **MfM** gave a grant to Akany Harimamy to do some outreach work with pre-school children from poor families in and around the village of Ambohipeno. About 20 children get a nourishing daily meal alongside pre-school and homework support classes. Four little three-year-old girls were very thin when they first arrived and had the characteristic ginger hair which comes with extreme malnutrition. Three are now fine and have black hair once more. The fourth child is completely bald because her grandmother shaved her head in the hope that her hair would re-grow black. Now that her nutritional status has improved there is every

hope that this will happen and everyone, especially Grandma, will be delighted.

HOPE FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS?

These look like brightly-painted water bottles - and that is what they are, but they hide a surprise because in each one is some carefully-made compost and a dozen or so brandling worms. They belong to a group of boys aged between 14 and 17 who are in prison in the port of Toamasina.



The leader of SAF/FATOAM (**MfM**'s partner on the east coast) was very concerned at the conditions in which these boys were living and the lack of concern for their future and decided to do something about it so she and her team taught them to

make compost from vegetable trimmings thrown out on the rubbish heap, and then to breed worms. They brought discarded water bottles into the prison for the boys, showed them how to cut a lid along the length of the bottle, supplied them with paint and encouraged them to be creative in decorating them. Again, it was not just painting for fun—worms need darkness so the bottles had to be painted. Apart from the paint, all the materials can be had for free. The boys are usually in prison for

between 3 and 6 months and each boy can take their pot of worms when they leave as their own mini-enterprise starter kit as there is a constant demand for good worm compost. Some of them have taught their families how to make the compost and a commendable number of the boys have stayed out of trouble since leaving prison thanks to this training and the support of the SAF team.

This young man now earns a living making plant pots from old tyres : just ready for some good worm compost!



GREEN SCHOOLS

2013 was the third year of a big **MfM** programme for schools which included building classrooms, providing water supply and sanitation (all too often completely lacking), and offering training in environmental education for both teachers and children. The teachers benefitted from courses run by experts and both teachers and children got practical experience through creating school vegetable gardens.



Children mulching their newly-planted seeds

Teachers would like pedagogic training to improve their teaching skills. We at **MfM** are happy to put our shoulder to the wheel to help a growing number of schools to improve the health and attainment of their students.

AKANY AVOKO

MfM has continued to have close contacts with Akany Avoko Children's Home and to transfer funds that have been raised independently for agreed projects.

A separate report is included in this mailing.



Parents' discussion group. The school library, funded by **MfM**, can be seen in the background.

A series of lively workshops gave parents, teachers and students the opportunity to celebrate their successes and share their difficulties. Over delicious hot food, harvested from school gardens, future plans were born. Further agricultural training would be key to boosting food production.

Parents could collaborate to run school canteens for their hungry children.



MORE WORK WITH THE GIRLS

Helivao is a charismatic woman pastor who has devoted her life to the poor and dispossessed. If she sees a need she has a habit of doing something about it at once and worrying about long-term funding afterwards! **MfM** has supported her work for many years.

In many ways her work mirrors that of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd who work in another poor area of the capital.

About 90 teenaged girls follow a course in dressmaking, embroidery and crochet which allows them to obtain an official certificate of

competence when they leave. The girls all pay a very small amount towards the cost of their course because Helivao believes firmly that it teaches them to value what they are taught and means that they are personally involved in their own future - dependency on free hand-outs is strongly discouraged. The officially recognised certificates mean that they are as well-placed as possible to obtain paid work when they leave. As most of the girls live in shocking conditions of poverty and violence, they also have counselling and receive medical treatment when necessary.

The girl in the picture went into a fit of helpless giggles when she realised that she was being photographed!



FOOD FOR MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

Two of our wonderful supporters from Ireland discovered a group of Anglican nuns who were struggling to feed some malnourished children who lived in the village near their convent.



The nuns had to use a summer house with no walls—cold and windy in the winter and no good in the rainy season so Bernard and Marie raised the funds and **MfM** arranged with one of our partners to build them a permanent feeding centre (see above).



No furniture yet, but food tastes just as good wherever you sit!