

Winter 2008

Medical safari treats over 1000...

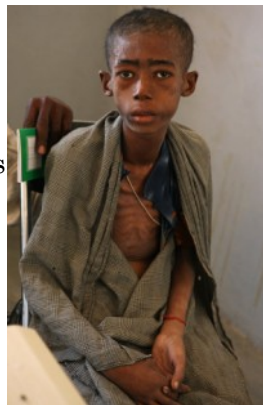


Dr Fernand treats a patient on the side of the hovercraft.

A team of 35 Christian doctors and support staff from Korea and Madagascar took time off from work to join HoverAid on one of our regular Mad Medical Safari (MMS) trips.

The team saw first-hand the huge health problems facing communities living along the remote rivers that are found in Western Madagascar. They responded by treating over 1000 patients and performing 49 operations in a little over a week.

HoverAid hovercraft enabled small teams to reach villages along the river, going to places that are normally considered too difficult for doctors to reach. HoverAid also ran the base camp which allowed the medical teams to focus on their work, enabling them to do what they do best in communities that need help and support the most.



...and changes this life forever



Without the intervention of the MMS team Hery would be dead. He broke his leg and it took two weeks for him to be brought to the river where our volunteer medical team could help him. In that time gangrene had set in and he was dying. The three senior doctors took the decision to amputate Hery's leg. A month later a prosthetic leg was fitted and now he and his family have a future again. A truly practical expression of God's Love!

Visit our website at www.hoveraid.co.uk

HoverAid is a Christian charity seeking to save, sustain, and enrich lives.

Our hovercraft enable:

- Relief work in flooded or otherwise inaccessible areas.
- Development work in areas previously too remote for partner aid organisations to work in.
- Outreach work through the practical expression of God's love.

We rely on the time, effort, generosity and prayers of our network of volunteers.

Please support our work. Could you be one of 200 supporters giving £10 every month to run the Mad Medical Safari?

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THE HOVERAID TRUST is a registered UK Charity (REG NO 1005977)

River Rover 501 reaches Ankavandra



It was quite a challenge to get our hovercraft RR501 to Ankavandra before the rainy season made the route to the Manambolo river impassable. After a week on the road, and after rebuilding our trailer, we still had 150km of unknown river to go...



Images by Trudy Groot reproduced with permission



As it turned out the river is similar to many in Madagascar: wide, lazy, and so full of sand that only shallow canoes can travel between the frequent sand bars. Once through the huge gorge that separates the upper and lower Manambolo river, and the well fed tourists who visit the gorge from the tens of thousands who live on the edge of malnutrition, we travelled quickly. We reached Ankavandra at 5pm where we met the advance party of Rein, Trudy, and Vero who, with a medical team, had gone by MAF flight earlier in the week and walked in, fording the 300m wide river on foot to



make contact with the three small local churches and the health post.

The river sits at the bottom of a 6m high cliff, though the water rises higher than this in the wet season. We needed to get the hovercraft up the cliff to its new home in the village, and we needed to do it quickly as the area outside the village is dangerous because of armed cattle raiders. Andy slept in the craft that night, deciding he was unlikely to be mistaken for a cow! At 5am we started surveying the cliff, at 7am the local mayor arrived with 20 men and we started work.



By 9am the whole village had turned out to watch the fun and about 200 people were building a slipway, and widening the track to the village. It was real community effort and a lot of hard work. José and Andy flew the hovercraft up the new slipway which covered everyone in a cloud of dust. No one cared!

This was far too exciting!

By early afternoon, as the temperature soared to over 40°C, we reached the village that will be RR501's home for the coming cyclone season, bringing hope and care to the Sakalava people.

PSI visit their most remote villages yet



The American aid organisation PSI returned to the Bara people along the Mangoky this summer to start a new phase of work. PSI concentrate on health education: promoting the use of Mosquito nets, condoms and water treatment kits.

In an area where Malaria, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and water borne diseases - Bilharzia in particular - affect tens of thousands every year this simply a vital mission. We were able to take PSI to villages further downstream and south of the main Mangoky river than we have reached before.

We were shocked at what we found, these areas are just so remote. - Jimi, PSI team leader



Help us raise £60,000 to support this vital work

HoverAid needs your support in order to continue the work we are doing in Madagascar. In the past two years we have raised funds from a variety of sources: individuals, churches, trusts, and public appeals.

We have achieved far more this year than during the previous year, with more partner groups benefitting from more hovercraft operations; a greater number of communities reached, and more people than ever supported in regions where the level of need is simply huge.



Andy Mayo meets Health Minister Paul Ralainirina.

We have two working hovercraft, a team of six in Madagascar, and Andy Mayo full time in the UK. We are seeing real results, we know the concept is working, and we want to double the number of field operations next year.

To do that we need to raise £60,000.

If you would like to help us fundraise, or for Andy to speak to a group you are involved in, please call us on 020 8144 2338 or you can contact us online via the website: www.hoveraid.co.uk.



Benj, Paul, Jo & Guy at the Great South Run, and Richard & Janet at the New York Marathon. They raised £1675!



Thomas Lupson-Darnell painted this great picture after finding out about HoverAid at New Wine. We really liked all the detail he put into it, Well done Thomas. Brilliant!

Please consider donating to HoverAid.

We need 200 people to give £10 every month to support the Mad Medical Safari. Could you be one of the HoverAid 200?

You can give to HoverAid by completing a direct debit form or online at our website, and UK tax payers can increase the value of any gift by 25% by filling out a gift aid form.

giftaid it

The HoverAid team is kept busy!

October saw our team working in four places at once. Andy, José and Vero and Rehaza were working with PSI and the MMS team down in Beroroha; Jantine and Nina were running our office in Tana; Peter and Jeroen were building our new workshop; and Dutch volunteers Rein & Trudy were with Fano in Ankavandra looking after our other MMS team. A week later volunteers Hans and Mark joined José and Andy taking hovercraft RR501 to meet the Ankavandra team.



Jantine, Rehaza, Claus, Mark, Trudy, Rein, & Fano (all inset), José, Peter, Vero, Nina, Jeroen, and Andy

Winter 2008 Prayer points

- We want to give thanks for the work of our partners at Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), and Africa Inland Mission (AIM)
- Please pray for good health for Peter, Jantine and Sam van Buuren as they head up our team in Madagascar.
- Please pray for Nina, our office manager in Antananarivo as the workload increases .
- For our new board members, Ian Hosking and Steve Hubbard as they get to grips with steering HoverAid's course in the UK into 2009 and beyond.
- For the Sakalava people along the Manambolo river, as they face the coming cyclone season, and as we seek opportunities to act as agents of God's love.

HEE HAW!

As we work to support organisations that are Good Samaritans we think that must make HoverAid...

...the Good Samaritan's Donkey!

We believe that the time , effort, prayer, and funding that has been put into HoverAid over the last three years is really beginning to show results. In Madagascar lives are being touched, changed and saved. The idea that the rivers can be used to provide access for health, education, mission and aid is being heard by aid and relief groups, churches, and even the Malagasy government.

We're seeing those organisations start to think about communities they thought were impossible to reach...and starting to go there.

Thank you for helping to make this all possible.

*Andy Mayo,
UK Executive Director*

Could you work for HoverAid?

Fundraiser.

Full time paid position (part time a possibility depending on experience) Contracted to The HoverAid Trust, HA(UK)

Hovercraft operator.

Location: Madagascar Full time self supported Working with HoverAid Madagascar, HA(Mada) Would involve strenuous work often in challenging conditions.

HoverAid is a Christian organisation. Enquiries should be sent to

*HoverAid,
100a Queens Close,
Harston,
CB22 7QN.*

Donations can be made by cheque to The HoverAid Trust or you can donate online at www.hoveraid.co.uk

If you are a UK tax payer we can reclaim tax on your gift, which increases the amount by 25%!

Please fill in this form and send it to the address below.

We can also reclaim tax on donations made by credit /debit card, direct debit or standing order, see the website for details or call us on 020 8144 2338

THE HOVERAID TRUST (REG NO 1005977) - GIFT AID DECLARATION

Details of Donor:

Title

Forename(s)

Surname

Address

.....

Post Code

DECLARATION: I want the above charity, "The HoverAid Trust", to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration until otherwise notified, as Gift Aid donations.

SignatureDate