



Helping youth build a better future



Salesian Missions

NEWS

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The Don Bosco Youth and Education Centre on the island of Suva, Fiji is proving to be a great success amongst the local community and youth. It is now a usual occurrence every day to have over 200 young people flock to the Centre to enjoy games and activities with their friends and Salesian mentors. Young people of all different backgrounds, cultures and faiths are joining the programs and they aim to ensure that this Youth Centre and the programs are open to all who wish to join them.

The goal of the Youth Centre is to provide a place inclusive of all, to give young people the room to play safely, learn from each other, celebrate their culture and have fun. It is pleasing to see that multicultural young people with different backgrounds and faiths are joining the programs where they will spend time together and learn to appreciate their diversities.

Programs are currently being established with the involvement and inspiration from the local community. Youth Leadership Programs have been conducted to provide a platform where voices are heard, education is provided and ideas are discussed.

The need for the variety of programs is very real as families from remote country areas relocate into Suva seeking employment. Children are left to occupy their time on the streets when they are not in school and left idle.

The second stage of the build: development of the surrounding land is well underway. In recent weeks they have taken the opportunity during a break in the wet weather to lay a netball/basketball/volleyball court. Further work on the fields and outside lighting will be erected in the coming months.

Thank you!

Dear Friends,

The continued support of the Don Bosco Educational and Relief works during this past year have been remarkable, especially when people are experiencing their own individual demands. This truly brings to light the overwhelming generosity that is placed on helping those less fortunate as members of one global family.

Don Bosco Salesians continue to be a significant contributor to the Ukraine Relief effort by coordinating assistance from various countries such as Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic and the Ukraine. We are thankful for the \$225,000 that has been raised through our office to directly help those in most need. At this time, it is still uncertain as to how long Ukraine people will be displaced. We pray for their wellbeing and safety.

There is a new human disaster looming; the World Health Organisation has expressed their concerns for the ongoing food shortages experienced in the horn of Africa affecting countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and South Sudan. We will continue to support our Salesians in those areas as much as we can with their relief projects.

Finally, we would like to thank Mr Neville Miller for his devoted volunteer work in collecting used stamps for over 30 years. We wish Neville and his wife all the best as they move into retirement and shall keep them in our prayers.

PLEASE NOTE: Unfortunately, our office will no longer be accepting used stamps.



Kind regards,

Tina Newton
Director
Salesian Missions
Australia

India

Various activities in Bangalore have positively assisted many who have been affected by the spread and after-effects of Covid19. Fr Francis has informed us that measures by staff and volunteers comprised of the provision of food and medical kits, care for patients in isolation including cooked meals and counselling. Equipment and mobile oxygen units were set up in hospitals and in some schools for those who had no quarantine facilities available. People were also supplied with vaccinations, job placements, shelter, educational support for local and migrant students, financial assistance for those who had lost jobs and in some cases assistance with funeral services. Children were encouraged to continue their studies where possible. Many of these activities could not have been financed without the support of their generous donors. Fr Francis expressed: "with hearts filled with gratitude we say a big Thank You to each one of our benefactors for being our helping hands to reach out to the downtrodden of society. God bless you all."



Fr Edwin D'Souza informs us that in Mumbai apart from the ongoing projects with street children, education and technical training with life skills, several remote village schemes have been developed to encourage parents to become proficient in food production so that their children can attend school. As many of these villages are in drought areas, good farming practices are needed and encouraged. Separate goat and poultry rearing projects have been set up. The four varieties of goats meet market demands for cross breeding and weight gain, whilst the poultry project enables eggs and chickens to be used by the family or sold at market. Twenty tuition village programs have been established to assess and prepare children to attend school at

the appropriate level that suits them. The recreation benefit is an extra bonus for the children as this adds incentive to attend school. Fr Edwin is very grateful for the support that our donors give to the Don Bosco Salesians in Mumbai.

In Shillong a number of tribal youths were given a scholarship to study and obtain employment after graduation. Orphaned children were also sponsored to attend and board at the school. Renovations to a Hostel were completed with facilities to dry clothes during the rainy season.

In recent times, the Cachar District, Assam has experienced severe flooding which engulfed several villages forcing the residence to abandon their homes. A major concern is erosion and stagnation which will impact the health of many. There are also acute shortages of essential commodities. Fr Thyriang is grateful for our assistance which will enable the Salesians to provide relief for the affected families with basic materials to sustain their lives including blankets, mosquito nets, food, and tarpaulins.



South Sudan

The Internal Displaced Persons Camp in Gumbo, Juba is operated by the Salesians of Don Bosco of the Parish of St Vincent-de-Paul and currently hosts 10,000 people, most of whom are women, children and the elderly. The Camp was established in January 2014 after the outbreak of the civil war in December 2013 and provides shelter, food, education, health and other basic needs to those in need.

Most of the population living in the nearby villages have had little or no access to basic protection equipment such as face masks and sanitizers, nor access to immunisation. As there was a lack of information and awareness of the spread of Covid19 the Salesians have established a project with two primary goals, firstly to create awareness with the help of competent personnel to avoid panic, provide information and create healthy practices to fight the disease. Secondly, to supply basic items in



various villages, including facemasks, soap, hand sanitisers and food items to those in most need.

Students of the schools, young adults and working people applied these precautions, whilst the women in the villages and older people focused on awareness programs. Cooked meals were provided for those students and adults who required better nutrition.

In addition to the Camp, Don Bosco Gumbo has opened its doors to approximately 4,000 children and youth in its schools. There are two



kindergartens, two primary-middle schools, an "accelerated elementary school", a secondary school and vocational training centre which offers various courses to train in electricity, mechanics, stoneworks-masonry, solar panel technician, welder and computer studies for 700 young people.

There is also now a Salesian Medical Clinic, a Women's Promotion Centre and Sports Camps to keep the children active and engaged.



Samoa

An overwhelming challenge for our two Don Bosco Schools in Samoa is to equip teachers with the necessary resources they require to educate students. It is for this reason that we have launched a campaign to "Sponsor a Teacher, Educate a Nation".

With a focus on vocational learning, the Don Bosco schools together with the wider community know exactly how important it is for the youth in Samoa to gain the necessary qualifications and skills to **obtain employment and a career**. It is through strong leadership and inspirational teachers that hope is born and underprivileged youth can create a brighter future. Through the Salesian Bulletin and social media, we will be highlighting inspirational teachers and staff that are making an impact in their specific fields.

Funds from this campaign will provide our schools in Samoa with the **resources, materials, teacher support and training** required so that students in Samoa will have the best possible chance of success. Our many dedicated teachers guide their young people daily to become productive contributors in their families, community and their nation. The school takes a holistic approach to education, building confidence, self-esteem, teamwork in students, as well as the celebration of culture through song, dance and storytelling.

Don Bosco Technical Centre has embraced their new hospitality building which opened in February 2022. Teachers have journeyed with the students to not only teach them the skills to translate into a career but also educated them on the importance of nutrition. To ensure the sustainability of the program, a garden has been established to grow the produce. Students then prepare and cook the food which is made available for students to purchase for lunch.



Timor Leste

Timor Leste is located northwest of Darwin and has celebrated 20 years of independence. However, economically it remains one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia. With a population of just over 1.3mil it is estimated that about 40% live in poverty.

Don Bosco Salesian Schools, Technical and Vocational Training Centres are making an impact by providing young people with the education and skills to obtain employment and actively participate in the development of their nation.

At Don Bosco Technical School, Fatumaca students specialise in building construction, mechanics, electrical installation and electronic communications. With help from donors scholarships are offered to those that would not otherwise receive an education.

Don Bosco Agricultural College, Fuliro prepares students by teaching them more productive food methods along with better care of livestock. As the school building was old and needed continual maintenance, we are pleased to report that all classrooms are now operational with the much-needed replacement of the ceilings and roof.

The Don Bosco Boys Orphanage, Lospalos and the Sisters Orphanages in both Laga and Venilale continue to provide children with a home, education in the nearby schools and a secure environment where they can learn life skills and enjoy time with their friends. With nutritional meals provided daily to over 300 children, any assistance is always appreciated to sustain this project.

The Sisters' Medical Clinic, Venilale, continues to supply essential medical care for mothers, babies and the poor. Caring for the rural 13 surrounding villages is always demanding especially when providing patients with the treatment and medicines they require. Patients turn to the assistance of the clinic as pharmacies are not common in these areas. Offering nutritional advice during consultations is given as well as dispensing powdered milk to malnourished babies.



Vietnam

Funds sent to various Vietnam districts have assisted more than 3000 families with much needed food essentials such as rice, noodles, cooking oil, sauces and milk.

They live in remote areas and face many economic difficulties including unemployment. Many elderly live in dilapidated houses and experience poverty and disease, while children do not have the opportunity to go to school.

With donations received wheelchairs and walkers were provided, cataract operations made available and heart disease treatment supplied. One patient was supplied with prosthetic legs!

Clean drinking water has been made available to many and five homes were provided for very poor families.

In addition, over 250 scholarships were awarded to needy students in poor areas. In the Diocese of Dalat a typhoon destroyed walls and roofs.

Finally, after twelve months repair works were completed with donor financial assistance. The support given to these essential relief projects is very much appreciated and we thank all our donors who contribute to these worthy programs.





Ukraine



As many of you may know we launched our Ukraine Appeal early this year and the response has been remarkable. There are Salesians who remain living in Ukraine and are thankful for their Polish counterparts who are co-ordinating efforts to transport essential food and goods to those in need. Truckloads of food and medicine that have been sent to the Ukrainian boarder are distributed to smaller towns, where people are waiting and often depend on this form of aid. The situation is still tense in many places so travel with bulletproof vests is required.

The ongoing influx of refugees from Ukraine are continuing to arrive in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and other surrounding areas. We are fortunate to have Salesian communities in these countries that are working together to co-ordinate the relief efforts. Many Salesians, staff and volunteers are doing their best to accommodate and direct the refugees to find a place to live, go to school and find jobs.

In Slovenia at the Salesian Youth Centres in Maribor and Ljubljana, Ukrainian children were sent on an adventure where they could enjoy the drive, walk, sing, dance, enjoy various games and meet new friends. The purpose of this was to give the children time to settle in, socialise and realise that they would need to master a new language, if they were not already able to speak the language. These programs were seen to be a novelty and gave the children an opportunity to talk about the war, their experiences and other matters of concern.

The priorities for the short and mid-term future are the challenges

of education when the schools reopen in September as classes will be in the language of the host country or online in Ukrainian. Giving social support to many who are suffering the consequences of severe trauma is difficult, particularly where psychiatric help is hard to access.

Winter has temperatures below -30C and finding warm accommodation will be a challenge for many. Salesian communities are struggling with the need for extra equipment such as dishes, pots and pans and washing machines as the increase in community living takes its toll. We anticipate that our next transfer of donated funds will be used to alleviate some of these issues with both material goods and essentials to make life more bearable given that many are living in accommodation that is not adequately fitted with their immediate needs, nor heated, such as the "container-city" in Lviv.

Renovations to the Boarding school in Bratislava has been completed and a number of Ukrainian boys have been given new rooms, a kitchen and living room where they can socialise and meet new friends.

BEQUESTS

Continue to make a difference

A bequest or legacy is a gift included in your Will. It is an act of generosity that can continue into future generations. By naming the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF) as the beneficiary of a fixed cash amount or a percentage of the estate will ensure that the funds are dispersed to the project of your choice. For further information, please contact the Salesian Missions Office 03 9377 6060 or by e-mail salmiss@salesians.org.au or our website for more information.

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