

Salesian Missions NEWSLETTER 2016



Helping youth build a better future

The Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF) is a charitable work of the Salesians of Don Bosco in Australia.

Salesian Missions Office

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OUR THANKS

Our Newsletter is one way we stay in touch and keep you informed of our activities.

In the following pages you will find news from our Salesian partners around the world, as well as details of some fundraising activities that have occurred in Australia.

The need for support continues to grow with requests for new projects.

All donations have the power to make a difference.



Br Michael Lynch and Fr Guillermo Basanes,
Councillor for the Missions.

We very much appreciate the loyalty and support of donors to the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund.

The primary function of ASMOAF is to assist Salesians in developing countries in their work for the alleviation of poverty, provide assistance following natural disasters and the promotion of development. Most of these undertakings are facilitated through Don Bosco Centres that are well regarded in their local communities. Our aim is to enable our partners to be more effective in schools, orphanages and other centres, such as medical clinics and agricultural support services.

Last December I participated in an international conference for Directors of Salesian Mission Officers in Rome. ASMOAF was commended for its works in receiving and distributing funds, respecting the wishes of donors and efforts in promoting high ethical and professional standards.

A theme discussed at the conference was the need to secure funding for the education of Religious as they are an important ingredient of the long-term viability and sustainability of Don Bosco's work in the developing world. Donations for religious purposes do not qualify for tax deductibility, therefore, it is harder to attract support for this important work.

One alternative you may wish to consider is to make a bequest to ASMOAF and state that it is in support of the education of Religious students or for other development projects. For further information, please call the Salesian Missions Office or visit our website: www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au

Finally, I am pleased to tell you that this year, in collaboration with the Salesian Bulletin Office, a 2017 calendar with a focus on ASMOAF projects, is being printed. It will be mailed in December to those who subscribe to the Bulletin.

Thank you again for your friendship and help during these challenging times. In the words of St John Bosco: *alone we can do very little, together we are much stronger.*

Br Michael Lynch
Director

The Governing Board of ASMOAF



Fr Gregory Chambers
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Provincial Economist



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Director, ASMOAF



Mrs Olga Elliott
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Ms Tina Newton
Admin Assistant

Salesian Province Centre P O Box 264 Ascot Vale Vic 3032

STAMPS – Salesian Missions, PO Box 264, Ascot Vale Vic 3032 collects used stamps for fundraising purposes. Funds raised are dispersed for education and relief purposes. Mr Neville Miller is our stamp co-ordinator. We are very grateful for his contribution over more than 20 years.



CAGLIERO PROJECT

The Cagliero Project offers 6-12 months volunteer-abroad experiences to people across Australia.

The volunteers work in Salesian centres as teachers in schools, carers in orphanages and mentors in youth centres, using their skills and talents to assist disadvantaged youth.

Since 2008 the Cagliero Project has sent more than thirty volunteers to Salesian communities in Thailand, Cambodia, Samoa, Zambia and the Solomon Islands. For further information: www.cagliero.org.au.

FRONT COVER

In the rural mountain village of Klong, Lam Dong Province, Vietnam, a teacher and group of local indigenous children at school.

MERCY IN A SALESIAN SETTING

Writing to the Salesians of Don Bosco in July 2016, our Rector Major, Fr Ángel Artime, placed the special Jubilee Year of Mercy squarely in a Salesian context.

In a section of his letter titled 'Mercy in the Salesian House', he stated:

“There is a desire to try to live the mercy of God on our part and that of Salesian centres around the world in this climate of suffering; to open our hearts to the many people who are living in precarious situations and are suffering; to be close to those who have no voice to bring them the justice they deserve, to cure life’s wounds with fraternity and solidarity, and to stay far away from that indifference which, besides not helping, humiliates.”

Then quoting Pope Francis, Fr Ángel continues:

“Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! May we reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship, and our fraternity! May their cry become ours and in every house of Don Bosco may the proclamation of mercy be heard through practical action on behalf of the poorest.”

As I introduce to you the Salesian Missions Newsletter 2016, I have no doubt at all that the Salesian Missions Office, its Director and Staff, and all those associated with it are strongly motivated to put the appeal of our Pope and our Rector Major into practical action on behalf of the poorest, neediest and most at risk. For they are clearly moved by a desire to live the mercy of God, to open their hearts to the suffering, to stand up for those who have no voice, and to do their best to cure their wounds with fraternity and solidarity.

I am also equally convinced that all those many benefactors, supporters, volunteers and helpers who have contributed so generously to the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF) for so many years, are indeed Missionaries of God’s Mercy in the world today. And why? Because they have heard the cry of the poor and disadvantaged, and they have responded with the compassion of Christ and the practical charity of Don Bosco. And for this we are truly grateful.

Finally, I sincerely hope that you enjoy the pages, articles and photographs of this annual Newsletter, for they truly portray a Manifesto of God’s Mercy within a framework of practical, ‘can do’ Salesian outreach.

Fr Greg Chambers SDB Provincial,
Chair of the ASMOAF Board



Visitors to ASMOAF

ASMOAF hosts a number of overseas visitors and in the past year they have included:



Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga,
Archbishop of Tegucigalpa, Honduras



Sr Virgilia Freitas FMA (Right),
Principal, Mazzarello High School,
with Sr Floriana FMA, Venilale,
Timor Leste



Fr Mosese Tui, Principal,
Don Bosco High School
and Vocational Centre,
Salelologa, Samoa



Fr Maria Arokiam
Kanaga, Regional
Councillor for South
Asia



Fr Taisali Leuluai,
Rector, Suva,
Fiji



Fr Bosco Lourdusamy,
St Bede’s High School
and Orphanage,
Chennai, India



Fiji

On February 7, 2016 the Fiji Islands were pounded by a tropical cyclone Winston with wind gusts of 325 km per hour and waves up to 12 metres. Entire villages and schools were destroyed and many families lost all their possessions.

The Salesian Missions Australian Office responded seeking assistance from Australian donors.

The local Salesian House of Studies in Suva was able to provide assistance to families and schools devastated by the cyclone, namely in the villages of Duranu, Nataleira of the Tailevu District, Nawainibitu Ra and Delasui Korovou.

Fr Taisali Leuluai, Rector, writes:

“From Don Bosco Suva we were able to help some victims with their immediate necessities which included food, water, blankets, towels, mosquito nets, basic kitchen and dining wares.

Br Stan Rossato (an Australian Salesian) and some of the Brothers organised volunteers to help clear debris in villages where there was a great deal of destruction. Despite the difficulties and challenges of the distances to travel to these disaster areas, the relief effort continued so that a good number of people were helped.

Support was provided to several local schools including St John’s, St Xavier’s and St Vincent de Paul’s. In addition some aid funds were received specifically for the purchase of building materials so that homes and schools could be made habitable again.

All beneficiaries of the ASMOAF donations are deeply touched and sincerely express their heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the kind help given in their time of difficulties and sadness.”

Fr Taisali Leuluai



Ecuador

7.8 Richter seismic earthquake

Ecuador was shaken by a 7.8 Richter seismic earthquake on April 16, 2016, - ravaging the country's already-fragile infrastructure. Across the nation, the powerful quake and hundreds of associated aftershocks flattened homes, collapsed roads and bridges, knocked out electricity and communications and triggered mudslides that stranded some of the most vulnerable victims from assistance.

More than 400 were confirmed dead. There were in excess of 73,000 displaced people living in shelter camps. Survivors who lost almost everything and traumatized by their experience, prayed that the aftershocks would subside.

With a large percentage of the population desperately poor, the nation's capacity to respond effectively and efficiently was limited.

The Salesians have been working in the country for 125 years with communities and schools throughout the nation. Their immediate response was to provide basic humanitarian aid to as many people as possible, especially food, medicines and first-aid supplies as well as clean water and warm blankets.

In Manta, the Don Bosco School and parish became relief centres. Local Salesians helped dig through rubble looking for trapped survivors and provided assistance to those affected. They were soon helping more than 7000 families with food and medicines.

The Salesians in other centres worked to collect emergency aid and coordinated volunteer efforts.

In a nation of 16 million desperately impoverished people, with dozens of communities literally flattened by the disaster, this earthquake dealt a devastating blow to the hopes and futures of its residents. Official estimates place the cost of reconstruction in the billions of dollars.

The kindness and support of people abroad continues to strengthen and encourage the local people in the face of adversity -- and helps to restore a sense of optimism in families as they recover from heartbreaking losses.





Solomon Islands

HENDERSON - *Don Bosco Technical Institute*

In early 2016 Don Bosco Technical Institute used donated funds to purchase materials for the workshops and to initiate the SALT (Servant and Leadership Training) program for second year students.

SALT has been devised to give students the opportunity to use their skills and knowledge for the benefit of the wider community without remuneration. They are required to give a minimum of 12 hours service out-of-school hours and to submit a written reflection on the experience.

Fr Dominic Kachira

The Salesian Sisters, Henderson

The Salesian Sisters' Laura Vicuna Hostel for young women and Mary Mazzarello Womens' Development Centre Henderson are well established and continue to make a significant contribution to the local community.

The Hostel provides accommodation for 30 young women who have come to Honiara for university and other studies.

The Development Centre (now in its third year) caters for women who have had minimal formal education. Courses are offered in basic literacy and numeracy, textile studies, computing, cooking, catering, floral art, human development and spirituality.

Sr Anna Maria Gervasoni



TETERE - *Don Bosco Rural Training Centre*

Don Bosco Rural Training Centre caters for young men and women from villages of poor families; courses are provided in planting of crops, fruit and vegetables and the care of animals.

Students travel from all the Provinces of the Solomon Islands to attend. At present there are 200 enrolments.

Fr Albert Lenon

GIZO

Bishop Luciano Capelli, who has worked in the Solomon Islands for the past 16 years, continues with his ambitious school building programme which provides access to education for large numbers of children. He has overseen the building of two hospitals with the generous assistance of a group of volunteers from Italy. Funds from ASMOAF assist him with these projects.





Samoa

SALELOLOGA - *Don Bosco High School*

Don Bosco Technical High School in Salelologa, now in its sixth year, is developing into an important centre of education in Savai'i. Enrolments exceed 300. Outside school-hours, the facilities are used for meetings, conferences, on-going education, youth gatherings and sport.

A major "project" for 2016 has been the installation of 8 large water tanks, each with a capacity of 10,000 litres, to capture rain water. After the heavy rains, water will be available for drinking, washing, showers and toiletry facilities.

Our building skills students participated in the project by laying the concrete foundations for the tanks, thus reducing the overall cost of the project by more than 20 per cent. Hopefully never again will we have to close the school because there was no water!

In May 2016 we received a welcomed donation from the Principal of Dominic College Glenorchy TAS (Ms. Beth Gilligan) to provide scholarships for ten girls from poor families to enable them to continue their studies at Don Bosco Salelologa. The funds, raised at an International Women's Day function, have been a great source of encouragement to the girls and their families.

Fr Mosese Tui, Principal

ALAFUA - *Don Bosco Technical Centre*

Don Bosco Technical Centre offers a second chance to young Samoan and Tokelauan men, many of whom have struggled to successfully complete or continue in mainstream schooling. Courses are offered in technical education and life skills. The basic trades course provides an introduction to carpentry and joinery, welding and metal fabrication, plumbing, electrical and electronics and motor mechanics.

Most of the 180 young men enrolled are from poor or socially disadvantaged backgrounds. An overwhelming majority of graduates secure employment indicating the success of the courses offered.

In addition, the Centre is involved in a wide range of community and sporting activities, which encourages social interaction.

Fr Chris Ford, Principal





Timor-Leste



MALIANA - *Don Bosco Technical School*

Don Bosco Co-educational Technical High School, Maliana, now in its third year, is coping with the challenges that face all new schools.

The building program is continuing. Additional classrooms and workshops are needed and we are working on providing recreational facilities.

Enrolments exceed 100 students, all of whom live on campus in the school's boarding houses.

Br Marcal Lopes, Principal

COMORO - *Don Bosco Training Centre*

There is a very high demand for places in Don Bosco Technical Training Centre, Comoro, with more than 200 enrolments, of which 40 per cent are female. The students are from all of the nation's 13 districts.

We have Certificate Level 1 & 2 courses in General Construction -which consists of electricity, metal fabrication, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, automotive and office administration.

Welcomed support by the Australian Ron Archer Trust and the John Herbert Foundation has financed several students.

Upon completion of the course, about 30 per cent return to their home villages and a good number of the remainder secure employment in Dili.

Fr Manuel Pinto, Rector



FATUMACA - *Don Bosco Technical School*

Don Bosco Technical School Fatumaca offers specialized courses in carpentry, mechanics, electricity and electronics. It has an enrolment exceeding 250 students, of which approximately 11 per cent are girls.

During the past year ASMOAF's support has enabled the School to purchase desks, training materials for the workshops as well as equipment and accessories for the FM Radio and Television Stations.

Br Adriano de Jesus, Principal

FUILORO - *Salesian Sisters*

The Madalena Morano Centre for women offers courses in life skills, computing, basic office management, dressmaking and sewing. Most of the 55 students are from poverty-stricken families.

Of those who learn computing and office management, a high proportion secures employment in Dili or Baucau.

The graduating students in dressmaking are given a sewing machine to take home, enabling them to use their skills in the village.

We are hoping to obtain some new computers for training the students and to continue providing the sewing 'graduates' with a machine of their own.

Sr Sebastiana Soares

Don Bosco Agricultural College

Don Bosco Agricultural School Fuiloro is co-educational and has over 200 students. All of the students are boarders.

There is a farm attached to the school which has livestock including a piggery, a small buffalo and dairy herd, poultry section, corn crops and a vegetable garden.

Students are taught how to improve traditional farming methods and ways of increasing the yield from crops through practical experience. The food produced on the farm is consumed by the students in the boarding house, thus helping to reduce the overall running costs.

Donations over the past year covered salaries, renovation of classrooms, repair and maintenance of vehicles, communications, logistics and subsidised the cost of running the boarding house.

Fr Antonio Trans Pinto, Rector





LAGA - Salesian Sisters Orphanage

There are currently 100 girls aged between 6 -16 in the Orphanage. Overall 'running costs' are still a major challenge and concern. Our program of basic renovation and maintenance continues. We have 'repaired' the kitchen and replaced a number of the children's mattresses and pillows.

Sr Evangelina Xavier

LOSPALOS - Don Bosco Orphanage

There are more than 100 boys, aged 6 – 16, in Don Bosco Orphanage Lospalos. Our aim is to assist the boys develop survival skills. This includes those that come 'after school' to work in the vegetable garden. ASMOAF funds have helped to cover the cost of food, toiletries, electricity and general maintenance.

Fr Mario do Rosario, Rector



BAUCAU - St Anthony's High School

Our aim is to make St Anthony's High School Baucau a genuine centre of learning. Steady progress on renovating the classrooms, laboratory and library, repairing the roof and renewing the electrical wiring is being achieved. While there is more work to be done in all these areas, we provide a better study environment for students.

The Luncheon Program is progressing well with financial help from our friends in Bairnsdale, Victoria. Having lunch provided is much appreciated by the students who have walked relatively long distances to school without breakfast.

Once again our students did very well in the national examinations last year.

Fr David Savio, Rector and Principal



VENILALE - Mary Mazzarello School Venilale

In our school, the teachers and students are gaining a valued connection from the 'sister relationship' we have with Ave Maria College Aberfeldie. We are grateful for the help to pay teacher salaries and purchase equipment which included a photocopier. I am hoping that the two schools 'sharing' will continue in the future.

Sr Virgilia Freitas, Principal

Maria Auxiliadora Medical Clinic

During 2015 the Maria Auxiliadora Medical Clinic had in excess of 10,800 patient consultations – an increase of nearly 50 per cent on the previous year. The clinic provides services to Venilale and 13 surrounding villages.

While our central focus continues to be on babies and children, a significant number of patients come in for 'check-ups' on malaria, pregnancy, urinary infections, skin diseases, asthma, malnutrition and tuberculous. The Clinic is also a centre for promoting natural family planning through the Billings Ovulation Method.

We continue to run health education sessions in local schools and nearby villages. The mobile medical clinics service remote villages whereby the locals receive health checks and treatment.

The valued financial support enables us to pay staff, purchase medications, fuel for the vehicle and clinic maintenance.

Sr Carolina Maria Correia

Salesian Sisters' Orphanage

There are 120 girls aged 4 – 19 in the Orphanage. We are currently faced with two sizeable problems. Namely, having access to water and a reliable car.

With buckets, the girls walk two kms to obtain water. The installation of a water tank would be an achievable solution.

As our old vehicle keeps breaking down, we now require a reliable car to purchase food and general supplies.

We are very grateful to Salesian Missions Australia for their help. We hope that these issues can be tackled in the near future.

Sr Esmeralda Soares Gonsalves



GUATEMALA

Australian Salesian Fr Tony De Groot has been working with indigenous Q'eqchi (Mayans) in the remote mountainous Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala for more than 40 years.

Upon arrival in 1975, he was immediately struck by the extreme poverty and deprivation in the mountain communities and the determination of the local Q'eqchi people to improve their lives.

While his initial efforts were to provide support to neglected remote villages, this turned into an educational revolution resulting in the training of hundreds of teachers and offering poor youth an opportunity to acquire work related skills.

Today, in excess of 850 local students are enrolled in a series of teacher training courses. Upon receiving their teaching certificates, these students will go on to tutor in some of the 600 villages throughout Guatemala that participate in the program.

In addition, there are more than 800 pupils participating in a 3 year course at the Don Bosco Technical Centre. The course includes basic academic classes, including technical training which will help them find jobs within their communities.

Fr Tony de Groot's Salesian work has indeed made a significant contribution to the indigenous Q'eqchi people of Guatemala.



ETHIOPIA

Br Cesare Bullo, in Addis Abeba informed us that the overall situation is still critical: skirmishes and massacres near the borders are all too common. Sadly, Ethiopia has again been hit by drought and famine which is severely affecting about 15 million people.

The thrust of the Salesian relief program is unchanged in the above region and in Soddo where Fr Giuseppe Larcher also works. Their goal is to assist families, and especially the young, with food, water, health care and schooling.

In the past St John Bosco would have relied on the generous assistance of his friends and supporters. Today, we are very grateful that Australian donors continue to support these relief projects.



SOUTH SUDAN - Don Bosco Gumbo

As the civil war continues, Fr David Tulimelli recently wrote: "About 10,000 very frightened individuals, including women and children seek refuge each day in the Salesian Centre at Gumbo, 8 km's from Juba. There are a greater number arriving overnight as they seek a safe place to sleep.

These displaced people are refugees in their own country; they require food, water and basic necessities. Though the Salesian resources are limited, the 'refugees' see the Don Bosco House as a safe haven.

Emergency relief is urgently required please. Donations sent to ASMOAF will be forwarded immediately."

CABRA SCHOOLS:

The six primary Cabra schools, set up by Deng Chuor and his colleagues in the Wa Diocese, have continued to function in the difficult climate. Mgr. Fr. Rob Egar, of Adelaide visited them in May 2016. He said:

"The schools are in remote areas. It is a marvellous achievement that the schools are still operating and running well. I was most impressed with Deng's organisation and leadership. It was very pleasing to participate in the schools' May 24 Community Celebration: Mass, followed by a concert and soccer games."



SUDAN

- St Joseph's Vocational Training Centre Khartoum

St Joseph's Centre provides technical education and training in carpentry, welding and motor mechanics for about 120 young men who are "drop outs" of the regular school system.

Fr Johnson Paulraj, Rector, says about 80 per cent of its enrolments, however, are juvenile offenders who reside in two nearby local prisons 'serving time' for offences such as stealing, drug abuse and fighting. While they are 'under guard' at the school and whilst travelling, the program is very popular as they welcome the opportunity to learn practical work-related skills.

Fr Ernie De Gaspari has relocated to Bosco Boys, Nairobi, Kenya, continuing his work with street children and those from poor families.



MYANMAR

In the aftermath of last year's severe floods in August 2015, caused by extraordinarily heavy monsoon rains, financial support from Australian donors was transferred to the local Salesians to assist those affected.

In Kalay (Chin State) the Salesian relief programme included mobilising a team of volunteers to assist in establishing camps to provide emergency accommodation, clean the debris in the villages, distribute food, water, blankets, mosquito nets, and administer first-aid and medical help.

Fr Peter Kim My, Mandalay

Other on-going projects supported by ASMOAF were to provide hostels for high school students in Thibaw, 'runaways' in Namtu, youth with drug addictions in Myit Kyi Na (Kachin State), high school students in Kalay (Chin State), educational resources for youth in the Wa State and medical support for families in Pyin Oo Lwin and Anisakan.



VIETNAM

Over the past year, several minority poverty stricken groups in Vietnam have been assisted. These projects include:

The provision of scholarships to enable 50 students from economically deprived backgrounds to attend High School.

After-school coaching classes in basic literacy and numeracy are run for indigenous children from 25 villages in central Vietnam.

The promotion of a co-operative, which supports a calf rearing scheme in 10 villages.

Supporting a co-operative house

building program in 12 villages in Central Vietnam.

Emergency Assistance to flood relief victims: food, clothing, shelter, containers for water etc.

Provision of classes for migrant children in Ho Chi Minh City (who are unable to attend local schools.)

Support for two orphanages: one on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City and the other in Ban Me Thuat Province.

A Home Economics Program for young women in the Phan Rang Province organized by the Salesian Sisters.

Fr Anthony Quang Nguyen



MONGOLIA

In Mongolia there is a constant migration of families to Ulaanbaatar, the Capital, as they are desperately in search of employment.

Of the students at the Don Bosco Technical School, 90 per cent can be described as being "underachievers in the education system" and come from poverty-stricken families. At Don Bosco they are able to acquire expertise in mechanics, carpentry, motor mechanics, computer sciences and electrical engineering. The courses are structured in collaboration with local industries, giving students the best opportunities for securing work.

Br Andrew Puong, Principal, writes:

"The past year has been quite challenging for us largely because we had to relocate the Technical School. Funds received from ASMOAF were used to purchase materials for the workshops and covered the cost of teacher in-service programs. Bicycle stands designed by our staff, made and assembled by Metalwork teachers and students, have been very popular and a source of income for the school. The polo sporting shirts freighted from Salesian Missions Australia were very much appreciated by the students."

Br Andrew Tran Le Phuong



India

MUMBAI

The *Bosco Gramin Vikas Kendra* – Aurangabad, under the guidance of the Don Bosco Development Society Mumbai has initiated a ‘Livelihood Project’ in local centres aimed at assisting 60 villages in the region.

The primary focus is on the education of children and youth through the training of farmers and agricultural practices which are specifically aimed at improving soil and crops through the implementation of better scientific farming. Also we have focused on the empowerment of women through the formation of self- help groups and bank linkages.

Twenty villages each in Aurangabad, Jalna and Parbhani have been identified as communities that require sustainable solutions.

Fr Edwin D’Souza

BANGALORE

Last year the Indian Government’s Ministry of Women and Child Development chose *Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota* (BOSCO) for its annual national award. It was presented by the President of India on November 14, 2015, for Child Welfare in recognition of its decades-long outstanding service for marginalised children, as listed below.

Don Bosco Veedu (Trivandrum) – is a shelter for homeless vulnerable children “at risk” on the streets. Services provided include food, clothing, medical care, basic education, vocational training, counselling, recreation and talent development.

Don Bosco Hospet (Karnataka) – is a centre near the mines in Bellary District that has, for the past decade, provided an education program for more than 1500 socially disadvantaged youngsters including school drop-outs and child labourers. Overall, the children have performed well in their studies, some are now studying at university, others are in skilled employment whilst several have excelled in singing and dancing.

Don Bosco Yuvaakara Gramma (Ajjanakhally) caters for 110 drug addicted “street children”. Upon completion of the rehabilitation program the youngsters either return to their families or to another centre for additional support.

Fr Antony Vailatt



ASSAM

Over the past year ASMOAF supporters have helped renovate and construct three schools which have been built and opened for tribal children in remote villages in Assam, north east India:

BENGTOL: Don Bosco Primary School, Bengtol, opened on August 17, 2016 after renovations were completed.

(Fr Thomas Vattathara Provincial, Guwahati)

LOHARGGHAT: A new school was built where the local tribes are mainly the Rabbas, Garos, Bodos and Adibasis. It is the ‘first’ school in the area! Parents and children are most enthusiastic and enrolments have already exceeded 200 students.

(Archbishop John Moolachira, Guwahati)

NONGSHYRNGAN: A new primary school in Nongshyrngan was built. It caters at present for Grades 1 – 3; Grade 4 will be added in 2017.

(Archbishop Dominic Jala, Shillong)





Genazzano - Hannah's Epic Swim

Genazzano College student Hannah Macdonald, who visited Laga, Timor Leste with the school's Immersion Program in 2015, participated in a sponsored Epic Swim last February, which raised more than \$3600 for the Buigira Village School. She was the youngest competitor in her division for the open ocean channel swim which was from Cottesloe Beach to Rottnest Island, WA, a distance of 20 kms. This was a great achievement. Congratulations Hannah.



Immersion Program 2016

My participation in the 2016 Genazzano Immersion program to Timor Leste was truly a life changing experience; there were 13 students and 3 members of staff in the group. Our activities were mainly centred on parishes and schools in the Laga Parish and in the Salesian Sisters' Community at Balide in Dili.

While Timor Leste has had more than its share of misfortune, hardship and devastation, I was struck by the quiet determination, love and strength of the people, especially the young who contribute to the growth of their nation.

I will always remember the very kind welcome and gentle humour of Sr Alexandrina Pinto, the Sisters and aspirants at Balide as well as the extraordinary energy, care and devotion of Fr Manuel Ximenes, Parish Priest of Laga. Every place we visited we met inspiring people, saw incredible sights and had experiences we will never forget.

Mary Henry (Year 10)



Ave Maria College

Ave Maria College, Aberfeldie, Vic. has a 'sister relationship' with St Mary Mazzarello High School in Venilale, Timor Leste. In September 2015 a group of teachers, students and a former student spent a week in Venilale participating in the school's activities.

When Molly Kennedy, a student from Ave Maria returned to Australia, she penned the following reflection: *"The little village of Venilale has so much beauty, love and faith. The Ave group had a great week in St Mary Mazzarello High School. We gave the Timorese students the chance to improve their English skills through role play, conversations or drawings; which in return gave us an insight into true happiness! The Salesian Sisters with their awesome dance moves, motor bike riding and baseball caps are now classified as the coolest nuns ever! After the trip I shed a tear or two of gratitude – tears for the people we met, the memories we shared and the hope that we might make a difference! They told us 'We will never forget you!' I know we will never forget the Timorese we met during that week in September 2015. It has left a deep imprint on our hearts."*

In June 2016, Ave Maria College invited Sr Virgilia, Principal of the Venilale School and Sr Floriana to be guests of honour at the College's Annual Ball. The two Sisters spent a week in the school meeting teachers and students as well as observing educational methods and styles. There will be another group from Ave Maria visiting Venilale in September 2016.

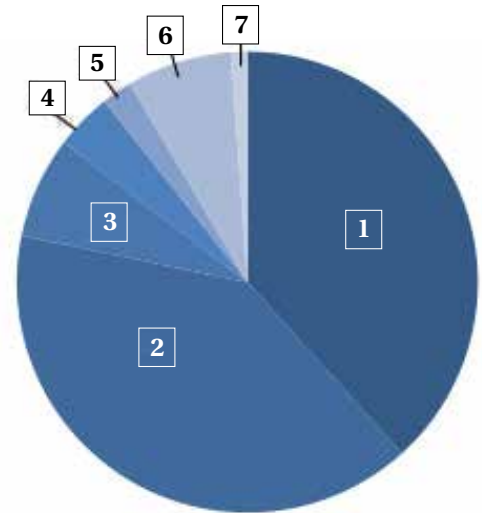


Financials

INCOME

	A\$
General Donations and Bequests	1,938,768
Donations for Religious Purposes	71,756
Interest	23,277
	2,033,801

EXPENDITURE



1	Development & Education	862,129
2	Relief & Rehabilitation	898,160
3	Religious Projects	160,488
4	Community Education	89,995
5	Fundraising	47,969
6	Administration	165,664
7	Other Project Costs	25,644
		2,250,049

FUNDS AVAILABLE

January 1, 2015	1,187,652
December 31, 2015	971,404

DONORS' WISHES

Individual donors may earmark their donation for a specific country or project

ASMOAF Privacy Statement

Salesian Missions Australia is committed to protecting the privacy of donors and correspondents. Any information provided to us remains private and confidential. Our contact list is not rented, sold or exchanged.



Helga's Project For Kids

For the past 14 years Helga's Projects for Kids, based in rural Victoria, has organised the knitting of small woollen blankets for Timor Leste. The blankets are distributed to mothers with infants in cooler remote villages in the mountains.

The Project Co-ordinator is Brenda Coughlan of Sale. Students from the local St Thomas' Primary School, Sale presented her with 58 hand knitted blankets. The students said that only with the help of their mothers and grandmothers were they able to reach this impressive total!

Congratulations to Brenda and her "knitting groups" for this valuable contribution.

Seeds for Food

Over the past 13 years Mr Barry Walsh and colleagues in the Toowoomba, Qld, region organised a 'Seeds for Food' program in Timor Leste. Through their encouragement and support for the growing of vegetables, a number of orphanages, schools and local communities derived much benefit. We extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to them.



Volunteers from Mornington, Vic

John Wright and seven volunteers from St Macartan's, Mornington and Humanitarian Projects International spent 16 days in Laga, Timor Leste during July 2016. They converted four shipping containers into a classroom and offices for the Samalari School. The work involved adding doors, windows, ventilation, security and painting. Fr Manuel Ximenes, PP, Laga and the community were very grateful for their work.

Expenditure for the Year ended December 31, 2015

Payments to Overseas Partners	Administration	Development & Education	Relief & Rehabilitation	Religious Purposes	Total \$
Asia					
India	0	177,784	163,513	22,272	363,569
Timor Leste	0	224,554	319,143	53,056	596,753
Vietnam	0	0	223,175	0	223,175
Nepal	0	0	43,683	0	43,683
Philippines	0	5,534	8,510	0	14,044
Pakistan	0	19	0	0	19
Myanmar	0	53,395	32,821	100	86,316
Sri Lanka	0	2,024	3,000	0	5,024
Bangladesh	0	0	1,376	0	1,376
Cambodia	0	20,410	0	0	20,410
Mongolia	0	23,027	0	0	23,027
Africa					
Ethiopia	0	0	44,667	15,158	59,825
Mozambique/Congo	0	11,583	0	0	11,583
Sudan/Sth Sudan	0	93,933	13,583	3,646	111,162
Swaziland	0	0	22,020	0	22,020
Egypt	0	4,690	0	0	4,690
Zambia	0	2,045	10	0	2,055
Central America					
Brazil	0	1,000	0	0	1,000
Guatemala	0	6,510	0	15,981	22,491
South America					
Ecuador	0	5,017	0	3,016	8,033
Pacific					
Samoa	0	216,941	6,000	6,750	229,691
Papua New Guinea	0	2,010	0	0	2,010
Solomon Islands	0	11,159	16,653	10,983	38,795
Fiji	0	481	0	29,526	30,007
Payments in Australia					
Community Education	89,995	0	0	0	89,995
Fundraising	47,969	0	0	0	47,969
Administration	165,664	13	6	0	165,683
Project Support Costs	25,644	0	0	0	25,644
Total Payments	329,272	862,129	898,160	160,488	2,250,049



INTEGRITY VALUES ACCOUNTABILITY

Salesian Society (Vic) Inc. is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct.

The Code sets out the standards of governance, management, financial control and reporting with which non-government development organisations must comply to maintain membership of ACFID.

The Code aims to enhance standards to ensure that public confidence is maintained in the way community contributions to overseas aid are used to reduce poverty through effective and sustainable development.

Compliance with the Code is met by submitting an annual report for assessment against established criteria and completing a selfassessment process designed by ACFID.

For more information go to www.acfid.asn.au

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the Financial Report represents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund as at the 31 December 2015 and complies with the format required by the ACFID Code of Conduct.

Yours faithfully



Kevin F Jones, FCA Chartered Accountant
April 14, 2016

Every effort is made to keep the administration costs as low as possible so as to maximise funds sent abroad for education and development projects.

A copy of the audited financial statements may be obtained from: The Office Manager, Salesian Missions Office



From the Director

Dear Friends,

“Helping youth build a better future”

As followers of St John Bosco we are committed to helping youth build a better future, through education and training. It is a key objective.

The young learn by doing and discovering. Through education, they acquire basic skills and techniques and can be encouraged to be flexible, curious, independent and self-reliant.

Developing self-confidence in the young inspires them to grow in their understanding of people and acquire an appreciation of what is right and what is wrong.

While education provides students with employable skills it also helps prepare them for the uncertainties of the future. Education, put simply, is central to the real development of each individual to achieve their full potential.

Pope Francis, who knows well the Bosco approach to education, has frequently urged Salesians to continue the work of educating abandoned and fragile young people, especially those at risk of addiction, suicide and depression, including street children.

ASMOAF donors, through supporting the education of young people in developing nations are making a constructive contribution. They are indeed helping youth build a better future for themselves, their families and their nation.

I assure you that your support is much appreciated. Let us continue to pray for each other in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely in St John Bosco,

Br Michael Lynch SDB



A bequest is one way of giving disadvantaged youth a real chance...

Another way of contributing is with a bequest in support of Don Bosco's work for disadvantaged youth in developing countries.

A bequest, often known as a legacy, is a gift included in a Will. Making a bequest in the name of ASMOAF is easy.

This act of generosity has an impact that can continue into future generations. If this idea interests you please discuss it with a solicitor to ensure your Will accurately reflects your wishes.

For further information please contact the Salesian Missions Office.

Donations can be made through our website www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au

This is a secure website and a tax deductible receipt will be issued to your email address.

SALESIAN BULLETIN

The *Salesian Bulletin*, a quarterly magazine of news, information and a range of articles, is available free of charge. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please inform the Salesian Missions Office.

Please send your donation to:

SALESIAN MISSIONS

PO Box 264 Ascot Vale
Victoria 3032 Australia
Ph: 03 9377 6060
Fax: 03 9377 6066

Email:
salmiss@salesians.org.au

Salesian Missions:
www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au

Salesian Society (Vic) Inc.
ABN 43 206 946 086
Endorsed as a deductible gift recipient
(Subdiv. 30-BA ITAS 1997, item 1)

ASMOAF – SALESIAN MISSIONS
PO Box 264 ASCOT VALE Vic 3032

Please insert your Donor Number
(Please refer to covering letter)

Enclosed please find my donation \$ _____ for the support of _____
(name of mission project)

OR: Please debit my - (tick one) Visa Mastercard Amount \$ _____

Card Number:

Cardholder's Signature: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ P/code: _____

Email Address: _____

Donations for the alleviation of poverty through development projects are tax-deductible. Funds contributed for religious purposes such as the building of churches and the education of seminarians, though welcome, do not qualify for a tax-deductible receipt.

This donation is for (tick one) Alleviation of poverty Religious purposes