



Salesian Missions

World Bulletin

Prepared Exclusively for Special Friends of Salesian Missions
A Written Testimony Of How You Bring God-Saving Grace To A Troubled World

Salesians Provide Long-Term Help In Rebuilding Tsunami-Ravaged Communities

Months after the devastating tsunami claimed nearly 200,000 lives and affected millions more, Salesians in India, Sri Lanka, Burma, Indonesia and Thailand are providing valuable long-term assistance in the rebuilding process.

In what will likely take decades, the Salesians have already started building hundreds of homes and are working on plans for new hospitals and schools.

Just prior to the tragedy in December, students at the Salesian Technical School in Negombo, Sri Lanka, had just finished a course on building low-cost housing.

Now these young people are putting their knowledge to work by making 350,000 bricks that will be used in the construction of new houses.

In Thailand, the Salesian Sisters have entered several remote villages where government



assistance has not yet arrived.

In addition, hundreds of Thai Boy Scouts organized by the Salesians are volunteering weeks of their time to help villages where the population is living in tents and other temporary shelters.

While these communities struggle to recover, many obstacles stand in the way.

The coastal land on which they once lived is now destroyed. Further inland,

building lots are far too expensive, and those that are affordable lack clean water supply.

In response, the Salesians are trying to obtain the necessary equipment to deliver clean water to remote locations.

Moving forward, many relief agencies are concerned that financial support will dwindle as international attention and emotions

begin to fade.

But the Salesians, well experienced at overcoming adversity, are not deterred by the challenges ahead.

In fact, with the backing of generous friends like you, we are inspired by the many lives touched by the outpouring of support. And we are determined to fulfill our long-term commitment of helping victims get their lives back to normal.

This Month's Children



Name: The orphaned children of the tsunami tragedy
Home: Don Bosco Center
Negombo, Sri Lanka

Before the devastating tsunami struck the island of Sri Lanka, the Don Bosco Center in Negombo was a safe haven for former child soldiers and victims of child abuse.

Now, it is home to many of the countless orphans whose parents perished in the disaster.

That's because national authorities for the protection of children – recognizing the success of the Center – have asked the Salesians to look after

the orphans. It is an enormous responsibility that missionaries like Fr. Anthony Humer Pinto and Fr. Shiran Karawgodage have accepted whole-heartedly.

“We know that the emotional response to the tragedy will slow down and the help will stop,” admits Fr. Pinto. “In any case, the Salesians will stay here and continue providing for the children even when the lights go out on the humanitarian emergency.”

This Month's Call For Prayer

Although several months have passed since the tsunami disaster and news headlines have faded, the hardship and suffering continues. Please pray that the surviving victims will have the spiritual, physical and emotional strength to recover from this devastating catastrophe and that the children affected by this tragedy will one day know peace.



Monthly Missions Report...

In The Solomon Islands...

The dream of a much-needed hospital will soon become a reality for nearby villages of Tetere, thanks to the Salesians.

The need for a medical facility couldn't be more apparent. On a recent tour of the current "first aid station," the Salesians along with a group of doctors witnessed first-hand the lack of appropriate care.

"There aren't any doctors, only two midwives and four nurses," observed the visiting medical team. "When we arrived, the room was full of mothers with babies in their arms waiting for vaccinations. At the same time, in the same room, they were treating skin infections."

The new hospital, which is now under construction, will greatly enhance the medical treatment available to these underprivileged families ... and it is certain to save many lives in the process.



In Mongolia...



In their quest to reach the poorest of poor in forgotten corners of the world, the Salesians are hopeful they will make a big impact upon their recent arrival in the city of Darhan.

Located near the Russian border, Darhan has become a virtual ghost town after the fall of communism. Much of the population has left, major industry has shut down and unemployment is rampant. Countless street children escape sub-zero temperatures by living below the streets near hot water pipes coursing through the city.

With the opening of a new center in May, the Salesians are taking the first steps toward a brighter future. Now, those who are suffering will have a place to turn for hope, support and guidance.

In India...

The Salesians recently celebrated their 25th anniversary in Bangalore by laying a foundation stone for the future.

Specifically, construction began on a new Don Bosco Life Skill Training Center for Children.

"This building project completes the work done over the years for street children, changing their lives and enabling them to really make a fresh start," proclaimed Fr. George Mathew, the director.



In addition to a number of Salesian missionaries and dignitaries, the groundbreaking ceremony was also attended by a strong showing of youngsters ... those who will benefit directly from this new facility made possible by caring friends like you.

Missionary of the Month: Fr. Jose Maria Maillo

Father Jose Maria Maillo has worked painstakingly for the past 13 years trying to start a training center for the youngsters of Tanzania and Togo.

Numerous obstacles – including a one-year delay due to a lack of building materials – did not stop Fr. Maillo from pursuing his vision.

Thanks to his relentless determination, Father Maillo's efforts are about to pay off in a big way.

The first group of 100 children is now enrolled in his Vocational Center.

"In the first year, the youngsters learn English so they can understand it well for their future studies," explains Fr. Maillo. He adds, "In these countries, women are at a disadvantage, and for them we have organized special courses in child-rearing, home economics, tailoring and dress-making."

Once the Center is fully completed – hopefully soon – it will serve an additional 600 children.

An engineer by trade and a Salesian by vocation, Fr. Maillo is at his best when problem solving for the poor and needy.



The recent opening of a Vocational Center that was more than a decade in the making is a true testament to his dedication, hard work and perseverance.

Don Bosco's work continues today through determined missionaries like Fr. Maillo!

Just How Much You're Needed

Although we have been focused on the tsunami relief effort during the past few months, some staggering statistics crossed my desk in recent weeks that further emphasize the importance and urgency of all of our mission works.

In China, the number of street children has escalated in the past decade. It is estimated that there are at least 150,000 homeless children in that country.

In Nicaragua, an unemployment rate of 52% fuels discouragement

and hopelessness among young people trying desperately to find jobs.

And a United Nations report cites 11 countries for serious violations including the killing or mutilation of children, recruitment into the army, kidnapping and sexual abuse.

I hope you can see just how much you're needed! With you by our side, we will continue our fight to protect the rights and well-being of exploited, abused and needy children around the world.



We are deeply grateful for your prayers, generosity and support.

May God bless you,

Fr. Emilio

