



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

## “Don Bosco Programme” Foundation Offers An Alternative To Violence Against Street Children

As if the situation wasn't already bad enough, violence against street children in Chile has escalated after a local radio station promoted the slogan “Piteate un Fleite” – which, when translated, encourages listeners to “take it out” on those who are not well dressed, implying that they are thugs.

The result has been a terrifying increase in savage acts toward homeless and poor children who are desperately struggling to survive while alone, hungry and penniless.

Although juvenile delinquency is a huge problem in Chile, the latest craze of citizens taking the law into their own hands has only made the problem much worse. And in many cases, the accused and abused are innocent victims.



The radio station has since issued an apology. But the damage is done and the Salesians are leading the efforts to heal the wounds.

Recently, Antonio Ovando, Executive Director of the Don Bosco Programme Foundation, appeared on a local cable television station and pleaded with citizens

to end the unprovoked attacks on street children.

Mr. Ovando also took the opportunity to explain how the Salesians were reaching out to these unwanted members of society and successfully transforming them into productive and responsible individuals.

Currently, the Don Bosco Programme is providing much-needed support to 150 street children by offering an informal education, social and psychological assistance and rehabilitation from drug addiction.

By reaching out to the general public through the media, the Salesians are hopeful they can change misperceptions of street children ... and that they can encourage citizens to lend a helping hand instead of shaking a violent fist.

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## This Month's Child

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Name: Juanito  
Age: 13  
Home: Oaxaca, Mexico

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By all accounts, Juanito was born into a world where he was destined to suffer his entire life.

The community in which he lives is overwhelmed with great societal challenges. Alcoholism and drug addiction are widespread. There is a lack of meaningful work and limited educational opportunities. Racism, prejudice and corruption further add to the misery.

Juanito also faces his own personal challenges. He was born both deaf and mute ... making his struggle even more difficult.

But despite facing great odds, the 13-year-old boy is overcoming his obstacles with great determination and a positive attitude. His hope and inspiration come, in large part, from the support he receives from his village neighbors – the Salesians.

Juanito is just one of many success stories of a Salesian youth movement in Oaxaca, Mexico, designed to provide opportunities, instill hope and encourage moral growth among young people. It's also an impressive display of the human spirit when properly nurtured.

## *This Month's Call For Prayer*

*Too often, those in most need are forgotten. Over a year has passed since the devastating tsunami struck Asia. And it has been nearly a half-year since Hurricane Katrina wiped out the Gulf Coast. The rebuilding process takes many years ... so please pray that the victims of these and other disasters have the strength to endure and the support they need to recover.*



# Monthly Missions Report...

## In Colombia...

As a true testament to the success of the Juan Bosco Obrero Centre, 430 recent graduates received more than just a diploma. They were honored by their guest speaker, Alvaro Uribe, the President of Colombia.

President Uribe praised the Salesian school and its graduates for their contribution to the future of Colombia.

Not long before entering the school, many of the students were once child soldiers, carrying guns and grenades instead of books and pens.

Now, thanks to the Salesians and friends like you, they have turned their lives around and are equipped with useful skills in tailoring, graphic design, electronics, mechanics and information technology.



## In India...



A number of children in Bahgsak, India, will soon have a place to call home thanks to the planned construction of two "family" houses at the new Children's Reception Centre operated by the Salesians.

The modest one-story structures will be fully equipped with luxuries many of us take for granted: running water, electricity and drainage systems. The Centre will also include recreation facilities where young people can participate in sports and other healthy activities.

What's more, the children will be greeted with a welcoming atmosphere, given access to psychological support and have the opportunity to attend school. Once completed, the new houses will provide a safe, stable and positive environment in which its young and needy residents can flourish.

## In Pakistan...

The Salesians in Pakistan extend their heartfelt gratitude to all the donors who have supported their relief efforts following a devastating earthquake in the country's northwest frontier.

Thanks to the generosity of our caring friends, emergency food and supplies have been successfully airlifted to a new mountain rehabilitation camp set up by the Salesians. In addition, materials have been purchased to begin a school at the camp for 200 children.



Along with other relief agencies, the Salesians have also begun construction on 60 new homes – each with two rooms, a kitchen and bathroom – able to accommodate 10 people per house. The remarkable progress in such a short time has given much hope to hundreds of families whose lives were shattered.

## Missionary of the Month: Brother Charles Todel

When reflecting on the work of Brother Charles Todel in his 60 years as a Salesian missionary, it is easy to be impressed by his accomplishments.

Brother Charles started his vocation at the Hope Haven orphanage in Merrero, Louisiana, where he cared for a tough group of unwanted children. He made such a positive impression that several of his students went on to pursue Salesian life.

A few years later, Brother Charles moved to the Salesian Trade School in Boston, where he devoted almost every waking hour

perfecting his own woodworking skills while training students in the craft. Over the years, he spread his knowledge, compassion, strong work ethic and perpetual optimism teaching disadvantaged young people in New Jersey, Florida and Ohio.

Brother Charles says the best years of his life, however, were spent working among the poorest families in Birmingham, Alabama, starting in 1984. During the next two decades, he initiated a food pantry and medical clinic at a nearby public housing project. He also started a job training program to

improve employment opportunities for young graduates. His efforts were so successful that in a short time he had a waiting list of applicants to get into the program... as well as employers seeking his graduates!

Sadly, in 2004, Brother Charles suffered a stroke that forced his partial retirement. However, at 82 years old, he looks back on his life with tremendous satisfaction. And for everyone else who has been fortunate to know Brother Charles, the reflection on his life is one of tremendous admiration.

## You're A Guardian Angel To Forgotten Children

When I heard about the atrocities committed against the street children in Chile, it was a vivid reminder of just how important we are in their lives.

It is heartbreaking to imagine what might have happened to many of the street children in Chile had we not stood up for their rights and fought for their protection. While others were attacking, caring people like you were watching out for

their well-being ... just like a guardian angel.

While we are blessed with over 34,000 Salesians who have devoted their lives for the purpose of helping needy children, we are equally fortunate to have the support of friends like you.

Your ongoing generosity impacts many lives ... and it would be impossible for me convey the true depth of our appreciation. Hopefully, however, the inspiration

behind your kind acts will continue to be a motivating force for many years to come.

Thanks again and may God bless you and your family.



*Brother Emile*



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