



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 Offer Hope To Children & Families Struggling To Survive At Rubbish Dumps

Within the massive rubbish dumps of Brazil – well hidden from the outside world – exist gut-wrenching scenes of utmost poverty and desperation.

Dozens of families – from small children to the elderly – struggle to survive by sorting through other people’s garbage. Children who should be in school are instead helping their parents to empty trash bag after trash bag ... all with the hope they will find some food or other valuables.

Visible signs of the suffering are everywhere. Children with feet cut by bottles, needles and half-opened tin cans. Children with faces eaten by flies while their skin burns with pain. Children who are sick – and



sometimes die – after eating rotten, poisonous food.

No living creature should be subjected to such deplorable conditions and the Salesians of Manicore are responding to this crisis in several ways.

With the help of volunteers from the International Volunteer Movement for Development

(VIS), our missionaries are attempting to set up educational and vocational training and work opportunities for the youngsters, while providing support for small farmers who are struggling to keep their land.

Currently, the Salesians are operating a support center to help families cope with economic and social difficulties. The hope is to also find space where children and adults can participate in educational, recreational and cultural activities.

The Salesians in Manicore are hopeful that their efforts – combined with the generosity of friends like you – will lead to a day when the giant garbage piles of Brazil are no longer a means of human survival.

This Month’s Child



Name: Seenu
Age: 11 years old
Home: Hospet,
Karnataka, India

Not long ago, 11-year-old Seenu arrived with his family at the Bellary District of Karnataka, India. Their home

and farm many miles away were devastated by severe weather. Like thousands of other immigrants, they hoped to find work in the mines.

Despite his young age, Seenu was forced into the dangerous and dirty job. The boy felt he had no other choice ... it was a matter of necessity and survival. In fact, a recent investigation revealed that more than one hundred thousand children in the Bellary District alone are employed in mining activities.

Fortunately – for Seenu, his family and thousands of

others – the Salesians at Don Bosco Hospet have responded to the crisis by providing meals, medical care and other vital necessities. In addition, we have established several camp schools built from bamboo and plastic sheets.

These actions are only the beginning of a long-term effort to end child mining. In the meantime, we are hopeful that Seenu will soon benefit from the many opportunities that a Salesian education can provide. And we are optimistic that the boy’s future is now much brighter.

This Month’s Call For Prayer

Please pray for the children under our care. Most of them are trying to overcome enormous obstacles – poverty, hunger, abuse, illiteracy, homelessness, sickness plus many others. May your thoughts and prayers inspire the hope, strength and encouragement that these precious children need to rediscover their childhood and grow into healthy, productive adults.



Monthly Missions Report...

In Sri Lanka...

Nearly a year-and-a-half after the historic tsunami devastated Sri Lanka, the recovery and healing process is taking another important step forward thanks to a new youth center for child victims.

The facility – which includes classrooms and recreation areas – offers a place where suffering children can turn for emotional support, fun activities and new learning opportunities.

While the center was under construction, staff members and volunteers were recruited and trained in specialized areas of psychology, medical assistance and health care.

Although there is a long road ahead, the Salesians are hopeful that the rebuilding of lives will be greatly enhanced by the new center.



In Chile...



Students enrolled in the electronics course at Don Bosco Institute in Punta Arenas are doing more than just attending class. They are applying their new skills for the benefit of poor families in their community.

As part of the government-sponsored “Chile Together” program, 90 students have volunteered their time and new-found knowledge to make electrical safety improvements in the homes of 57 families that could not afford to pay for the needed work.

The efforts of the Don Bosco students have impressed more than just their grateful customers – they have captured the attention of the National Youth Institute of Chile (INJUV). At a recent school assembly, the director of INJUV presented a special award that recognizes the students for improving the living conditions of needy people.

In addition to learning about electronics, many Don Bosco students are also gaining a meaningful lesson in charity.

In Peru...

It wasn't the Olympics, but Fr. Jorge Atarama stood proud as he accepted a Gold Medal on behalf of the Santa Rosa Salesian Institute. The ceremony was part of the 141st anniversary celebration of the founding of the city of Huancayo.

The award was given to the Salesians in recognition of our “contributions in recent years to culture, sports and teaching.”

Specific mention was given to such accomplishments as the opening of the “Don Vicente Rassetto” museum for school children and the



public; representation of the city in regional sporting events; and the “great contribution” in the preparation of teachers for a variety of educational institutes throughout the area.

The award was further proof that programs made possible by your generosity are having a significant impact throughout the world.

Missionary of the Month: Brother Alex Gonsalves

Brother Alex Gonsalves is well known throughout Maharashtra, India. As pioneer and director of Bosco Gramin Vikas Kendra (BGVK), he has made a big impact on the region he serves.

His remarkable accomplishments at BGVK include an impressive watershed project that involves the tapping of rainfall and prevention of excess runoff and soil erosion. The result is a major improvement for farmers. In addition, he has

established 64 self-help groups for women involved in poultry and goat rearing as well as cashew farming.

In his 17 years at BGVK, Brother Alex has received many local awards for his achievements. But his greatest triumph came this past year when he was honored with the prestigious All India award “for exemplary work in the Watershed in and around Ahmednagar.”

At a high-profile ceremony attended by several national dig-



nitaries, BGVK was praised for “excellent work on soil and water conservation.” It was the kind of recognition that further highlighted the outstanding work of Salesian missionaries like Brother Alex ... and for which friends like you can be proud to support.

Awards and Rewards

Dear Friends,

In this issue of our World Bulletin, it's been a pleasure to share the news of several impressive awards given to our Salesian missionaries working in places like Peru, Chile and India.

I hope you take pride in these accomplishments, because they are made possible by the generosity of caring people like you. As I have said many times before, we couldn't do it without your support.

Of course, we don't seek awards and recognition for our efforts. The rewards of our labor are evident in the lives of those we help.

We see it every day on their smiling faces and in their grateful eyes ... whether we're delivering food and medicine to the poor, opening our doors to the homeless or building classrooms for the children. These are the awards that matter.



Thank you for your meaningful contributions toward our successes. And more importantly, thank you for making a noticeable difference in the lives of our needy brothers and sisters.

May God continue to bless you and your loved-ones.

Brother Emile



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