



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

Thousands Of Refugees In East Timor Turn To The Salesians For Help

Massive violence and gang warfare in the city of Dili, East Timor, has forced thousands of families to abandon their homes and seek shelter in refugee camps set-up by the Salesians. To make matters worse, the Salesian camps have also come under attack.



Moments after foreign peacekeeping troops left the Don Bosco Centre at Comoro for another assignment, fighting broke out and two men were shot. Then, while Brother Adriano de Jesus – who heads the mission – rushed the victims to the hospital, his car was bombarded with rocks by an angry mob.

The dangerous conditions have made it extremely difficult for relief agencies to get food and water to the refugee camps. In addition,

random gunfire has caused the evacuation of several compounds and placed many innocent victims in further jeopardy.

At the Don Bosco Centre at Comoro, Brother Adriano and his staff are desperately trying to care for the 13,000 refugees who have flocked there ... including thousands of school-aged children.

Normally, these youngsters would be assigned to schools throughout the city. But travel is

dangerous and the children could be harmed. Thus, in an effort to provide schooling in a safe environment, the Salesians have partnered with St. Peter's High School which is only a block from the refugee compound. Special classes are offered from grade 3 through high school and are taught by refugee teachers.

While chaos reigns throughout the city of Dili, the Salesians are hopeful that peace will soon return to the region. Foreign peacekeeping troops have provided some reassurance, but many innocent families remain homeless and at-risk.

Therefore, until the situation improves, the Salesians will continue to ensure that these victims receive the assistance they need.

This Month's Child



Name: Natalie
Age: 7 years old
Home: Porto Alegre, Brazil

When you look at her bright eyes and wide smile, you would never know the pain and suffering endured by a little girl named Natalie.

Our missionaries found the 7-year-old child living on the streets of Porto Alegre, Brazil, among drug addicts and young prostitutes ... many of whom were infected with AIDS. Like most street children, she was a victim of abuse and neglect. She ran away searching for a better life. But all she found was the misery of hunger, homelessness and exploitation.

Fortunately, we met Natalie

before it was too late. And we welcomed the eager child with open arms and warm hearts.

Today, Natalie is in good hands at one of our Salesian Community Centers in Porto Alegre. She receives three nutritious meals a day, clean clothing, medical care, schooling, and a safe place to get much-needed rest.

Had we not discovered Natalie, she would have likely suffered for many years and could have died at a very young age. But thanks to caring people like you, we were able to save her precious young life.

This Month's Call For Prayer

Violence and war threaten the lives, safety and wellbeing of countless innocent victims. Please pray that peace will prevail in regions where murder, bloodshed, devastation and fear have become an every-day occurrence. Also please remember our missionaries who face enormous challenges and dangerous situations in their efforts to bring help to the places in the world that need it most.



Monthly Missions Report...

In Ecuador...

Until recently, many poor and needy residents of Cuenca, Ecuador, had nowhere to turn in times of sickness or injury.

Now, however, these deprived children and adults can get the urgent care they need thanks to the opening of a new Salesian medical center.

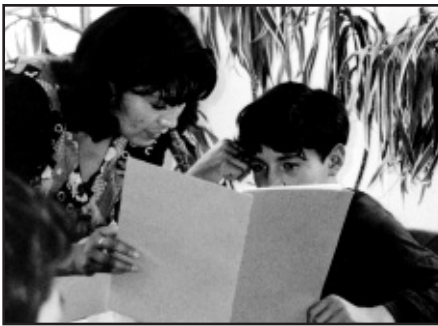
The facility is staffed by a team of health care professionals and features modern equipment for medical examinations and laboratory analysis.

The center also includes a pharmacy which provides 500 prescriptions a day at the lowest prices in the city.

At the grand opening ceremony, the Province Director of Health admired the services offered to citizens through the social work of the Salesians.



In Argentina...



Students of the Salesian Schools in the San Jose Centre in Rosario are learning one more important lesson before graduation: how to find a good job.

The four-session course teaches young people how to locate suitable job opportunities, improve their interview techniques and communicate their objectives for a career.

In addition, the sessions enable students to become familiar with a work setting as well as worker's rights.

The workshop is part of the program called "Better Job Prospects in Rosario." Overall, the objective is to better prepare graduates for success during the job search ... the essential first step toward a successful, productive and rewarding career.

In Chile...

Groups of Salesian students in Chile joined students from public schools in a widespread demonstration to support reform of the state-run educational system.

Throughout the event, students raised awareness about problems plaguing the current system, including a lack of qualified teachers, inadequate meals, poor transportation and expenses that many poor people are unable to meet.



By bringing these issues to the attention of the general public and government officials, the students hope that their collective voice will result in much-needed changes ... and that children who attend public schools in Chile can benefit from a quality of education enjoyed by those who attend Salesian and other private schools.

Missionary of the Month: Father Chris Riley

Salesian missionaries are known for doing many extraordinary things that often go unnoticed. But in the case of Father Chris Riley, impressive accomplishments have been justly recognized.

Recently, Father Chris was inducted as a Member of the Order of Australia, an elite national honor given for outstanding achievement and contribution by Australians.

Specifically, Father Chris was praised "for his services to disadvantaged youth through

the establishment of Youth Off The Streets ... assistance and mentoring initiatives for adolescents, and to the welfare of children overseas through humanitarian efforts."

Throughout his impressive life as a Salesian missionary, Father Chris has given a helping hand to thousands of abandoned youngsters. Today, his dedication and commitment to needy children has expanded to other areas, including East Timor where he is currently overseeing food distribution to refugees.



When asked if his recent award was an incentive for his efforts, Father Chris replied, "The kids are incentive enough, their smiles and just seeing ... you know, helping them deal with their poverty and their misery."

The Risk of Helping Others

Reports from our missionaries about the daily violence in East Timor is a sobering reminder of the risks we take to help others.

Often, those who need our assistance the most are men, women and children in extremely dangerous situations. By reaching out to these victims, our missionaries place themselves in harms way.

By all accounts, many of our missionaries are true heroes. And their motivation and inspiration is

fueled by caring people like you who continue to support our work.

You generosity ensures that the effort and risk put forth by our missionaries makes an impact not otherwise possible. By helping to fund our schools, hospitals, orphanages and youth centers, you are providing hope to families and communities struggling to overcome fear, violence and devastation.

As always, I am sincerely



grateful for your kindness and compassion. May God bless you and your family always.

Brother Emile



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