



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 Reach Out To Refugees In Lebanon

In yet another outbreak of violence and bloodshed – this time in Lebanon – the Salesians are transforming their schools into safe havens for hundreds of refugees.

In El Houssoun, nearly 75 families are totally dependent on the care provided by the Salesians. Countless

other victims are in urgent need of help as they desperately flee from their homes.

Antonio Raimondi, Vice President of the Don Bosco Network (DBN), reports that almost one million people have been displaced because of the bombing. In the region of Jbeil, half of the 30,000 refugees are children.

While some have found shelter at refugee centers and hotels, the vast majority are



living in make-shift tents.

Many more families are attempting to escape. But they are finding themselves trapped as conditions worsen and the danger of travel increases.

Amidst the enormous pain and suffering, however, there are some rays of hope.

At the Salesian Refugee Center in El Houssoun, Muslims and Christians are bonding together in a way that would have been unimaginable

just a few years ago.

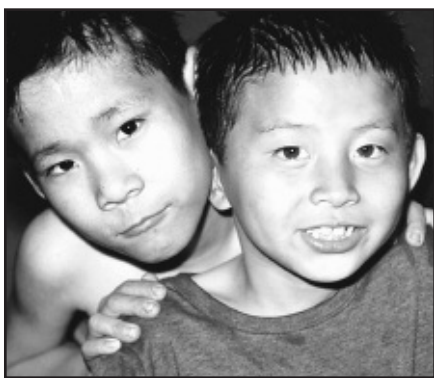
In the words of our missionaries at the Center, “There is no shortage of sincere sharing. People are living together as members of a family – laughing, joking, playing – not only the children, but also the adults.”

A new generator, which was recently installed at the center, has also helped the situation. Now, the refugee families are able to withstand the many power outages that have plagued the community.

Optimistic that the conflict will end soon, the Salesians are beginning to plan for the rebuilding process.

However, until that day arrives, we will continue to distribute food, clothing and medicine to thousands of innocent victims.

This Month’s Child



Name: Roberto
Age: 12 years old
Home: Don Bosco Boys Home
Dumangas, Philippines

His tiny size is a sad reflection of years of malnourishment ... and his scars tell a tragic story of extreme abuse.

His friends at the Don Bosco Boys Home in Dumangas, Philippines call him “Little Roberto.” Although his age is 12, Roberto has the body of a 7-year-old.

When asked about life before he was rescued by the Salesians, Roberto’s eyes become misty. “My mom walked out on me.”

He further describes a life of abuse as he was shuffled between family members who never wanted to care for him.

One time, as punishment, Roberto was tied up in a sack and broke his arm struggling to get free. Another time he was shot in the arm with a pellet gun by his angry grandmother.

And yet, Little Roberto is considered one of the lucky ones. That’s because he is now receiving the care and nourishment he needs thanks to the Salesians.

It may take a lifetime for Roberto to heal from the emotional and physical trauma he endured so early in his life. But with caring friends like you by his side, his outlook is much better.

This Month’s Call For Prayer

Millions of children around the world are suffering enormously. They are victims of poverty, hunger, sickness and abuse. Please pray that these precious young lives get a fighting chance to overcome their pain and despair ... that someday they will experience joy and hope.



Monthly Missions Report...

In Sudan...

The 21-year civil war in Sudan has claimed 2 million lives and displaced 4 million more.

But now, a peace agreement in Sudan between the North and the South has created new opportunities for revitalization ... and the Salesians are responding quickly.

An office has been established in Khartoum where the Salesians are launching a major operation, especially in South Sudan where 90% of the people live below the poverty line.

Education will be the primary focus, along with programs that offer job oriented vocational training for refugee families.

With the support of caring friends like you, the Salesians are hopeful that conditions will start to improve soon.



In Thailand...



As an encouraging sign that the rebuilding process is underway after the devastating Tsunami two years ago, Salesians in Bangsak, Thailand, have opened a new center that will care for children left orphaned by the disaster.

The first phase of the complex includes five single-story homes with 16 children in each one.

Now that the center is up and running with 78 orphaned residents, the Salesians are looking to double the size and the number of children they can accommodate. They also hope to add a gymnasium and multi-purpose hall.

The new community is an inspiring example of the impact made possible by the hard work and generosity of those who responded to the Tsunami crisis.

In Chile...

Street children in Santiago, Chili, now have a fighting chance to overcome hunger, homelessness, poverty and drug-addiction thanks to the new Miguel Magone Hostel for Street Children.

The building is located on the grounds of the Don Bosco Foundation in Santiago. The grand opening ceremony was attended by several dignitaries who praised the Salesians for their dedication and commitment toward the plight of needy children.



The new facility is just one part of a much wider effort to provide outreach, housing and rehabilitation for at-risk youth in Chile. By offering opportunities for these neglected members of society, the Salesians are able to rescue many precious young lives that would otherwise self-destruct.

Missionary of the Month: Fr. Joriz Calsa

Father Joriz Calsa can't help but smile. As he looks across the gym floor at the Lourdes Parish Youth Center, he is greeted by dozens of dancing and singing children.

Father Joriz knows all too well where these youngsters would be otherwise on a Friday night. They would likely roam the streets in search of an escape from their difficult lives.

Many of the children would resort to alcohol, hard drugs or glue-sniffing to help ease their pain.

But thanks to Fr. Joriz, at-risk youth in this southern Philippines community have a place they can go for wholesome, clean fun ... plus a whole lot more.

That's because the Youth Center also offers educational programs, scholarships and

special-interest clubs.

Without a doubt, Father Joriz is the heart and energy behind many of the activities at the Youth Center. And the impact of his efforts are clearly displayed on the happy faces that surround him.

The success has inspired Fr. Joriz to initiate similar programs in other needy communities so more young people can benefit.

Rebuilding Lives ... Restoring Hope

Dear Friends,

I am always inspired when I hear from our missionaries around the world. While they are immersed in some of the most dangerous, deplorable and depressing places in the world, they are able to report some amazing examples of courage, survival and hope.

It gives me great satisfaction to share some of their stories with you ... after all, your generosity makes our life-saving and life-

changing work possible. You provide the funding that enables us to build schools, homes, and hospitals ... to buy food, clothing, medicine and books.

As you know, there is an enormous amount of suffering in the world. Fortunately, you and I have the power to make a difference, and we are sincerely grateful that you have chosen to do so.

Together, we are rebuilding lives and restoring hope. And



when you see the results, you can understand why your support is priceless.

May God bless you and your family.

Brother Emile



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