



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

Music Concert Generates Support For Darfur And Praises Salesian Accomplishments

The pain and suffering in Darfur, a region in the west of Sudan, is regarded as one of the greatest human tragedies.

Twenty years of civil war has claimed two million victims. And four million more are now refugees, forced to flee their homeland.

Those who remain in Darfur struggle desperately to make it from one day to the next.

“It was seeing the youngsters left to themselves without any hope that moved me to take the initiative and do something, and so, like Don Bosco, we set to work,” explained Fr. Vincenzo Donati.

Fr. Donati has been a Salesian missionary for 50 years, with the last 15 of them helping the poor and needy in Sudan.

At a recent concert in Italy, Fr. Donati was joined by famous



singers from around the world, including Michael Bolton, to help raise awareness and support for the Darfur victims.

One of the singers had the chance to meet Fr. Donati in Darfur and praised the Salesians in front of the concert audience.

“There are some very special people who manage to give the youngsters hope for the future,” exclaimed the renowned performer.

Indeed, the Salesian efforts in

Sudan are making a significant impact.

In particular, several Salesian projects are addressing the serious lack of schools in the region.

A brand new Salesian school has just opened in Tonj and is now serving 700 children.

Other programs have also grown rapidly. “Our aim was to bring the children together and offer them the possibility of building a future,” explains Fr. Donati. “At first we managed to provide for 60 youngsters, and now there are 400, but I should like them to be 4,000!”

While many serious challenges confront the children of Darfur, the Salesians -- with friends like you by our side -- will continue to do everything possible to ease the suffering and offer reason for hope.

This Month’s Child



Name: Joseph
Age: 10 Years Old
Home: Don Bosco Ashalayam
New Delhi, India

Every day, at least 15 runaway children arrive at the New Delhi railway station. They are escaping a life of poverty, abuse and neglect. In search of a better life, they sneak on a train or bus bound for the big city.

A 10-year-old boy named Joseph was one of them. But when he arrived, he was overwhelmed by some harsh realities. The train station was littered with homeless children of all ages. Their bodies were frail from a lack of food; their clothing tattered from countless nights sleeping on hard pavement.

Scared and shaken, he wandered around the station until he was greeted by a staff member

from Asha Outreach – a program for street children run by the Salesians. Joseph accepted the offer to visit the nearby Don Bosco Ashalayam where he could have a safe place to sleep, a nutritious meal to eat and the guidance and support he deserved.

Today, Joseph has found the better life he desperately sought. At Don Bosco Ashalayam, he is participating in educational, cultural and recreational programs that are developing positive attitudes toward himself, others, life and morality.

Armed with a new positive outlook and the skills to succeed, Joseph is looking forward to a future full of possibilities.

This Month’s Call For Prayer

We have many opportunities to help improve the lives of needy children around the world. Please pray that we continue to have the strength, support and ability to overcome the obstacles and challenges our missionaries face each day.



Monthly Missions Report...

In Cambodia...

Impoverished children from the small village of Por Kroam in Cambodia have one more reason for hope: the new Bosco Bakery School, which was opened recently by the Salesian missionaries.

The school will give young people and other villagers the chance to learn baking skills that they can use to obtain worthwhile jobs in the future.

The Salesians were involved throughout the entire project, including the purchase of the land, construction of a two-story building and the acquisition of modern baking equipment.

At the opening ceremony, government officials thanked the Salesians for supporting their development policy by continuing to operate vocational and skills training centers.



In Mali...



Thanks to the generosity of many caring friends, 360 children from Nyangassoba, Mali, and the surrounding rural areas can now attend school.

Fr. Juan Bosco Sancho stood proudly as he cut the ribbon on opening day. Thousands of people attended the event to show their gratitude and support, including several dignitaries.

The new school is a culmination of 25 years of service by the Salesians on behalf of the poor and needy in Mali. While the Salesians have implemented many projects and initiatives during that time, the school provides a stable and long-term opportunity for children to gain the education and skills needed to overcome poverty.

In Colombia...

The impact of the Don Bosco Boys Town in Medellin has been so impressive that the Governor's Office of Antioquia invited the school to participate in this year's "Colombiamadera", the National Fair for the carpentry and furniture-making industry.

The fair provided a wonderful opportunity for the Salesians to showcase their work on behalf of poor and needy children in the region. Presentations included educational and social programs as well as technical training.

In addition, Salesian students demonstrated their woodworking



skills to visitors like Mr. Andres Felipe Arias, Colombia's minister of agriculture, by displaying cabinets they built at Boys Town.

And, most importantly, they were able to show just how much an at-risk child can accomplish when given a chance.

Missionary of the Month: Fr. Jose Maria Moratalla

When Fr. Moratalla arrived in El Salvador more than 30 years ago, he wasn't trying to win any awards. But after years of persistence and hard work on behalf of at-risk children, the Salesian missionary received some well-deserved recognition.

At a recent ceremony, Fr. Moratalla was honored by the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador for his outstanding accomplishments.

In particular, he helped establish the "Poligono Industrial

Don Bosco", a complex of small business enterprises located in one of the most notorious sections of San Salvador. Furthermore, he transformed an old rubbish dump into a thriving center that includes a school, a clinic and athletic fields.

Over the years, "Padre Pepe" – as Fr. Moratalla is affectionately known – has given many poor children an escape from the gang culture that permeates the inner city. His noble actions have



impacted many lives ... and have inspired the government of El Salvador to honor his efforts.

Pride In Our Accomplishments

Dear Friend,

Every day, I receive letters and emails from our missionaries around the world. Of course, many of them outline projects and initiatives in need of funding. But others are written to share some remarkable accomplishments, and to thank our caring and generous donors – friends like you – for making them possible.

This issue of the World Bulletin provides only a small sampling of the contribution you

are making to help the poor and needy. I encourage you to visit our two websites: www.sdb.org and www.salesianmissions.org – which will give you far more examples.

We are blessed by your ongoing support and we are fortunate to receive local and national recognition for our efforts.

We are proud of our accomplishments and thrilled that we can share them with you. Together, we can continue to



make a significant difference in people's lives. Thank you for caring and God bless you and your family.

Brother Emile



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