



Salesian Missions

World Bulletin

Spring 2008

Prepared Exclusively for Special Friends of Salesian Missions
A Written Testimony Of How You Bring God-Saving Grace To A Troubled World

A New Don Bosco Technical Training Center Gives Hope To A Tsunami-Ravaged Community

When the infamous tsunami devastated Sri Lanka on December 26, 2004, the world responded to the call for help. The Salesians – backed by your generosity and support – made a sincere commitment to help families through the long-term rebuilding process.

The suffering in the wake of the tsunami has been enormous. Hundreds of thousands of homeless children and adults continue to struggle to make it from one day to the next. After weeks, months and years, the suffering has taken its toll on those who have survived.

But the challenges have not diminished our determination. In fact, they have fueled our quest to make a major difference.

Now, just over three years later, we celebrate another milestone



in our rebuilding efforts: the inauguration of the Don Bosco Technical Training Center in Ahungalla.

At the grand opening ceremony, the Sri Lankan Minister for Vocational Training expressed his delight about the Don Bosco Center and praised the Salesians for being “the best providers of technical education in Sri Lanka.”

More than 1,000 children will

benefit from the new center, which will provide valuable training in die and mold making, information technology, welding, machinery, and motor repair. These skills will enable students to find worthwhile jobs after graduation.

In addition, plans are underway for the construction of a gymnasium to include basketball and volleyball courts. The Don Bosco

Center will expand its facilities and offerings as more funds become available.

In the meantime, the school serves as a testament to Salesian perseverance in Sri Lanka – long after international attention has faded. Equally important, it is a prime illustration of how the support and prayers from caring friends like you are helping to rebuild lives in a meaningful way.

This Month's Child



Name: Seenu
Age: 10 Years Old
Home: Ashalayam Home
New Delhi, India

Not long ago, a young boy named Seenu arrived at the railway station in New Delhi, India. Like so many other children trying to escape poverty and neglect, Seenu thought his only chance for a better life would be found in the big city.

His dreams were quickly shattered, however, when he witnessed the suffering of dozens of children who were living on the streets and railway platforms. They were hungry, tired, scared and lonely. Many had turned to drugs in an attempt to ease the pain and sadness.

Without a doubt, Seenu would have been destined for the same fate ... had he not met a volunteer from the Ashalayam Home, a safe-haven for street children run by the Salesians.

Today, Seenu's dream of a better life is becoming a reality. He has a place to call home and is receiving excellent care. Furthermore, he is getting an education and making new friends.

Seenu is one of 2,000 children who are benefiting from Salesian programs in New Delhi – programs made possible by you.

This Month's Call For Prayer

Our world faces many urgent challenges including poverty, hunger, disease, water shortages, climate change and terrorism. Please pray that our national and international leaders have the compassion, strength, wisdom and honesty to tackle these obstacles and lead the way toward sustainable solutions.



Monthly Missions Report...

In Brazil...

The Salesian Institute Don Bosco in Campo Grande, Brazil, has been awarded an international certification for its commitment to the field of ecology.

Certification ISO 14001 was presented to the school in recognition of multiple activities that draw attention to ecological issues – such as the production of waste – and which integrate ecology education throughout various stages of the curriculum.

Don Ricardo Carlos, the Rector of the Institute, proudly accepted the Certification at a ceremony in the school theater. The Salesian program is only the second one in all of Brazil to receive the international status.



In Cambodia...



The value of a Salesian education has become well-known throughout Cambodia – and that popularity has resulted in a growing number of applications to Salesian schools.

This past year, more than 1,800 youths from almost every Cambodian province traveled to Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville to be considered for admission.

Since demand far exceeds available openings at the schools, the Salesians give special consideration to children of poverty and high-risk.

Those who are accepted cherish the opportunity to build better lives by gaining skills in the fields of electronics, mechanics, secretarial, tourism and communications.

In Ghana...

Children and their families are celebrating the recent opening of a new Salesian school in Odumase, Ghana.

The facility will be large enough to fulfill the needs of both elementary and secondary school children. The new school is yet another Salesian accomplishment since arriving 15 years ago.



In that time, the Salesians have also established a vocational and technical institute in Odumase, primary schools in Adoe and Tainso, and elementary classes in Abronie and Odumase.

The Queen Mothers Association, a revered group of women leaders in Ghana, recently praised the Salesians for their significant contributions to the education of young people.

Missionary of the Month: Fr. Juan Carlos Cavallera

In Rio Cuarto, Argentina, a local television station bestows its Deserving Citizen Award to those who have been “outstanding for their commitment, very often in silence.”

While that description can certainly apply to most every Salesian missionary, it is particularly gratifying when one is recognized in a significant way. Such is the case with

Fr. Juan Carlos Cavallera, a recipient of this year’s Deserving Citizen Award.

Fr. Cavallera was honored in the category of “Innovative Activities” specifically for his work at the Salesian Agricultural School involving the production of milk products. He has also accepted several other awards as a result of his achievements.

But Fr. Cavallera is not content to rest on his laurels. In fact, he recently opened a new state-of-the-art facility for milk production that will improve milk quality and provide better training for his students. Although he is appreciative of his awards, Fr. Cavallera is most satisfied knowing that he is making a difference in the community he serves.

Fighting for Children’s Rights

Dear Friends,

As a loyal and caring friend of Salesian Missions, you well know that many of the children we help are victims of tragic situations: poverty, hunger, disaster and violence.

However, countless more children are suffering because their basic rights are being ignored or abused.

When one considers the

thousands of children who are unjustly held in prison with no chance of a trial – or those who are drugged and brainwashed – it’s impossible to underestimate the importance and urgency of taking action.

With you by our side, we work painstakingly to protect the rights of children. We do everything possible to stop the abuse



and prevent it from reoccurring. It’s a challenging quest – which is why we are forever grateful for your continued support and generosity. God bless you.

Brother Emile



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