



Salesian Missions

World Bulletin

Fall 2009

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

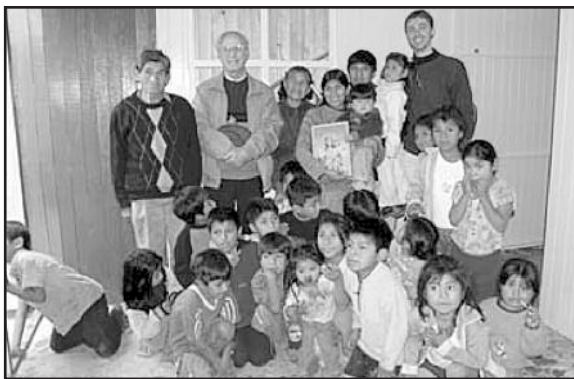
Salesians Plant – And Nurture – Seeds Of Hope In Peru

On August 15, 2007 – with no prior warning – disaster struck the nation of Peru. In just three short minutes that day, an earthquake registering 8.0 on the Richter scale killed more than 500 people in the central coastal cities of Chincha, Pisco and Ica – and injured hundreds more.

The quake destroyed close to 60,000 residential and commercial structures, leveled hundreds of acres of farmland, and left countless Peruvians homeless and without means of livelihood.

The situation – as reported by news outlets around the world – seemed utterly desperate.

Fortunately, because of an established presence in Lima and their proximity to the disaster zone, the Salesians were among the first to respond – facilitating immediate humanitarian assistance to the earthquake’s victims. Young people from several Salesian Houses in the capital city journeyed over difficult, dangerous terrain to the



areas affected by the quake to deliver the small amount of basic necessities they could.

During these activities, volunteers also noticed a large proportion of children and young people wandering the streets, displaced and frightened by the disaster, with no comfort in sight.

In response, the Salesians immediately established several new “Oratories of Hope” – which offered food, shelter and educational assistance to approximately 500 children while their parents engaged in the difficult work of reconstruction. These oratories remain today, and

serve as a model for expansion into other areas of Peru.

Now – two years after the earthquake – many relief agencies have moved on. The Salesians, however, continue to lead ongoing reconstruction efforts, such as the development of “Mary Help of Christians Village” in Chincha.

To date, the village comprises 22 small homes with roofs, running potable water, insulation, and a chapel for the families. Because new homeowners participated in the construction, they feel a sense of pride in their handiwork – and have learned a valuable skill in the process. Plans for a recreational area, and more homes, are underway.

Of course, this project is but a small piece of the Salesians’ continuing efforts on behalf of the earthquake victims. Beyond reconstruction, they will persevere in providing educational, technical and pastoral assistance as a means of improving the lives and livelihoods of Peruvian youth and families.

This Month’s Child



Name: Alejandra
Age: 14 Years Old
Home: Medellin, Colombia

Just a few years ago, Alejandra was trapped. Like many youngsters in Medellin, her family lived far below the poverty line and faced a difficult choice: to go hungry, or survive.

For Alejandra’s father, survival meant working for a drug cartel – placing his family’s lives in peril. For her mother, it meant turning to prostitution – leaving Alejandra and her three younger siblings to fend for themselves, often for days at a time.

For Alejandra, survival meant taking to the streets – where she was forced to scavenge, beg for, or steal the children’s next meal. Education was out of the question. So, too, was any apparent way out.

But then she found refuge through a new program called *The Right to Dream* – launched by Ciudad Don Bosco in Medellin – which provides poverty-stricken families with access to social support and educational programs previously unimaginable to them.

Thanks to *The Right to Dream*, Alejandra is now enrolled – with her siblings and close to 100 other youngsters aged 7-18 – in a vocational training program, where she also receives a hot meal daily.

And, while the road ahead of her is long, Alejandra’s future is much brighter because the Salesians are giving her the support she needs to break free from poverty and lead a fulfilling life.

This Month’s Call For Prayer

Given the tools and resources needed to succeed, so many helpless children and families can turn their lives around. Please pray that we can continue to create and expand opportunities for those who have had to endure adversity to overcome enormous hardship, pain and suffering.



Monthly Missions Report...

In Bangladesh...

Thanks to the Salesians, all Bangladeshis – and young people in particular – now have hope for a better tomorrow.

Earlier this year, the Salesians established a mission in Bangladesh for the very first time. And, while the challenges of this new mission are great, the Salesians are already making progress through education.

At present, 270 poor children from Christian, Hindu and Muslim families attend St. Francis Xavier primary school, which was handed over to the Salesians upon their arrival in Bangladesh.

After making much-needed improvements to the structure and operations of the school, the ultimate goal is to elevate the overall social standing of these children – and the generations to come – by fostering a love of learning, a desire for inter-religious dialogue, and self-sufficiency.



In Italy...



In Turin, the local Salesian Youth Association (AGS) has won a competition to develop and manage a novel housing facility for economically vulnerable elderly, single mothers, and young people facing particular social challenges.

The facility, called “Flats Together,” is an apartment building with 30 small units and designed around the idea of the multi-generational family – one that offers mutual support to all its members.

Members of the AGS will assist members of Flats Together through education and skills training, enabling them to become completely self-sufficient.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to help local families by bringing them together with the Salesian Family,” says Fr. Alberto Martelli, president of the AGS. “It was precisely the family spirit as a special Salesian characteristic that helped us win the competition.”

In Ukraine...

Located in the city of Lviv – near the border with Poland – Pokrova Orphanage combines the warmth of a family home with educational and vocational training opportunities for boys between the ages of 8 and 15.

Some are true orphans; others have been abandoned by parents who are unable to care for them due to extreme poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, or worse. Regardless of their individual situations, what these boys share is a common need for encouragement and love.



In addition to basic requirements – clothing, warm meals, and access to medical care – the Salesians provide opportunities to learn life skills and a trade. Thanks to their efforts, the orphaned boys can avoid the rampant crime, violence and poverty that plagues so many of their peers, and instead embrace a future of hope and promise.

Missionary of the Month: Fr. Thomas Cyprian Oloya

On February 28, 2009, Fr. Thomas Cyprian Oloya became Uganda’s first native Son of Don Bosco. He was ordained during the first such ceremony in the country since the Salesians arrived there in 1989.

John Baptist Odama – Archbishop of Gulu, Uganda – concelebrated this momentous event with Auxiliary Bishop Sabino Odoki, Bishop Paul Ssemwogerere of Kasana-Luweero, Superior of

the Africa Great Lakes Vice Province Fr. Gabriel Ngendakuriyo, and several other Salesians from across the country.

“[Fr. Oloya’s ordination] represents the birth of the first born, to be followed by others,” said Fr. Ngendakuriyo – referring to the positive influence Fr. Oloya will have on young Ugandans aspiring to the Salesian priesthood. Fr. Oloya joins 41 other missionaries in the Kampala, Kamuli and Bombo



regions in delivering a broad range of pastoral and educational services to the country’s inhabitants.

Creating Opportunities For Those In Need

Dear Friend,

It always give me great pleasure and satisfaction to share the inspiring stories of how your kindness and generosity is making a meaningful difference in the lives of so many needy children and families around the world.

Through your gifts to Salesian Missions, you are enabling us to deliver new opportunities for those who previously had none.

Whether rebuilding communities after a disaster, offering food and shelter for orphaned and runaway children, or opening new schools in underserved areas, we’re providing the chance for impoverished families to break the grips of poverty, hunger and illiteracy.

As a result, they will be able to lead happier, more productive and fulfilling lives.



There are no gifts more meaningful or satisfying.

Thank you sincerely for caring and may God Bless you and your loved ones!

Fr. Mark Hyde, SDB



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