



# World Bulletin

Fall 2016

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

## Fostering Hope in a Time of Violence

As machine guns popped around them like firecrackers, and bullets rained down from the sky, the children didn't scream. They didn't cry, either – or run away.

Instead, they curled up in the corners, or crawled under the furniture, and *they whimpered*.

“That was the hardest thing for me to see,” says Nick Ynami, a Salesian Lay Missioner (SLM) who was serving in Gumbo, South Sudan when renewed violence erupted in and around the capital city of Juba in July.

Frantic to escape the violence, as many as 20,000 people – most of them women and children – traveled to the Salesian compound in search of safety. Their memories of the 2013 civil war still fresh, little girls and boys were especially traumatized.

“My heart breaks for them, knowing that so many of them have experienced conflict, and fleeing their homes twice



already in their very young lives,” Nick says. “The children deserve so much more. They deserve peace.”

“We are not going to abandon the people who so desperately need us,” says Father Shyjan Job, who serves in Gumbo.

This commitment is critical. Although warring factions have agreed to a cease-fire, the situation throughout the country remains volatile. Nearly 8,000 people remain at Don Bosco Gumbo today. Some are simply too afraid to return home, while others have no homes to return to. The Salesians are providing food,

water and basic necessities – not only in Gumbo, but in Morobo and several other border towns where civilians have fled – but have been prevented from crossing into neighboring nations.

In addition to this crucial humanitarian aid, Salesian missionaries throughout the country are also working to promote international involvement in the peace process.

Of course, education will be key to achieving such goals. While many schools remain closed in South Sudan – their classrooms deserted by fleeing teachers and students – the two elementary schools, high school and vocational training center at Don Bosco Gumbo continue to operate.

With many students back in school, the Salesians are optimistic that today's young people will pave the way toward a brighter future for the country they love.

*To learn more about our Lay Missioner Program, please visit: [SalesianLayMissioners.org](http://SalesianLayMissioners.org)*

## This Month's Child



Name: Veronica  
Age: 12  
Home: Santa Cruz,  
Bolivia

Veronica is only 12 years old, but she can never go home.

After her father died, her alcoholic mother tried to get help, but has been unable to stay sober.

“The hardest thing is when we have to explain to the girls and boys that living at home is no longer a possibility,” says psychologist Lizette Guzman. “Our priority is to heal their scarred hearts, to give them the love and affection they need, and deserve.”

Lizette works at the Salesian-run *Patio Don Bosco* shelter in

Santa Cruz, where Veronica now lives with nine other children between the ages of six and 12.

Here, her bed sits under a bright window framed by a pink curtain. She enjoys rollerblading in the playground, playing with her pet cat and going to school. One day, she hopes to learn the skills that will help her find a job, and to live as an independent adult.

Although her young life has been marked by hardship and pain, Veronica's future looks bright, thanks to the Salesians.

## This Month's Call For Prayer

*As we approach the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, please pray for all the children who are suffering from hunger, disease, abuse, violence and despair. May they find peace, hope and joy.*



**Advent Devotionals - Sign Up Now: [www.SalesianMissions.org/Advent](http://www.SalesianMissions.org/Advent)**

Advent is a time for intentional prayer, reflection and joyful anticipation. Our special devotionals, emailed weekly beginning Sunday, November 27th, will remind you of the true meaning of Christmas – and will inspire and guide your own preparation for our Savior's birth.

# Monthly Missions Report...

## In Guatemala...

In Guatemala, being female often means living as a second-class citizen: with reduced access to education; fewer opportunities for employment; lesser pay for equal work; and being at constant risk for physical, psychological and sexual abuse.

In order to empower more women and girls to make independent decisions, and control the trajectories of their own lives, Salesian missionaries have been leading public education and advocacy campaigns for the past several years. According to Father Giampiero De Nardi, a missionary serving in San Benito Petén, these promising efforts have already delivered positive results.

Missionaries also offer programs that help women study, learn a trade, overcome traumas and rebuild self-esteem.

Ultimately, as Fr. De Nardi says, they will be able to “capitalize on their talents ... and transform the history of their country.”



## In Italy...



Marginalized young adults in Palermo are learning to cultivate independence, resourcefulness and family values, thanks to a program run by Salesian missionaries.

Under current Italian law, youth living in resident care facilities must leave when they turn 18. But many are not yet ready to live alone, find work, or rebuild broken relationships with their parents.

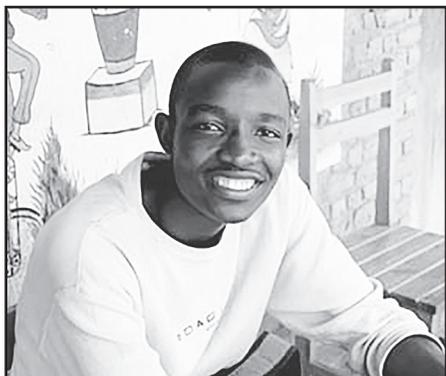
At the “Family Apartment Group,” young adults live together in a supervised setting, where they develop domestic skills, participate in professional workshops and financial literacy courses, and even travel abroad – all in preparation to become self-sufficient adults.

This past January, six young men became the first Family Apartment Group members to be enrolled in the Union of Past Pupils of Don Bosco.

## In Rwanda...

In the small village of Muhazi, an unlikely flower blooms: one scented with opportunity and hope.

Marred by the spilled blood of a brutal civil war, Muhazi has become a land of withering dreams. But a Salesian-run vocational school is helping to redefine the future for a generation of young people who had all but given up.



At Don Bosco Muhazi, students can pursue one of three courses of study designed to prepare them for rapid entry into the workforce: construction, dressmaking, and catering/event management. Because of the students’ often dire economic circumstances, monthly school fees are voluntary, and often waived.

The Salesians are pleased to offer this opportunity to young men and women who are taking the first steps toward rebuilding their lives and communities.

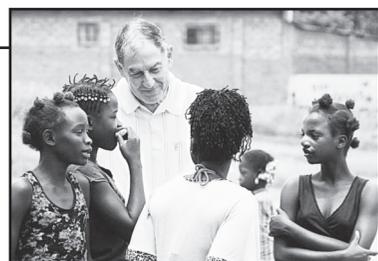
## Missionary of the Month: Brother Andrés Randisi

Brother Andrés has never regretted the life he chose, despite many hardships: serious illness due to malaria; the loss of friends to brutal conflict; and, at first, just a few other Salesians with whom to share his missionary work.

“The first 15 years here were difficult,” says Brother Andrés, 74, who serves in Kaluli, Angola – a remote village dotted with banana and coffee plantations. “But any thoughts I had of leaving were fleeting.”

Bro. Andrés decided at a young age to devote his life to educating impoverished youth – first in Argentina, his home country, and then in Africa, where he remains today. “I wanted to provide them with the tools they need for a brighter future,” he says, “especially in places ravaged by bloody war.”

Today, he is proud of the call to vocations he has also helped to spark among young Angolans.



“There were only 10 Salesians when we first started, all foreigners,” he recalls. “Today, there are one hundred – 75 of them natives. They are following in our footsteps; a blessing from God.”

## Healing Their Wounded Hearts

Dear Friend,

The statistics are staggering.

Worldwide, an estimated 140 million children have been orphaned by armed conflict, famine, disaster or disease. Almost 168 million are engaged in forced labor. More than ten million are refugees. And there is simply no way of knowing just how many precious girls and boys are living alone on the streets.

While we cannot measure their

numbers, we can soothe their hearts. And, in more than 130 countries around the world, our Salesian missionaries and lay cooperators are doing just that.

Whenever little children are frightened by war, traumatized by abandonment or victimized by abuse, we are there – offering the love and attention they need, and the education they deserve, to blossom into independent adults.



We could not do this work without the generosity of friends like you. I remain forever grateful for your loyal support.

May God bless you!

*Fr. Mark Hyde, SDB*

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