It is impossible to escape the heart-wrenching images circulated across the airwaves every day: men, women and often very small children fleeing the violence of war-torn Syria. Fleeing the country under the most challenging conditions, they seek asylum and a better life in the distant lands of Europe. Far too often, they don’t make it. And those who do survive face the harsh reality of arrival in a region ill-equipped to accommodate them.

Statistics show that close to a half million Syrians alone have fled to Europe as of August 2015 – and that number continues to rise. Lacking the appropriate infrastructure to handle this growing tidal wave of humanity, some countries are closing their borders – further stranding thousands of desperate people and robbing them of all hope.

Heeding the call of Pope Francis, Salesian missionaries throughout Europe are working hard to assist these refugees in whatever way they can.

Our missionaries’ initial response is to work with their local provinces, parishes and communities to identify ways to accept migrant families into their midst. The goal is to host as many families as possible, with a special emphasis on unaccompanied minors – youth who have fled their home countries on their own, or those who have been separated from their families during the journey.

Even before the current crisis in Europe – when violence first erupted in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East – Salesian missionaries there and in Turkey were actively serving those affected by the unrest.

Despite threats to their own security, our missionaries remained – and continue to remain – in Aleppo, Damascus and Kafroun. There, they serve between 400 – 800 people each day at sites where refugees receive shelter, safety and medical assistance.

Salesians also offer technical skills training to assist refugee families in finding stable employment wherever they eventually settle. At the Don Bosco Center in Istanbul, Turkey, more than 400 Syrian refugees participate in English-language instruction, basic education and vocational training – as well as counseling services to help them overcome the trauma of their experience.

With you by our side, our Salesian missionaries will remain committed to providing the support needed to help ease the suffering.

It was a living nightmare. During the height of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, Fatmata and her brother Samuel watched helplessly as their parents suffered and died from the disease.

Newly orphaned, emotionally traumatized and sickened with Ebola themselves, the children fought to regain their health while relatives looted their family home. Worse, these same relatives refused to care for the children once they recovered – leaving them to languish in a local hospital with nowhere to turn.

That’s when Fatmata remembered the Don Bosco Fambul Child Line – a nationwide counseling hotline run by Salesian missionaries that had recently focused on crisis intervention services during the outbreak.

After dialing the hotline, a social worker connected Fatmata and Samuel to the Don Bosco Interim Care Center in Freetown.

Today, thanks to the care and efforts of the center’s staff, the children have been reunited with caring and loving relatives that were located. Fatmata and Samuel now attend school and receive ongoing supportive services as needed.

**This Month’s Call For Prayer**

Please pray for all the children and families who have been forced to flee their homes because of war, violence and natural disaster. May these innocent victims find safe refuge and gain the strength and hope to rebuild their shattered lives.

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**OUR SPECIAL WAYS OF THANKING YOU:**

- Sign-up now at: [www.salesianmissions.org/Advent](http://www.salesianmissions.org/Advent) and receive free weekly inspirational Scripture passages and messages during the Advent Season.
- Go to [www.salesianmissions.org/pope](http://www.salesianmissions.org/pope) to receive our free, limited-edition Pope Francis commemorative prayer card... or call or write us to request it.
In the dark, frightening and chaotic hours of April 25, Nepal cried out for help – and many friends of Salesian Missions answered generously and from the bottom of their hearts.

In the first two weeks following the 7.8-magnitude earthquake, members of the Don Bosco Society in Kathmandu fanned out across the country – reaching more than 8,000 families comprising 30,000 people in 19 different villages.

Thanks to the immediate and overwhelming response to our Nepal Emergency Fund, these Salesian missionaries and volunteers were able to deliver more than 100 tons of critical humanitarian aid to victims in desperate need: medical supplies, clean water, food rations and tents for temporary shelter.

In recognition of these accomplishments – as well as the important work that remains to be done – we invite you to watch our new video, “Nepal is Calling,” at www.salesianmissions.org/nepal-video.

In the aftermath of torrential rains and destructive floods caused by an unusually active summer monsoon season, Salesian missionaries are making a significant contribution to the country’s recovery.

The scale of devastation has been massive. More than one million people have been affected by the disaster.

Our missionaries immediately stepped in to remove road debris, clean mud from wells, repair sanitation systems and distribute medicines. They are now working with local authorities to plan and implement medium and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

Future projects will include education and social development initiatives to help victims reclaim their lives and livelihoods. This is critical as almost all of the rice paddies are buried in mud.

While the road to recovery in Nepal is long, it is one the Salesians are committed to traveling.

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