



# World Bulletin

Spring 2016

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

## Salesians Respond To Crisis In Ethiopia

Today, a crisis is emerging in Ethiopia that threatens the agricultural foundations upon which its people rely for food and to earn a living. A crisis so serious that the government has declared a state of emergency.

The cause is simple: a relentless weather pattern that has deprived the entire region of rain and resulted in widespread drought. In fact, some experts estimate that its scale, and humanitarian impact, will exceed that of the Syrian refugee crisis – yet the international press has largely turned its back.

More than 80% of the crops that feed the country, and provide employment for 85% of Ethiopia’s workforce, have failed. More than 10 million people require urgent food assistance. Without immediate intervention, countless innocent lives and livelihoods hang in the balance.

Already, more than 400,000 girls and boys are severely, and acutely, malnourished.

This is why our Salesian



missionaries will continue to work adamantly, until both the immediate and longer-term needs of the victims are met.

Emergency intervention is currently underway in four of the hardest-hit regions of the country. Missionaries are trucking 20,000 liters of water per day – from wells previously sited and drilled through our Clean Water Initiative.

It is being delivered to schools, hospitals, health clinics, women’s centers, homeless shelters and other organizations serving the most vulnerable. They have also purchased and distributed fortified

meals, multivitamins, powdered milk and other essential staples, with priority given to families with dangerously undernourished children.

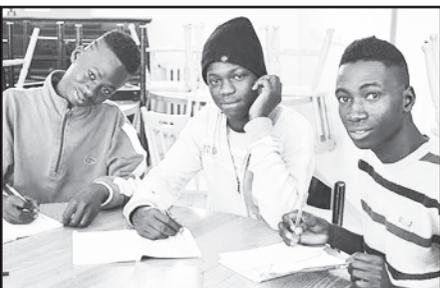
More than 12,000 people will benefit. In addition to expanding these humanitarian relief efforts, our missionaries plan to address the infrastructure challenges that have contributed to the crisis.

Specifically, they will rehabilitate dysfunctional wells, and drill additional new ones, in as many rural villages as possible. These wells will provide safe and sustainable drinking water, as well as irrigation for fields and animals – enabling communities to become more resilient in times of future drought.

With the help of our caring and generous friends, we can continue providing emergency relief and long-term support to the victims of Ethiopia’s drought and of other disasters around the world.

To learn more, go online to: [salesianmissions.org/ethiopia-drought](http://salesianmissions.org/ethiopia-drought)

## This Month’s Child



Name: Arthur  
Age: 17 Years Old  
Home: Camporeale, Italy

He can’t pinpoint the exact day he fled Ghana in search of a better life, but he remembers the horror of the journey.

Traveling as an unaccompanied minor, Arthur was beaten with a flaming club, his skin scarred forever. He was locked in a room and tortured while his family listened on the phone. He was terrorized by smugglers on the boat to freedom. Why? So that predatory men could extort ransom from his impoverished family back home.

Fortunately, Arthur persevered,

and now lives with other migrant and refugee youth at the Salesian-run “Open Arms” community on the island of Sicily. Here, he receives safe shelter, schooling, daily meals, clothing and the ability to call his family. Surrounded by peers from all over Africa and the Middle East, he enjoys playing soccer and other games that help bind them together and move past their trauma.

Arthur is also learning Italian, the first important step in his journey toward a brighter future in his new home.

## This Month’s Call For Prayer

Millions of impoverished children, their families and neighbors, are deprived of clean water. The consequences are devastating. Please pray for our Salesian efforts to bring clean water to those who desperately need it. Their lives and livelihoods depend on it.

Join Us in Prayer... Submit Your Own Intentions...  
Go online to: [www.salesianmissions.org/pray](http://www.salesianmissions.org/pray)



# Monthly Missions Report...

## In Uganda...

Thanks to a Salesian-led agricultural project, impoverished youth in Namugongo are learning a valuable trade while providing food for their own community.

More than 80% of Uganda's land is devoted to farming – yet many rural youth seek “more exciting” work in the city. Seeing an opportunity, Salesian missionaries at Don Bosco Kampala launched a farm school in 2013.

Cultivating what was once an unruly plot of land, students are learning to nurture seeds, and control pests and weeds. They are now able to grow an array of vegetables to feed themselves, the farm animals, and children and families in the larger community. In doing so, they are acquiring marketable skills in addition to the basic education they receive.

After two challenging growing seasons, students recently harvested an abundance of vegetables – food that featured prominently in the ensuing celebratory meal!



## In Madagascar...



On this island off the east coast of Africa – where close to 75% of the population lives in poverty – a volunteer with the Salesian Youth Movement is demonstrating “the power of one” for hundreds of at-risk youth.

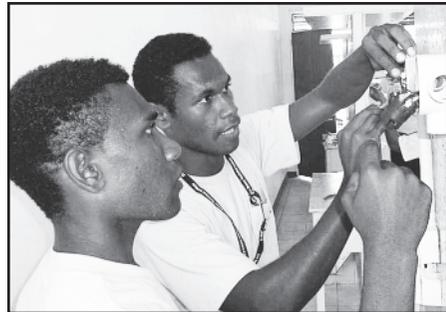
Florian Lucchini first arrived in Madagascar from France in 2014. For more than a year, he worked with children in a detention center in Majunga. He witnessed such heartbreak that he committed to make a difference in the lives of marginalized youth, by working to address the root causes of poverty and exploitation.

So, Florian chose to extend his service for six months. Today, he works at the Don Bosco Center of Mahajanga, where he tutors students enrolled in vocational training courses – helping them to improve their lives through education. He also volunteers at the Don Bosco Orphanage and leads activities for more than 700 children at the oratory.

## In the Solomon Islands...

Former students of the Don Bosco Rural Training Center in Tetera Bay are playing a crucial role in improving their country's agricultural capacity.

The center, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, annually trains more than 200 young men and women in farming, forestry, carpentry, mechanics and other high-demand trades.



Many of these students are impoverished, and have performed poorly in traditional classrooms. The center offers a second chance to learn the skills they need to obtain long-term work that will support themselves and their families.

As it turns out, the country as a whole has also benefitted. During the last ten years, graduates of the agricultural program have brought their knowledge home to their villages. As a result, the production of rice, a staple crop, has significantly expanded.

## Missionary of the Month: Fr. Javier De Nicolo, SDB

Fr. Javier De Nicolo dedicated his life to saving the young people that no one else wanted to help – children living on the streets of Bogota, Colombia. A devoted Salesian missionary, visionary, and human rights activist for more than 50 years, Fr. Javier's approach to reaching out to homeless children was to create an atmosphere of freedom and joy built on mutual trust and respect.

Without asking for any kind of commitment, Fr. Javier offered street children a safe place to sleep and play, clean clothes, and food. Those who chose to stay were introduced to basic education and skills training, and a brighter future filled with hope and dignity.

Fr. Javier passed away on March 22nd at the age of 88. He was a faithful disciple of both Jesus and Don Bosco, allowing



thousands of children to benefit from his generous heart.

To learn about Fr. Javier's life's work, go online to: [salesianmissions.org/bogota](http://salesianmissions.org/bogota)

## Giving Drink To The Thirsty

Dear Friend,

In declaring the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis invites us to witness – through our own individual actions – God's boundless love, forgiveness and kindness.

Indeed, for nearly 160 years, *mercy* has guided the vocations and defined the work of Salesian missionaries around the world. Our advocacy and actions in service to the most downtrodden among us recalls what the Holy Father has deemed the “very foundation of the

Church's life” – those acts of corporal and spiritual mercy that embody God's tender compassion.

One such act is “giving drink to the thirsty.” This mercy inspired our Clean Water Initiative – whereby we have committed to ensure that every child and adult has an accessible, dependable and local source of clean water for drinking and growing food crops.

Of course, we could not do this work without the kindness of friends like you. Your generosity is



its own act of mercy – one that brings our mission to life every day. Thank you for your support.

May God Bless You!

*Fr. Mark Hyde, SDB*

P.S. Please go to: [salesianmissions.org/mercy](http://salesianmissions.org/mercy) to receive your FREE Year of Mercy Prayer Card set.



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