



SALESIAN MISSIONS

# World Bulletin

Spring 2019

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

## A Wellspring of Kindness in the Desert

As the sun beat down upon her dry, cracked lips – and the flies alit on her dirt-encrusted face – the young, intellectually disabled girl approached a group of children already gathered on the desert sand, hoping for something to eat. With her, she carried two hungry babies whose mother was out searching for water; when one of them began to cry, she immediately soothed him with a song.

Remarkably, such generosity of spirit is the norm, not the exception, in the Kaisut desert of northern Kenya. Here, despite years of relentless drought, thousands of impoverished families and children experience a wellspring of kindness – which flows like a river into their yearning hearts, alleviating the miseries of their parched lives.

Since 1980, when Salesian missionaries first established a presence in the nearby community of Korr, they faithfully have been serving among the nomadic Samburu and Rendille tribes, whose survival depends on the



availability of water and the health of the herds they tend.

“Nothing grows here,” says Fr. Luke (Sajan) Mulayinkal, coordinator of the Korr mission. “Mothers have nothing to cook. Children are malnourished, dehydrated, and susceptible to all sorts of disease. The lack of rain has truly destabilized their lives.”

In response, Salesian missionaries regularly distribute food relief to more than 4,805 households in 85 different villages

scattered across nearly 40 miles. Traveling in a rugged relief vehicle, they focus on reaching the most vulnerable: women, children, the elderly, and those who are ill. And, as the heroine of this story demonstrates, the effects of their mercy radiate far beyond those who benefit from it.

“They gratefully receive what is offered, and they generously **share** what they get,” observes Fr. Jiji Kalavanal of Don Bosco IMAGE in India – a multimedia agency that captures and tells Salesian stories around the world. Indeed, in a situation that easily could devolve into selfish violence, the people of Kaisut embody the message of Jesus, modeled by our Salesian missionaries, each and every day.

In addition to ongoing nutritional assistance, missionaries in Korr also operate a medical clinic, a nursery and primary school, a youth center, a Catholic parish, and five outreach locations: all of which are possible thanks to your own individual drops of kindness.

*Learn more about our work in the Salesian Korr mission: [www.salesianmissions.org/korr-drought](http://www.salesianmissions.org/korr-drought)*

## This Month's Child



Name: Unknown  
Age: Unknown  
Home: Maputsoe,  
Lesotho - Africa

She's just a child – the youngest of three born to a domestic worker. Each morning, as a stream of children pass by on the way to school, this precocious little girl smiles and waves, eager to join her peers.

But her mother can't afford to send her.

With an absent husband who sends no money home, the woman struggles just to feed her family; the threat of homelessness looms large. Sadly, without the education she's unable to

fund, her child stands little chance of breaking the cycle of poverty.

Enter our Salesian Sisters. Having recently discovered the child's circumstances, they immediately enrolled her, free of charge, in Laura Preschool at St. Luke's – where she now receives three daily meals, and delights in learning and playing with other kids.

Thanks to generous friends like you, her future now shines bright!

## This Month's Call For Prayer

*Spring is a season of resurrection and renewal. Please pray that the needy children and families we serve – thanks to your generosity and kindness – are blessed with the love and support that will enable them to blossom.*



# Monthly Missions Report...

## In East Timor...

Nearly 1,200 hungry students have a better chance to succeed in school, thanks to our partnership with Rise Against Hunger.

Across the country, the lingering effects of a protracted civil war mean that many of its nearly 1.3 million people still struggle with poverty, food insecurity, illiteracy, and despair. With a focus on education and vocational training, Salesian missionaries are working to restore hope and opportunities for youth and their families.

Recently, Rise Against Hunger donated two 40-foot containers of rice meals, with your support, we shipped them to East Timor, where students in eleven Salesian-run programs now receive guaranteed daily sustenance. As a result, their concentration, and ability to learn, has measurably increased.

Since 2011, Rise Against Hunger has worked with Salesian Missions to provide food and life-saving aid to programs and communities in 20 countries. We are grateful for their ongoing support!



## In Syria...



With direct assistance from Rector Major Ángel Fernández Artime, Salesian missionaries will soon begin construction on a new and expanded Don Bosco Center in Damascus. The center will serve children and families who have endured unimaginable hardship – yet who still maintain remarkable resilience and optimism.

Recently, for example, more than 250 girls and boys gathered to celebrate World Youth Day at the current Don Bosco oratory, where they bonded over games, reflections, and discussions focused on a shared vision for a brighter future. “When our young people show their faith among their peers, they give us courage,” says Fr. Pier Jabloyan, who serves in Aleppo.

Following an announcement of the news at a Sunday Mass, worshippers at the Salesian house erupted in joy. Cries of “Thank you, courageous Salesians!” and “Thank you, Don Bosco!” rose to the rafters – and beyond.

## In Tanzania...

At Don Bosco Oysterbay in Dar es Salaam, marginalized youth are preparing for work in a rapidly growing sector: renewable energy.

First launched in 2017 as a pilot program for students who previously had completed a three-year electrical course, the initiative trains 120 participants each year to install, operate, and maintain residential solar power systems.



In a country where only 15 percent of the population has access to electricity, this Salesian program is a God-send. Students will graduate as qualified technicians who can secure long-term employment while improving their communities’ standard of living.

Missionaries will soon expand the program to Don Bosco centers in Dodoma and Iringa. Together, the three locations will train 300 students each year to be innovators, entrepreneurs, and change-makers for their country.

## Missionary of the Month: Fr. Renzo Rossignolo (Thailand)

At 76 years old, Fr. Renzo Rossignolo shows no signs of slowing down. Nor does he complain about ... well, anything.

Since 1983, he has faithfully served in the Ron Phibun district of southern Thailand, where his ministry to individuals living with Hansen’s disease, and their families, is legendary.

As founder of the Don Bosco Development Center, located near the Phud Hong Leper Colony, Fr. Renzo has

helped hundreds of patients rediscover their dignity and independence. He has taught them marketable skills in tailoring, welding, carpentry, mechanics, agriculture, and more. Several former pupils now teach at the center, which also employs 60 local residents and offers health care and educational opportunities to patients’ children.

Between his duties as director, pastor and educator there, Fr. Renzo celebrates Sunday Mass at two local



parishes where 7,000 people worship. He also inspires his fellow missionaries through his devotion to daily reading, reflection, and prayer.

Ever joyful in his sacrifices, Fr. Renzo is a model Salesian!

## We’re all in this together.

Dear Friend,

This issue’s cover story describes our missionaries’ work in a remote community defined by daily hardship: hunger, drought, poverty, and the challenges of nomadic life. When I watched the video it’s based on, I was immediately struck by something remarkable: despite the relentless burdens borne by all who live there, they gratefully receive what is offered, and willingly share what they get.

In so many ways, and in so many places, our missionaries witness such resilience every day: desperately impoverished children and families, paying kindnesses forward so that others may experience joy. Acts of selflessness like these can truly bind communities together in times of adversity.

And it starts with you.

Here at Salesian Missions, we are grateful for your generosity



which, when shared, ripples into a wellspring of compassion that quenches despair and cultivates hope. You can read examples of that here – examples that remind us that we’re all in this together. May God Bless You!

*Fr. Mark Hyde, SDB*



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