



SALESIAN MISSIONS

# World Bulletin

Summer 2022

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

## Investing in Brighter Futures

Nigeria is a country plagued by the lack of education, employment, and opportunity. With nearly half the population under the age of 19, it's also a nation of young people—and they're the ones who bear the brunt.

“More and more, youth in Nigeria are becoming trapped in a cycle of poverty they can't escape,” explains Father Gus Baek, director of Salesian Missions. In fact, according to the World Bank, nearly 19.7 percent of citizens between the ages of 15 and 24 are currently out of work. That means that *millions* of otherwise promising young men and women have no real avenues for turning their lives around.

“Without education, they lack access to decent jobs; without decent jobs, they will never break the chains of poverty. That's why it's imperative that we invest in the futures of today's youth, with relevant, employment-ready training,” Fr. Gus explains.

In the northwestern area



of Koko—where schools are scarce and poverty prevalent—missionaries at Don Bosco Vocational Training Center (VTC) are doing just that.

First established in October 2021, the center prepares students for work in market-driven sectors, including electricity, building and construction, fashion and design, and computers. Youth train in their chosen discipline for six months. Once done, they transition into job-readiness activities offered through an on-site career advisement office, where they get help developing a plan to apply and interview for

jobs. Graduates also benefit from ongoing employment support once they enter the workforce, which helps ensure their long-term success.

Don Bosco VTC's programs are in high demand among area families who understand the value but can't afford tuition. Of the 154 students currently enrolled, 150 of them have received full scholarships

thanks to the generosity of Salesian Missions donors like you.

“We are so grateful to our many friends, whose shared investment in our educational programs helps provide the opportunities and support that poor youth need to fulfill their potential,” says Fr. Gus. “And the positive effects of that trickle out into their families, their communities, and their country.”

With you by our side, our missionaries in Nigeria and around the world are committed to turning those trickles into rivers of opportunity.

## This Month's Child

Kateryna\* has loving parents and a younger sister who idolizes her.

Her life, at five years old, had been joyful and carefree; her circumstances far removed from those that typically bring children to Salesian programs for care. But one terrible day, Kateryna found herself crouched beside her mother and sister in a dank basement with no light or heat.

As war planes thundered overhead and the concrete trembled beneath their feet, this precious little girl desperately wanted to know, *Where is my dad?*

*Why isn't there any food to eat?*

Fortunately, Kateryna's mother fled Ukraine at her first opportunity. Alongside hundreds of other refugees at Salesian centers throughout Poland, her family is safe now and receives food, shelter, and social assistance. Kateryna also sees a psychologist, who is helping her overcome her trauma and reclaim her lost childhood.

Although her dad remains in Ukraine for now, he finds comfort in knowing that his family is out of harm's way, thanks to the Salesians.

\*Not her real name to protect her identity.



Name: Kateryna  
Age: 5 Years Old  
Home: Ukraine

## This Month's Call For Prayer

While American students embrace the summer months as a time to enjoy a break from classes and homework, please pray that suffering children in other parts of the world gain access to an education that will enable them to escape the grip of poverty.

Join us every Wednesday at 10am EST for our weekly Chapel Mass - Live Streaming NOW!

Go to our website for details: [SalesianMissions.org/mass](https://SalesianMissions.org/mass)



# Monthly Missions Report...

## In El Salvador...



Don Bosco University's "Walking Anew!" project is empowering the next generation of medical rehabilitation professionals to drive transformative change for their patients.

Pioneered in 2017 thanks to a grant from USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program secured by Salesian Missions, "Walking Anew!" actively supports innovation in the field.

At its new Applied Research Center, students from El Salvador, other countries in Central America, South America, Haiti, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are learning the latest techniques and treatments in kinesiology, orthotics, and prosthetics. Through advanced technology, students also connect and exchange information and experiences with professionals at U.S.-based academic rehabilitation centers.

Ultimately, their knowledge will help pave the way toward better social and economic inclusion for people living with mobile disabilities around the world.

## In Hungary...

As the refugees began streaming in from Ukraine, Salesian missionaries in a northern border city flung wide their doors.

Since 2006, these dedicated servants of Don Bosco have been caring for marginalized Roma children and families at risk for social exclusion. Welcoming displaced civilians whose homes, possessions, and futures have been robbed by war is a natural extension of their work.

Together with students at the local Salesian school—who willingly gave up the top two floors of their dormitory—missionaries and community volunteers provide safe accommodation, daily meals, and warm clothing for women and children with nowhere else to turn. Missionaries are also planning projects to help integrate these refugees into Hungarian society so they may begin rebuilding their lives.

Here and throughout Europe, efforts like these are possible thanks to the generosity of our many Salesian Missions friends.



## In India...

Sukram works on a tea plantation in the state of Assam as a day laborer—where exploitation is a fact of life. Many multinational brands, driven by shareholder profit, pay such meager wages that the employees who plant, tend, and harvest the tea can barely live on what they earn.



That's why Salesian missionaries offer a specialized training program designed to sow the seeds for self-sufficiency.

Many of India's tea workers do own small pieces of land, but lack the time or resources to produce anything on it. Enrollees receive start-up assistance—either financially or through donated tea saplings—to develop their own micro-businesses. They also learn entrepreneurial skills to complement the practical knowledge they've gained from years of experience on the plantations.

As a result, many day laborers like Sukram can now reap the rewards of long-term security, grown from their own independence.

## Missionary of the Month: Grégoire Maloba

For Grégoire Maloba, being a missionary is "a vocation within a vocation"—his calling, nurtured deep within his heart.

Discernment came early for this Congolese aspirant. As a youth, he spent time among several Salesian missionaries whose devoted service inspired him to follow in Don Bosco's footsteps.

"I had never thought of becoming

a priest or a Salesian missionary or of going to Portugal one day," he explains. "I chose the missionary life to respond freely and consciously to the call of God who sends us all over the world to practice the good news."

According to Grégoire, adapting to a new culture, language, and people is not easy; but it's also an opportunity that sparks both joy and gratitude. He hopes to



teach Portugal's youth by quiet example, showing that they, too, can "do mission" simply by giving themselves to others and bearing good witness right where they are.

## Invaluable Dividends

Dear Friends,

Every day around the world, our missionaries are helping young people transform their lives—and futures—through education.

They're doing it in Nigeria, where scholarship students at a new Salesian training center are learning employment-ready skills for jobs that are in demand. They're doing it in India, where formerly exploited day laborers are gaining the knowledge and skills they need to support themselves as entrepreneurs. And

they're doing it throughout Europe, where refugees from Ukraine and so many other countries arrive seeking better opportunities for themselves and their families.

In fact, when I read about precious little Kateryna and her mother, I immediately took comfort in knowing that our missionaries will be ready when they are: with language classes, primary school, and workplace training that will help them integrate into their new community.



Thank you, as always, for your shared investment in our work. Please know that its dividends are paid in the countless bright futures that you help create.

With sincere gratitude,

*Fr. Gus Baek*

Fr. Gus Baek, S.D.B.



**SALESIAN MISSIONS**

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