



SALESIAN MISSIONS

World Bulletin

Fall 2022

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

Manna from Heaven: Feeding Bodies and Minds in Uganda

Every morning, Father Elie Nyandwi rises before dawn with the same two questions on his mind: “Do we have enough to feed the children today?” And, “Will we have the resources we need to continue?”

Thanks in part to collaborations between Salesian Missions and generous national and international partners, the answer to both is “yes.”

Fr. Elie directs the orphanage and primary school at Don Bosco Children and Life Missions (Don Bosco CALM) in Namugongo, Uganda. They serve more than 200 children, many of whom have struggled with poverty, abandonment, and homelessness. In addition to vital education, youth receive health care and can participate in special enrichment programs and recreational opportunities, too. Despite financial challenges, the Ugandan government doesn’t provide any supportive funding.

“Our resources are scarce,” Fr. Elie explains. “We face difficulty in feeding children, covering their



school fees and materials, providing medical assistance, and paying salaries for our staff.” Still, he is hard-pressed to turn away any child who needs help. That’s where those Salesian Missions partnerships come in.

Recently, for example, a generous donation from a family foundation in Raleigh, N.C. funded the purchase of five cows whose milk will help nourish the children at Don Bosco CALM. Ultimately, Fr. Elie envisions growing the herd in order to build long-term sustainability; to that end, four of the cows already are

expecting calves.

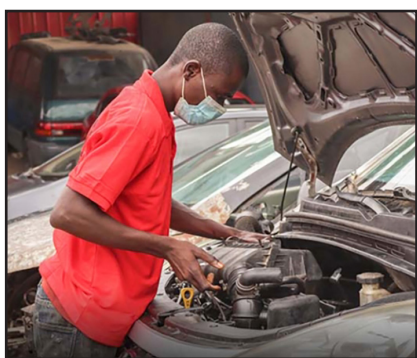
Further, Rise Against Hunger donates tens of thousands of fortified meals each year for children at Don Bosco CALM. (Our annual Food Distribution Appeal, which runs in November, covers the costs for transporting this food—here, and in many other communities where our missionaries serve).

Together, both organizations have helped Fr. Elie free up resources for other crucial programs.

“Having these cows, these meals—we can now breathe and save some money for solving some of the children’s concurrent problems,” he explains. “We are so grateful for these meaningful gifts from the heart.”

“Stories like these demonstrate the collective power of our many friends, whose kindness fuels our mission here in New Rochelle,” adds Father Gus Baek, director of Salesian Missions. “I am so grateful that together, we make a real difference for so many people in need around the world.”

This Month’s Child



Name: Paulo
Age: Unknown
Home: Angola

Paulo was just 10 years old when he saw a friend fatally shot during an attempted robbery. Fortunately, thanks to a Salesian-run program in Luanda, he avoided a similar fate.

Prior to his referral there, Paulo loitered on the streets. Without the opportunities he discovered at “A New Beginning,” his future prospects would quickly have faded in a rearview mirror clouded by drugs and crime.

Formed in collaboration with several national and international organizations, “A New Beginning”

protects and promotes the rights of children like Paulo who are in conflict with the law. The program emphasizes personal growth and aims to reintegrate youth with their families. It also empowers them to make a fresh start through training, psychological counseling, and social skills development.

Today, Paulo is enrolled in a mechanics course and looks forward to supporting himself and his parents with the skills he learns. More than that, he hopes to inspire other at-risk youth by his own shining example.

This Month’s Call For Prayer

With the holidays approaching, please pray that those who are suffering the most will receive the love and support they need to overcome the challenges they face – and the hope and faith that better days are ahead. **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://www.SalesianMissions.org/mass)**



Advent Devotionals – Sign Up Now: www.SalesianMissions.org/Advent

Advent is a time for intentional prayer, reflection and joyful anticipation. Our special devotional messages, 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 Benin...



At Foyer Don Bosco in Kandi, Salesian missionaries are lighting the path forward for victims of child trafficking.

This residential program serves youth in extremely complex situations. Education is a top priority, and staff also provide wraparound services including daily meals, decent clothing, and medical care to support their success in the classroom. Some children complete their basic education on site or in local schools, while others participate in vocational training. All residents receive psychological support and have access to adults who provide safety from the violence of exploitation.

Currently, 40 youth ages 5-15 live at Foyer Don Bosco, which heavily relies on donations to cover costs. Recently, compassionate friends of Salesian Missions helped fund a nutrition program, purchase medicines for the infirmary, and provide start-up toolkits for ten recent graduates who are beginning their careers in the trades.

In Brazil...

This past summer, a volunteer team assembled by Salesian deacon José Alves visited the remote Xavante village of Santa Fé, where 120 people live in just ten small homes.

Their goal? To assess children's health, identify those at risk for malnutrition, and measure the impacts of a targeted month-long feeding program.

Deacon José serves in Campinópolis, where Salesian missionaries at Operation Mato Grasso have been supporting the needs of indigenous communities for more than 50 years. This particular effort, which included a nutritionist and a physician, aimed to help kids thrive by bringing critical services they otherwise couldn't access, directly to them.

By all measures, the program succeeded. At the end of the month, nourished with food provided by Operation Mato Grasso, nearly every child had gained weight and their health markers had improved, too!



In Philippines...

More than 300 disadvantaged students are learning job-ready skills at a Salesian-run vocational training center on Mindanao.

First opened in 2019, "Don Bosco Mati" directly combats high levels of unemployment and generational poverty through practical education. In a country where over 11 million youth are currently out of school, the opportunities Don Bosco Mati provides are increasingly critical.



Already, the center's agricultural and technical skills courses are well known and in demand throughout the island. Students—many of whom receive scholarship support—benefit from classroom learning and apprenticeships at companies as far away as Manila. More employers have become aware of Don Bosco Mati as a result, and some now travel to campus to recruit for open positions.

During the next three years, Salesian missionaries expect to welcome 560 high school students into new skills training workshops as well.

Missionary of the Month: Edwin Seminario Rivera

"Knowing that I will be sent to Congo is like a dream coming true today, a dream that fits into God's plan for me."

From the moment that 24-year-old Edwin Seminario Rivera first felt called to religious life, he knew he was meant to be a missionary in Africa. Today, this young Salesian from Peru is preparing to leave everything and everyone he knows behind, in order to fulfill his duty to

serve the poor and provide spiritual nourishment to those in need.

But he won't be going alone. Jesus and Mary will be right there beside him, guiding Edwin through the challenges of adjusting to a new language and culture.

Edwin also draws inspiration from the late Salesian Father Luigi (Luís) Bolla, who faithfully served among Peru's indigenous Achuar. His mission zeal lights the path



toward the new lifestyle that awaits him in a new land.

Your Heart-Felt Generosity is a Gift

Dear Friends,

Each year at this time, I reflect on my many blessings with gratitude.

I also remember our countless fellow humans who don't have much of their own to be thankful for. Families torn apart by war. Children abandoned to the streets. Youth with no education, no opportunities, and no hope for the future.

That's why your support is so meaningful. Together with our

missionaries in more than 130 countries, you provide comfort—and tangible assistance—to those who need it most. Whether it's lighting the path forward for victims of child trafficking; helping troubled youth reclaim their dignity; or teaching poor children viable skills for future employment; your kindness reflects the true meaning of Christmas. Because it's not about what we get ... but what we give.

You give so much to so many. And



the gift of your heart-felt generosity touches my heart deeply.

With sincere gratitude,

Fr. Gus Baek

Fr. Gus Baek, S.D.B.



SALESIAN MISSIONS

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