



SALESIAN MISSIONS

World Bulletin

Spring 2023

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

Planting Roots of Hope ... Right Where they Are

Global youth migration is on the rise. And while it's challenging to pinpoint exact numbers, one thing is certain: thousands of marginalized young people leave their home countries in search of better opportunities abroad *every single day*.

"They're driven by poverty, war, unemployment, and hopelessness," says Father Timothy Ploch, interim director of Salesian Missions. "They feel as if they have nothing to lose. Yet far too often, the opposite ends up being true."

Many endure treacherous journeys only to arrive in a new place with no contacts, no possessions, nowhere to live, and no way to communicate. Unable to find work or housing, they end up on the streets, dealing with the very same conditions they sought to escape.

Around the world, our Salesian missionaries are devising creative ways to



address this challenging issue. This includes employing an innovative strategy best described as *circular migration*.

In this scenario, missionaries train migrant youth to bring specialized, relevant skills back to their original home communities. Returnees then teach those skills to other young people, so that fewer are tempted to leave. "It's a complementary approach to the ground-level support we already offer in host countries, and so far the results are quite promising," says Fr. Tim.

In Tambacounda, Senegal for example, a returned migrant

named Seny leads a small agricultural training program where youth can learn the skills they need to start and sustain their own small farms. Through fostering entrepreneurship and the development of micro-businesses, the project also creates concrete employment opportunities that

support the local economy.

"Ironically, Seny originally left Senegal for Italy in search of something better," says Fr. Tim. "Fortunately, he connected with our Salesians there, and attended farming technique classes. Seny ultimately returned to his Senegal village to teach others." Seny is a shining example of circular migration success."

While we may never fully prevent employment migration, we can certainly reduce it by addressing its root causes in locally relevant, sustainable ways ... with support from kind friends like you.

This Month's Child

Not long ago, Adeyi was begging on the streets to survive.

His mother had died when he was a little boy, and the uncle who took him in was abusive. So he ran away—landing on the streets of Lagos with crowds of other kids just like him.

At first, Adeyi felt relief. But the daily desperation borne of hunger and fear quickly erased it. "I was mistreated on the streets," he recalls, even worse off than before.

Throughout Nigeria, widespread poverty and social

despair mean children as young as nine years old regularly face what Adeyi did: a situation our missionaries are working hard to address. In several major cities, they offer crucial support and educational opportunities to hundreds of homeless youth each year.

Now at Bosco Boys Home, Adeyi is building his confidence, resilience, and hope for the future. He's also excited to be learning a trade.

"When I met the Salesians, everything changed!" he says.



Name: Adeyi
Age: 14 Years Old
Home: Nigeria

This Month's Call For Prayer

Spring is a season of renewal and rejuvenation. Please pray that suffering children, families and communities in Ukraine and around the globe are given the strength, hope and support they need to resurrect their lives and face brighter days 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



Monthly Missions Report...

In Mexico...



Tijuana straddles the intersection of hope and despair: striving to bridge the gap between poverty and violence on one side, and the promise of better opportunities on the other.

Desperate children and families from all over Central America arrive here every day. Unable to enter the U.S., and unwilling to return home, many languish at the border. And local social services agencies struggle to meet the demand for help.

Since 1987, the Salesian-run Tijuana Project has helped migrants and other vulnerable populations understand their legal rights, access public services, and live in dignity. Recently, they organized a street fair that provided medical and dental services, crime prevention information, educational opportunities, and more.

Due to the fair's success, government officials now plan to collaborate with missionaries in Tijuana to better understand the needs of the local population and bring relevant services directly into their communities.

In Namibia...

Until recently, the only water available to residents of rural impoverished Ruurumwe came from a seasonal stream that regularly dries up during the hottest months. And with no reliable nearby source for irrigation, they couldn't grow the food they needed to stay nourished and healthy.

Thanks to generous friends like you, this is no longer the case. With funding from our dedicated Clean Water Initiative, 550 deserving people now have a borewell, pump, and water storage tank right in their own village. Already, they've launched small agricultural projects and have reclaimed some of their precious time, too: no one has to walk to faraway locations looking for water to carry home.

Ethel, a young mother who once worried about feeding her child, describes the water as transformative. "My life has changed," she says. "It has given me hope."



In East Timor...

A new internship program at Don Bosco Agricultural College in Fuiloro helps students bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world knowledge.

Students attended three-month field placements hosted by national and international partners. There they learn modern approaches to agriculture, fishery management, and veterinary science while building their confidence and practical proficiencies in the field.



In a country where food insecurity is high and economic opportunity is low, missionaries believe such capacity-building is crucial—and that it must occur in a sustainable way. That's why each internship also includes an environmental component that empowers participants to envision, implement, and steward best practices that benefit humans, animals, and the planet.

Following successful completion of their training, students will be well poised to improve their own lives and lead their country's transformation, too. Future generations indeed will be grateful.

Missionary of the Month: Sansão Manuel Sebastião Gonçalves

"Trust in Mary and you will see what miracles are."

This is the advice Father Sansão offers to young people interested in following his vocational path. And it's the same advice he believes will guide him as he settles into his first missionary assignment in Cape Verde.

The island is a long way from Fr. Sansão's hometown of São Paulo-Cuca, Angola, but the distance—in both miles and culture—doesn't

phase this faithful young man, who credits the many Salesians before him for inspiring his missionary spirit.

"These sons of Don Bosco gave themselves entirely to the poor youth of my beloved country," he explains warmly. And it was their selfless dedication and profound influence that steadied Fr. Sansão's resolve, even as his family and friends initially questioned his plans.

Now in Cape Verde with their



full support, Fr. Sansão is eager to see what miracles await as he grows in fidelity to St. John Bosco's charisma and legacy.

Not One Left Behind

Dear Friends,

In his recent letter recognizing World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis reminded the global community that "God's plan is inclusive, and gives priority to those living on the existential peripheries."

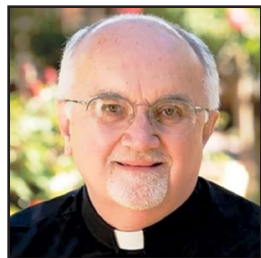
Reading this *World Bulletin* issue, I was struck by the relevance of his message: not only to our cover story, but also to every other facet of our mission-driven work.

This work may be diverse and

distributed, but it shares a common value that binds it all together: a deep and abiding concern for the world's most marginalized people—especially the precious children.

This is the legacy of Don Bosco, who dedicated his life to youth in search of better lives. And this is the promise our missionaries make as they steward his legacy around the world: from Africa's tiny villages to Central America's teeming cities and so many places in between.

Thank you for being part of this



work, and helping to make the world a better place.

In peace,

Fr. Timothy Ploch, S.D.B.



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Tel. (914) 633-8344

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