



SALESIAN MISSIONS

World Bulletin

Summer 2023

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

Soothing the Wounds of Poverty

Emma is a single mother in Sierra Leone who works hard to provide for her kids. Still, on just \$2 a day, she barely scrapes by.

Most days, she can only provide one small meal, late in the evening after work. Her children wake up famished, and they can't focus at school. Their malnutrition is very real. But no one outside their small community knows ... or cares.

Sadly, Emma's story isn't unique.

Around the world, far too many families like hers experience crises that threaten their health, well-being, and futures. They are hungry. They are homeless. They don't have clean water or desperately needed medicine.

They suffer the disasters of poverty that strike **millions of people** every single day. Yet we rarely, if ever, hear about it.

"It's human nature to gravitate toward the sensational," explains Father Timothy Ploch, interim



director of Salesian Missions. "Malnutrition borne of poverty lacks the same urgency that famine does. One unsheltered person or family doesn't seem as critical as an entire community left homeless by an earthquake. But people's need for compassion and material help is no less dire—or deserving—just because their suffering doesn't make the news."

Our Salesian missionaries know this intrinsically. In more than 130 countries, they stand on the front lines

of these everyday emergencies—quietly soothing the wounds of lost dignity for countless people with nowhere else to turn.

That's how Emma's life changed for the better. Thanks to our missionaries in Lungi, she and her children now enjoy a healthy, hearty breakfast every morning. "This food has been a blessing in keeping me and my family alive," she says.

Generous supporters like you help perform these small miracles: providing food, safe water, clean clothes, basic medicines, and temporary shelter for impoverished children and families all over the world. At the same time, you support comprehensive programs that address the root causes of poverty-driven emergencies so that fewer people have to experience them.

Together, we make a real difference for real people whose stories the world will never know. But you will. And we are grateful.

This Month's Child

Peter was just nine months old when his mother abandoned him.

When he was only six, his father died.

None of Peter's relatives had the money or resilience to feed him, take care of him, or love him. So for seven long years, this precious little boy fended for himself: out on the streets instead of in school, his prospects for something better fading rapidly before him.

And then, a miracle: an aunt brought Peter to Don Bosco Children and Life Mission (CALM) in Kampala.

Since 2006, missionaries and staff at Don Bosco CALM have rescued and rehabilitated hundreds of orphaned and abandoned youth like Peter. There, more than 200 boys age 8-17 enjoy a welcoming home where their basic needs are met and their education guaranteed.

Today, Peter happily attends secondary school, where his commitment to learning translates to exceptional grades. And his warm, cheerful smile tells visitors everything they need to know about this fortunate turn of events.



Name: Peter
Age: 14 Years Old
Home: Uganda

This Month's Call For Prayer

While most students embrace the summer months as a time to enjoy a break from classes and homework, please pray that poor children in many 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



Monthly Missions Report...

In Austria...



Imagine trying to learn a foreign language while saddled with the traumas of war, displacement, and loss.

That's exactly what thousands of Ukrainian refugees throughout Western Europe are facing right now. And that's why Salesian missionaries in Vienna have created what could become a replicable model for other host communities across the continent.

At the Don Bosco Sozialwerk refugee reception center, an inaugural class of 15 women participate in intensive German classes led by qualified native speakers. Students learn practical conversational skills in the same room where their young children engage in supervised play. This eases separation anxiety for the mothers, who can more fully focus on their lessons.

Classes run M-F mornings, free of charge, followed by lunch and community excursions where participants can practice their newfound vocabulary.

Willkommen!

In Peru...

One generous donation has empowered nearly 1,400 underprivileged youth with the tools they need for meaningful work and sustainable futures.

These students attend seven Salesian-run vocational training programs across the country. They are learning essential skills in carpentry, auto mechanics, electricity, industrial pattern making, metalsmithing, and agriculture. And a partnership between Salesian Missions and the Atlanta, Georgia-based ASAP (A Self-Help Assistance Program) has further enhanced their experience.

ASAP volunteers collect used hand tools and power equipment, and refurbish, bundle, and send them to vocational training programs throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. These tools both help instructors to offer experiential learning opportunities, and graduates to enter their chosen profession equipped to succeed.

Often, these donated tools would otherwise have been difficult for Salesian schools to find or afford. What a meaningful relationship with a measurable impact for students!



In Sierra Leone...

For the first time in school history, administrators at St. Augustine Junior Secondary School in Lungi are able to provide a daily nutritious lunch for 700 students. And they're doing it thanks to generous donors like you.

With your support of Salesian Missions, these dedicated educators not only ensure their pupils are fed, but also that they have school uniforms, well maintained facilities, and teachers who are paid a living wage.



These things are so critical for students who come from profound disadvantages. Across Sierra Leone, persistently high illiteracy rates mean that an estimated 70% of the country's youth are underemployed or jobless. Thanks to the quality educational opportunities that St. Augustine provides—and the food they need to stay healthy and focused in the classroom—these young men and women are building better futures.

Missionary of the Month: Emmanuel Jeremia Mganda

For Emmanuel Jeremia Mganda, missionary work is less about teaching than it is about learning.

Originally from Zanzibar, Tanzania, this 30-year-old Salesian is happily serving his inaugural assignment in Maturacá, deep in the Brazilian Amazon. There, the indigenous community warmly welcomed him. They began sharing their language, customs, and culture with an eager student intent on

leveraging his newfound knowledge to better fulfill his missionary vocation.

Remarkably, Emmanuel drew an immediate parallel between two otherwise very convergent religious traditions. He understood the way the Yanomami do everything in their power to live in the spirit of peace and harmony—that this is their own manifestation of Don Bosco's Preventive System.



“My missionary work has enriched my pastoral and spiritual approaches towards youth, especially in areas of religion and education,” Emmanuel explains. “I am so grateful to God and the Salesian congregation for this opportunity.”

On the Front Lines of Everyday Disasters

Dear Friends,

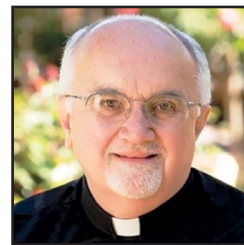
It's hard not to be moved by our missionaries' work in times of crisis. War in Ukraine. Earthquakes in Syria. Flooding in Pakistan. Famine in Africa.

I'm humbled by their brave dedication, bringing desperately needed relief to victims of catastrophe in their darkest hours of need. And I'm even prouder to point out that *these same missionaries serve on the front lines of everyday emergencies, too.*

These emergencies rarely make

headlines, and global humanitarian aid never materializes. But our dedicated men and women of Don Bosco always do.

Whether it's a child abandoned to the streets, a mother who can't feed her kids, or a youth at risk for unemployment, our missionaries show up: helping countless impoverished people escape the crushing burdens of despair. And they do it thanks to precious friends like you.



You are there with us, helping the poor each and every day.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Fr. Tim

Fr. Timothy Ploch, S.D.B.



SALESIAN MISSIONS

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