



SALESIAN MISSIONS

World Bulletin

Fall 2023

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

Every Child Deserves to Learn

All parents want their children to go to school: to learn to spell; to use a pencil; to delight in the joy and power of newly gained knowledge and skill. They know—as we Salesians of Don Bosco do—that education is the key to a healthy and more prosperous future.

Yet around the world, more than **244 million** eager girls and boys between the ages of 6 and 18 will not see the inside of a classroom this year. It's a staggering number. Even more staggering? Official estimates show that it's likely to get bigger.

"Far too many of these precious children live in countries directly affected by drawn-out crises," explains Father Timothy Ploch, interim director of Salesian Missions. "Through no fault of their own, they're caught up in armed conflict, forced displacement, natural and human-made disasters, and more."



For some, it simply isn't safe to travel to school, or sit at a desk, as missiles scream by overhead. For others, overcrowded refugee camps and language barriers make it impossible to learn.

But our missionaries are undeterred.

In addition to operating more than 5,500 Salesian-run primary and secondary schools located in some

of the most impoverished communities around the world, these dedicated educators bring the classroom directly to children, wherever and whenever they need it: in refugee camps, such as Kakuma, Kenya and Palabek, Uganda; in border towns, such as Ciudad Juárez and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico; and even on the subway platforms and under the trees along the routes these children travel.

"The challenges of this work are very real,"

Fr. Tim says. "But they are not insurmountable. And much of that has to do with our many loyal and generous friends, whose support helps vulnerable kids around the world access the education they deserve ... and the vital lifeline to a much brighter future it provides."

At a time of year when every child should be back in school, this is a remarkable gift.

This Month's Child



Name: Henri
Age: 17 Years Old
Home: Ecuador

Henri wakes every morning with a prayer: that someone will adopt him.

You see—even as he stands on the threshold of young adulthood—Henri still yearns for parental love he never had.

In the meantime, Salesian missionaries are providing the next-best thing: a safe, supportive environment where he can thrive. And it's all through a partnership with Ecuador's National Institute of Children and Families.

Under this partnership, Don Bosco Farm in Ambato helps

kids like Henri recover from their traumas, rediscover their childhoods, and realize their potential. Since first arriving as a precious toddler with physical and emotional scars, Henri has learned to dream big.

"I want to go to university and have a career," says this motivated high schooler, student leader, and soccer player. He also aspires to get married, have children, and leave a positive mark on the world.

Whether tomorrow or in ten years, Henri is poised for the happy, healthy family life he always deserved.

This Month's Call For Prayer

With the holidays approaching, please pray that those who are suffering 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, December 3rd, 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 Nigeria...



Missionaries in Lagos are changing lives, thanks to kind friends like you.

Their work is crucial in a city where so many kids live on the streets. Driven there by family poverty, neglect, or abuse, what they find instead is even worse. Without meaningful intervention, their fates as society's castoffs are all but sealed.

Every day, trained outreach workers from the Don Bosco Child Protection Center step in: collaborating with a broader team—including law enforcement, child protective services, and the courts—to rescue these endangered youth and bring them to the Bosco Boys Home.

Here, former street kids ages 7-15 receive shelter, food, clothing, medical care, and skills training opportunities that prepare them for employment. Demand is so high that missionaries plan to expand capacity from 25 to 80: soon providing a safe haven for even more deserving children.

In Papua New Guinea...

A cutting-edge practical internship program at Don Bosco Technical School in Gabutu matches student learning to immediate employer needs.

First, some background: TotalEnergies Papua New Guinea (TEP PNG) is leading a major liquefied natural gas production project intended to support environmentally sustainable economic growth within the country. One of their stated goals is to develop a skilled local workforce who can fill an estimated 3,000 jobs.

And that's where DBTS comes in. Under terms of a recently signed agreement, TEP PNG initially will provide scholarships for 90 students in the technical trades whose skills make them ideal candidates for construction and production jobs on project. Another 90 students will receive scholarships next academic year.

In a country where breaking the cycle of poverty often seems impossible, such opportunities empower marginalized youth to open new doors into financially stable futures.



In Ukraine...

Normalcy amid ongoing war: this is the bar Salesian missionaries set when they offered a new recreational camp for kids in Zhytomyr this past July. And they were thrilled to see participants joyfully vault over it.

Such joy remains a prized, yet elusive, commodity in this region of Ukraine. The missiles didn't take a summer break, and it's hard to enjoy a carefree holiday when air raid sirens scream throughout the day and night. That's precisely why administrators



and teachers at the Salesian-run Vsesvit primary and high schools transformed campus grounds into an entertainment venue offering peace and play.

And it worked! Guided by the motto "Enjoy life and discover the world," camp enrollees bonded over sports, conversation, and meals. With the safety of Vsesvit's bomb shelter close at hand, they were free just to be kids once again.

Missionary of the Month: Fr. David Tulumelli

Fr. David Tulumelli is well acquainted with barriers. And that makes him a perfect candidate to break them down.

"We are not tribes or religions," this 41-year-old Salesian and converted Hindu explains. "We are human beings."

Fr. Tuli, as he is known, first learned this lesson at the Salesian primary school he attended in India. There, his social isolation dissolved under the welcoming wing of missionaries whose compassion for poor children like him

transcended caste.

Fr. Tuli has paid that compassion forward ever since: most notably as director of Don Bosco Gumbo in South Sudan where—on one fateful night—thousands of frightened women and children stormed the gates. He flung them open to 20,000 refugees, regardless of culture, language, or religion.

Now in Belgium, his legacy in South Sudan shines bright: hundreds of women he helped have named their children Tuli.

"I became someone thanks to the



Saleians. If each of these children does the same, we can fill an ocean with goodness."

Our Door Is Always Open

Dear Friends,

"Suddenly, I saw Salesians playing with poor Hindu children. 'These are different people,' I thought then. The door was always open for the poor children."

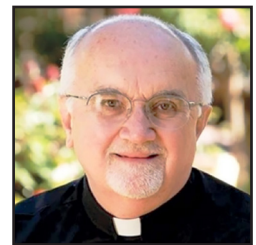
This early encounter with missionaries in India made such an impression on a young schoolboy named David, that ultimately he converted to Catholicism so he could join the cause.

Fr. Tuli, as he is now known,

instinctively understood the transformative power of kindness and why it matters to precious children whose social and economic status stand in the way of the futures they deserve.

Today, he joins our colleagues in Don Bosco who—together—fling open their doors to millions of children waiting for their own glimpse of kindness.

We couldn't do this without your support. You, too, are different in



your generosity, and I am grateful for these success stories you help write.

In peace,

Fr. Timothy Ploch, S.D.B.



SALESIAN MISSIONS

Tel. (914) 633-8344

Visit our website: www.salesianmissions.org

CONSIDER A DAF GRANT TO SALESIAN MISSIONS TODAY

Please remember Salesian Missions in your will.

2 LEFEVRE LANE • NEW ROCHELLE NY 10801-5710



facebook.com/FindYourMission



twitter.com/SalMissions



instagram.com/salesian_missions



linkedin.com/company/salesian-missions