



# World Bulletin

Winter 2025

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

## Rebuilding Lives after Disaster Strikes

When disaster strikes impoverished communities, the Salesians are among the first to provide emergency support and supplies. That support meant the world to Mariama, a blind mother of two children.

Unable to find work because of her disability, the 40-year-old woman spent most of her days on the streets of the city begging for money to support her struggling family. Her life was one of pain, misery and hopelessness.

Then, as if things couldn't get any worse, a catastrophic fire in her hometown of Bo City, Sierra Leone, destroyed her home and her neighborhood.

Homeless and scared, Mariama and her children finally found refuge at an unfinished school building where our Salesian missionaries provided them with safe shelter, nutritious meals and medical care.

The emergency response that helped save Mariama's family along with 31 other displaced



people – including 15 children – was funded by Salesian Missions and made possible by generous friends like you.

In addition to receiving the support they desperately needed in their time of crisis, the families devastated by the fire were given the comfort of knowing that caring people half a world away were eager to lend a helping hand and assist with the recovery process.

The first step was to collaborate with local organizations to ensure that displaced victims had continued access to health care, food, education and financial aid.

Knowing firsthand that education is the key to a better future, the Salesians operate several primary, secondary and training schools in the country, including St. Teresa's Primary School in Bo City.

Disaster relief is just one of the many ways the Salesians in Sierra Leone are serving the needs of suffering children and

families who need it most. Since arriving in the country in 2001 to rehabilitate former child soldiers, the Salesian impact has grown enormously. Don Bosco Fambul, located in the capital city of Freetown, has become one of the country's leading child welfare organizations, offering food, clothing, crisis intervention, shelter, educational opportunities, long-term counseling and family reunification.

By delivering these critical services, the Salesians have also emerged as a primary provider of hope for a population in crisis.

## This Month's Child

Mohmed's childhood has been one of misery and suffering. A dilapidated house, a shortage of nutritious food and a lack of money have taken their toll on the young boy.

Like many disadvantaged young people his age, Mohmed was destined for a future filled with poverty, crime, loneliness and depression. Left on his own, his outlook was bleak.

That's why Mohmed is so grateful for his chance to participate in a special youth program sponsored by the local

Don Bosco Institute.

Along with 320 other at-risk youth, Mohmed found the compassion, support and opportunities that had been missing in his life. He engaged in educational activities, embarked on trips to new places and formed deep friendships with other kids who understood his hardships.

He eagerly looks forward to attending the youth program again next year. In the meantime, he cherishes the skills he's gained to navigate difficulties and overcome challenges.



Name: Mohmed  
Age: 13 Years Old  
Home: Alexandria, Egypt

## This Month's Call For Prayer

*This winter, 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](http://SalesianMissions.org/mass)**



# Monthly Missions Report...

## In India...



For impoverished children struggling to stay focused in the classroom, new electronic smartboards – a state-of-the-art replacement for chalkboards – are proving to be an effective tool for teaching and learning.

Thanks to caring friends like you, Salesian Missions funded 15 sets of smartboards that will benefit 700 youth at the Don Bosco Higher Secondary School in Perambur, Chennai.

Students at the school are thrilled by how much the new technology enables them to understand their lessons and improve their test scores. The smartboards are interactive and make the educational experience more enjoyable and productive.

Given the success of smartboards, plans are underway to install them in all 42 classrooms in the school.

In a country where only 10% of the workforce has a secondary education, the smartboards are a smart investment and a much-welcomed gift for an impoverished community.

## In Togo...

The purchase of a new vehicle made possible by friends like you is enabling our missionaries to reach forgotten children and families in some of the most remote and impoverished corners of the world.

For Salesian missionaries working in Cinkasse, Togo, the ability to reach out to surrounding communities was a monumental challenge, hampered by the limitations of a motor bike and an old car that would often break down.

Now, equipped with reliable transportation, our missionaries can regularly deliver critical items to those living near 10 rural outstations run by the Salesians. And, residents of those communities will have greater access to our resources in town, including junior and secondary schools, agricultural training, a health clinic and youth education programs.

Not only will the new vehicle connect suffering families with the services and supplies they desperately need, it will help transport them to a better life.



## In Indonesia...

Thirty one students living in a makeshift boarding house are counting their blessings.

That's because construction is underway on a new student residence at the SMP Bhakti Mulia, a Salesian-run middle school in Purwodadi, Java.



To kick off the project, an opening ceremony was held where, as one of our Salesian missionaries reported, "All of the students, teachers and school staff participated with great enthusiasm. We are excited about the new residence for our students."

Once completed, the new facility will accommodate up to 60 youth and provide them with a safe and caring environment in which to learn and grow.

In a community stricken with extreme poverty and despair, the boarding house is a ray of hope for young people to pursue an education that was previously unattainable.

## Missionary of the Month: Father Noble Lal

Fr. Noble Lal has always been driven to empower young people with the education, skills and training to lift them out of poverty.

The fruits of his passion are visible every day at the Don Bosco Technical Institute in Lahore, Pakistan.

Under his direction, students – many of whom dropped out of traditional school – gain valuable skills in trades that better prepare them for employment and financial independence.

Since the school opened in 2000, it has provided career paths for more than 8,000 youth. Fr. Lal is a trailblazer himself, having been the first Pakistani to be ordained as a Salesian priest.

Fr. Lal has ambitious plans for the future, beginning with a new nursing school opening soon on the Salesian Lahore campus.

His enormous impact is yet another example of how your generosity supports the life-changing



work of Fr. Lal and nearly 30,000 Salesian missionaries around the world.

## You Provide Hope in the Face of Uncertainty

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on my first full year as director of Salesian Missions, I am privileged to witness the outpouring of support we receive from caring friends like you.

As requests for urgent and important funding come across my desk, it gives me great satisfaction whenever I can respond with an emphatic Yes! Your generosity makes that possible and it's what makes my job so rewarding.

Personally, I'm concerned about

the year ahead. With poverty, violence and despair on the rise, I worry about the children, families and communities that will suffer. How can we keep up with their needs?

You give me – and them – hope! Time and time again, I get reports from our missionaries on the front lines saying how much your financial support made a difference – and how thankful they are to you.

I wish you and your loved ones well in 2025 and am deeply grateful



for your continued generosity and kindness.

All God's blessings now and always,

*Fr. Michael Conway, S.D.B.*  
Fr. Michael Conway, S.D.B.



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