



World Bulletin

Spring 2026

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

Salesians Bring Hope and Sustainability to Cambodia

For impoverished communities, where resources are scarce and families struggle to make it through each day, two Salesian schools in Cambodia are teaching valuable skills that promote sustainability and self-sufficiency. These efforts will enable the young generation to preserve what little they have for the future while building a reliable food supply from both land and sea.



Students at Don Bosco Kep and Don Bosco Sihanoukville are learning practical lessons in reforestation, environmental care and the protection of coastal ecosystems. They are encouraged to see ecology as an essential dimension of their human and Christian formation.

Reforestation along the coast is one of the major objectives of the program, especially the restoration of mangroves. Mangroves create a barrier that absorbs the power of storms, heavy winds, and rains, saving the inhabitants from the

fury and chaos that can be so devastating to humans.

Additionally, the mangroves provide a filter from the land into the sea, cleaning the water as it drains, creating a healthier environment for sea creatures, and a safer source of sustenance for the community inhabitants.

“It is a blessing to see that our schools in Cambodia have begun to include new sustainability and ecology practices into their curriculum,” explains Father Michael Conway, Director of Salesian Missions. “For numerous reasons, the focus on responsible stewardship of

natural resources will place the youth of Cambodia in a unique position to impact the wellbeing of their communities and future generation.”

The success of the program relies on a strong alliance of educational institutions, local residents and young people—including indigenous youth – as

protagonists of positive change. In addition to unifying people to make living conditions better for all, Fr. Mike sees another potential benefit. He states, “The new knowledge and skills gained by our students in Cambodia could make them highly sought after in the global sustainability job market.”

The sustainability programs in Cambodia are just a couple of the many ways the Salesians are empowering impoverished communities with the ability to make the most of their limited resources in both the short and long term.

This Month's Child

Kelvin's life didn't start with misery and pain. His mother was full of love and inspired him with stories, often of little boys growing into educated men. She believed deeply in her son.

Tragically, when Kelvin was eleven, everything changed. His mother passed away. With no one else to care for him, he was brought to the Don Bosco Boys Home in Ghana. At first, Kelvin felt isolated and lonely. He cried himself to sleep.

But with much care and support, the Salesian staff taught him skills

to help overcome his sadness. The other boys welcomed Kelvin in their activities. And soon, he started to evolve into a strong young man.

Today, Kelvin is thriving in school, something he and his mother had only dreamed of. He wears his school uniform proudly and attends school each day filled with confidence. He is becoming the educated man that his mother spoke to him about. He is destined to succeed, not only for himself, but also in honor of his beloved mother.



Name: Kelvin
Age: 13 Years Old
Home: Don Bosco Boys Home, Ghana

This Month's Call For Prayer

We pray, Dear Lord, that you can bless us with calm and comfort during these times of chaos and unrest. We also pray that those who are in a position to help children and families in need will respond with kindness and generosity.

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 Myanmar...



The area surrounding Kalay, Myanmar is extremely hazardous. Due to the town's location, violent skirmishes are frequent. Houses are burned and families must often leave due to safety concerns. Conditions are extremely difficult for the community who live vastly below the poverty line.

But the resilience of the residents, strength of will, and the generosity of friends like you is enabling the community to cope. Most recently, our Salesian missionaries have refurbished and expanded classrooms in the Don Bosco Youth Center, the only boarding school for the youth of Kalay. The expansion has made it possible for the school to house and educate more students in a safe environment.

Children come to the Don Bosco Youth Center to seek an education and spiritual guidance. The addition of five new classrooms will allow more youth to find solace in a safe space that feeds the mind and heals the soul.

In Zambia...

In Lusaka, Zambia, the Salesian Sacred Heart community is celebrating the opening of the Don Bosco Higher Institute. The new educational center brings much-needed hope and opportunity to local marginalized youth.

In Zambia, nearly 20,000 homes are headed by children whose parents have died due to epidemic and disease. These vulnerable kids are desperate for adult care, as well as the basics of safe shelter and nutritious meals that all children need. They desire to attend school so they can someday experience a better life.

At the opening ceremony, Salesian Father Michael Mbandama declared, "Let us pray that this may truly be a center of formation and hope for young people." He also gave thanks for Salesian supporters like you whose generosity provides hope and inspiration during times of distress.



In Ecuador...

In the country of Ecuador, one out of every four children under age 5 suffers from stunted growth due to malnutrition. A shortage of healthy food, and inadequate ways to safely store food, make it nearly impossible to preserve what little they have. As a result, food borne illnesses add to the health crisis.



That's why our Salesian missionaries in Yaupi and Miazal have launched a very simple – yet highly effective – campaign to collect and distribute plastic containers with airtight lids.

This inexpensive packaging prevents food spoilage and enables impoverished families to keep their precious food safe for longer periods of time.

While many families have already benefited from this effort, our missionaries continue to reach out to remote villages in desperate need with the goal of helping more than 500 families.

Missionary of the Month: Fr. Simon Zakerian

When serving as a young altar boy at Mass in a northeast Syrian city, Fr. Simon Zakerian would tell himself: when I grow up, I will also be on the altar like this priest. His calling in life was clear.

Today, Fr. Simon serves the Salesian Middle East Province including Israel, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon – a region very familiar with instability, war and hardship.

He understands the challenges faced by young people and works side by side with them to instill faith and build a better future.

"I tell them to not be afraid of life and difficulties, rather to face everything with love and hope," he explains. "Because together, we can change ourselves and the world."

Fr. Simon's wisdom and optimism are a source of comfort and



strength at a time when youngsters and other vulnerable populations struggle to cope with the chaos and fear that can consume them.

You Provide Hope in the Face of Uncertainty

Dear Friends,

In my role as Director of Salesian Missions, I'm continually gratified to feel the strength of your faith in us through your amazing support.

As we all witness the poverty, violence and despair that can sometimes overwhelm us, I'm comforted by the role we can play – and the way in which we can respond to those in pain and suffering – because of your unwavering support and generosity. Students are learning how to sustain their communities;

new school buildings are expanding access to education; and a sense of normalcy is being restored for young victims of war.

It's gratifying to share the stories featured in this issue of the World Bulletin. They are inspiring examples of the hope you provide every time you make a gift to Salesian Missions.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the many children and families who are better off today thanks to you.



All God's blessings now and always,

Fr. Michael Conway, SDB
Father Michael Conway, S.D.B.



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