Salesian Mission NEWS

MAY 2019



EDUCATION
A PATH OUT OF POVERTY

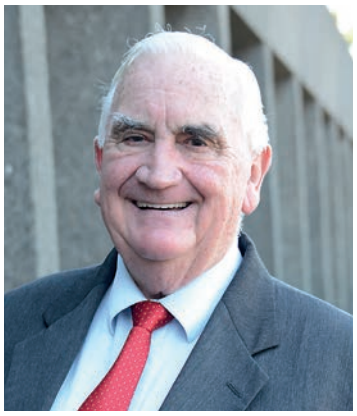
Salesian Missions AUSTRALIA

The Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF)
Salesians of Don Bosco

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In the world's poorest countries Children do not have a chance to attend school.

Thank you from the Director



Dear Friend of Salesian Missions,

Education in its fullness is the key to development.

I have seen firsthand the value of giving poor and marginalized people employment-related skills. It is the means of helping them to help themselves and to secure a job to support a family as well as contributing to the growth and development of their nation. By fostering student's abilities, they grow in self-confidence.

At Don Bosco Alafua, Samoa, Sitivi was awarded an ASMOAF scholarship. He is one of ten children from a family who earn a basic income through fishing and selling plantation products. The scholarship has given Sitivi and his family hope; he can now complete his learning, develop skills and achieve his goals. He is grateful for this opportunity.

Your assistance has truly made a big impact.

Please continue to support us with your donations.

Yours sincerely in St John Bosco,

Br Michael Lynch
Director

P.S. **Join us in Prayer:**
Please take a moment to join us in prayer. You may send us your special intentions.



SALESIAN BULLETIN

The Salesian Bulletin, a quarterly magazine of news, information and a range of articles, is available free of charge. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact the Salesian Missions Office.

CONTENTS

Guatemala 3

Two Don Bosco Schools in Samoa 4

Fiji 5

Two Australian Salesians working in Kenya 6

India 6

Timor Leste 7

Together we can make a difference 8

Follow us on Salesian Missions Australia



By supporting us, together we can bring hope to 'the poorest and most neglected parts of God's vineyard' for generations to come. Visit www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au/donate

A Bequest or Legacy is a Gift

Bequests left in a Will, both large and small, have over the years, been an important source of support for Don Bosco's Mission for youth from poverty stricken backgrounds. It is an act of generosity that can continue into future generations.

Please call our office or visit our websit for further information.

EDUCATION GROWS FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Rural life in Guatemala

is often associated with extreme poverty; over 60% living below the poverty line. However, the rural Q'eqchi people are among those in the community looking to improve their lives. Through the programs at the Don Bosco schools they are learning new skills that can lead to additional income for their families while increasing the capacities of their communities.

Father De Groot came to the Carchá (in the Alta Verapaz region) of Guatemala in 1975 and has since then, been helping youth break the cycle of poverty and improve their lives through education.

Upon his arrival in Guatemala, he was immediately struck by the extreme poverty and deprivation in the mountain communities. What started for him as an effort to provide support to remote villages neglected during a civil war, turned into an educational revolution resulting in the training of hundreds of teachers, while offering poor youth a second chance.

Determined to make a difference, Fr De Groot began visiting the villages to build hope and offer support. He realized much more needed to be done especially for the sake of the children. During 1992 to 2007 he started to build schools and initiated an extensive teacher training program.

Upon receiving their certificates, these students went on to teach in some of the 600 villages throughout Guatemala that participated in the program.

Today more than 2000 students from remote mountainous regions of the country participate in various trades and technical three-year courses at Don Bosco Centres in Carcha, Raxruha and Chamelco.

Fr De Groot continues to remain passionate and driven to provide opportunities for the young people of Guatemala.

Australian Salesian, Father Tony De Groot has been a pioneer in providing education for the indigenous Q'eqchi of Guatemala.





"Everything fades away, but not our gratitude. We shall always pray that God will abundantly bless those who have been good to us." St John Bosco

Providing meals that nourish their minds and their spirits.
Building schools that provide a path out of poverty.

EDUCATION PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES

"If we want to have a good society, concentrate on the development of the young."

St John Bosco

The two Don Bosco Schools in Samoa

were established to provide young people with work-related skills. Their country experiences high levels of youth unemployment and many do not complete a formal education.



However, through these challenges the Samoans retain their strong family based cultural identity. The Don Bosco schools encourage students to deepen their understanding of who they are through music, dance and sport.

One of the pioneering Salesians at Alafua in 1985 was Fr Peter Carroll. In building the initial school premises, valuable guidance was given by Mr Marco Pradel, a Master Builder from Dandenong, Vic, and a group of Australian volunteers, directed the overall construction. Fr Peter recalled that, as a means of reducing costs, they made the concrete bricks for the building on site. The Technical Centre Alafua was set-up in 1988.



The Salelologa Co – Educational College & Vocational Centre (on the island of Savai'i) was opened in 2011 after the community identified that the local youth were educationally disadvantaged. Fr Mosese Tui, a Samoan who had been stationed previously at Alafua, was responsible for overseeing the development at Salelologa and stayed on as Principal for eight years. His "Walk-For-A-Bus" and other fundraising endeavours have been a means of offering places in the school to girls and boys from economically poor families.

Sustaining the schools has been a challenge over the years as the parents of students are, in the main, subsistence farmers many of whom struggle to pay school fees.

Both Don Bosco schools are providing students with job skills and preparing them for employment, with most securing work soon after graduation. Your assistance through scholarships can provide an education to a student that would otherwise go without.

Online donations can be made via www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au

EDUCATION HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Fiji, a nation of about 330 islands has always experienced the movement of people to Suva (the capital) in search of work and the hope of better living conditions. This has added not only to the already high level of youth unemployment, but also to social problems with increasing numbers being lured into drugs and crime.





LEARN – Find out about the many ways Salesians make a difference globally by visiting our website www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au

The Salesians established a house in Fiji in 1999 – to enable the Samoan-born SDB's to attend the Pacific Regional Seminary. From the outset they have been involved in organizing weekend games and sport in the neighbouring villages. In addition, they also assist with community needs such as helping the elderly with home maintenance and other emergencies that may arise from Pacific cyclones etc.

Through Salesian involvement with the locals, a need for a youth gathering place was identified and will soon be a reality. The Don Bosco Community and Youth Centre is currently under construction in the Suva suburb of Nasinu. It will be a "drop-in" venue for youth where they will be able to learn life-skills, teamwork and participate in educational training programs.

Br Stan Rossato, an Australian Salesian is helping to co-ordinate this project. With his previous experience of running the Don Bosco Youth Centre in St Marys, NSW, he appreciates the importance of providing a positive, supportive environment, that will keep young people from disruptive and unlawful behavior through full or part-time training and volunteer work.

The local Fijian community is very much looking forward to the completion of the new Don Bosco Community Centre. Your support for this worthwhile venture would be very much appreciated.

We are in more than 130 countries, working in over 5500 schools and youth centres, reaching more than ONE MILLION students.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

Two Australian Salesians working in Kenya

are Fr Ernie De Gaspari and Sr Assunta Colussi.



Fr Ernie, a qualified electrician, has worked in Africa for the past 40 years, mostly in technical schools in Sudan, teaching electrical wiring, welding, carpentry and basic engineering to unemployed youth as well as to young offenders in the local jails. Now in his 80's and with deteriorating eyesight he is currently based in the Salesian International Seminary in Nairobi. With his background and wealth of experience, he is a highly valued mentor for the students.

Sr Assunta, FMA, has been in Kenya for more than 12 years helping extend the education opportunities for girls and boys from families who struggle economically. Currently based in a primary school, she is passionate in her concern that students acquire a strong grasp of the fundamentals as the basis for their further learning.

India is a country of many contrasts – in development, living standards, culture, religion and race. According to the World Bank, half of the population are poor and with more than 20 per cent living in extreme poverty.

Throughout India Don Bosco's Salesians are working with the local people to help assist them to overcome poverty – through schools and education programs teaching employment-related opportunities, agricultural projects, construction of houses, refuges for the rehabilitation of street children and other relief projects.

Last year in the aftermath of devastating floods in Kerala, donors via ASMOAF, contributed to the re-adjustment by restoring water and sanitation facilities, housing, rebuilding roads, livelihood restoration etc.

While there has been generous support for the work in the Bangalore and Mumbai



Provinces, donors have also assisted the work in other parts of the country. In Guwahati, for example, there are still many tribal communities who have not been given educational opportunities or medical assistance.

Online donations can be made via www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au

EDUCATION A ROAD TO DEVELOPMENT

Timor Leste,

geographically just northwest of Darwin, became an independent nation in 2002 and is economically the poorest country in South East Asia.





FOOD – Don Bosco Agricultural Colleges assist locals to improve sustainable food production by enhancing traditional farming methods.

Since the arrival of the pioneering Portuguese Salesians in 1947 and the first foundation at Fuiloro, there have been constant requests from the local people for schools to be established.

The parents who were and still are mostly subsistence farmers working on the land, wish for their children to have educational opportunities that have not been available to them.

Today 95 per cent of the Salesians in Timor Leste are locally born and are very mindful of the needs of their people. The importance of education, providing the young with skills to secure employment, support for the family and contribution to the development of their country, is a top priority.

The Salesians are highly regarded within their communities. They are the largest non-government providers of education, with the Technical Schools at Fatumaca, Comoro and Maliana, a K-12 and Agricultural School in Fuiloro, high schools in Baucau, Comoro, Laga and Venilale and more than 50 village based elementary schools with a total enrolment of nearly 14,000.

These Salesian based schools have made a great difference to the nation despite the financial difficulties due to insufficient Government funding and with most parents able to pay only minimum fees.

To survive, the schools need access to outside financial support, namely to help cover the running costs, provide furniture and teaching materials. Several have classrooms built in the 1980's requiring regular maintenance to ensure safety.

The generous support of Australian donors has made a significant contribution to these schools for the past 20 years. Your continued support will be a source of hope and will make a real difference to our Timorese neighbours, who are facing many challenges.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

JOIN US..... Make our Mission ..... YOUR MISSION



$25 Can supply **sporting equipment** for the new Youth and Community Centre in **Fiji** to keep youth off the streets. Supply stationary and books for a Don Bosco student.



$30 Can help run **summer camps** for children from shantytowns, and provide counselling to 'runaways', in **India.**

$50 Can provide student meals in **Timor Leste**. Help the Medical Clinic supply milk powder to undernourished babies and promote **good health practices.**



$100 Can help subsidise the monthly salary of a **Samoan** Teacher to educate youth. Offer a placement at the Women's Training Centre, **Solomon Islands** for a girl to receive an **education.**





$250 Can contribute to the repair and replacement of School roofs to access valuable clean water. The **building and renovation** of toilet blocks, to improve hygiene.

$500 Can offer a **student scholarship** at one of the many Don Bosco Schools throughout the world, enabling them to **find employment** to support themselves and their families.



Tax deductible Online Donations can be made via our website www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au

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(name of mission project)

OR: Please debit my - (tick one) ❑ Visa ❑ Mastercard **Amount $**_____

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Email Address: _____

Donations for the alleviation of poverty through development projects are tax-deductible. Funds contributed for religious purposes such as the building of churches and the education of seminarians, though welcome, do not qualify for a tax-deductible receipt.

This donation is for *(tick one)* ❑ Alleviation of poverty ❑ Religious purposes

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– Help us to secure the continuation of our work for the poor and marginalised.

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