Salesian Missions
NEWSLETTER 2019



Helping youth build a better future.

The Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF) is a charitable work of the Salesians of Don Bosco in Australia.

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OUR THANKS

In the following pages you will find news from our Salesian partners around the world. All donations have the power to make a difference. We thank you for your support, as together we can bring hope to 'the poorest and most neglected parts of God's vineyard' for generations to come.



Thank you for your Support

Dear Friend of Salesian Missions,

St John Bosco said "**Without confidence and love, there can be no true education**".

Together we are breaking the terrible cycle of poverty and ignorance that can destroy so many young lives. By building confidence and love through education, the young are not left alone and without hope for the future.

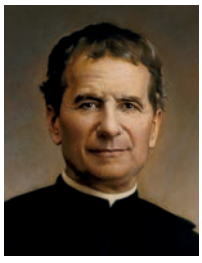
Please rest assured that your partnership is indispensable to our mission in ensuring successful outcomes for those living in hardship.

It gives me great joy to know that together, with the assistance of your prayers and financial support, we are making a tremendous impact in the lives of the needy by operating schools, orphanages, shelters, clinics, youth centres and Parishes. "THANK YOU" for helping so many to live a life of dignity.

I assure you that the Salesians are responsible guardians implementing Don Bosco's educational system which incorporates the preventive method of respectful supervision and assistance together with character building, vigilance and care based on reason, kindness and faith. We pray that God will guide these children and their families to become good citizens, productive members of society and be treated with respect and decency.

Wishing you every blessing,
Yours sincerely in St John Bosco,

Br Michael Lynch SDB
Director



Join Us in Prayer:
Please take a moment to join us in prayer. You may send us your special mass intentions or contact our office.



Pacific Games Welcomes 'Team Bosco'

The Pacific Games are a multi-sport event which occurs every four years and is held in high esteem by participating nations from the South Pacific Region. This year, Samoa was the host country, giving five representatives from Don Bosco Salelologa the opportunity to be torch bearers during the opening ceremony Torch Relay. Furthermore, four (past and present) students were selected to represent their nation in sporting events!

Peleiupu Tafa Poe who graduated in 2018, was a member of the Athletics team. She travelled to China to train and improve her skills. Pesamino Iakopo is currently studying metal fabrication and is an excellent rugby player and sprinter; he represented Samoa in athletics in the 100m, 200m races and the 4x100m relay. Marylin Lafaele, a year 12 student who excels at netball also competed in the 200m athletics race. Finally, Mileta Sua who is in her last year of studying tourism and hospitality, is another member of the athletics team and known to be a very skilled competitive netballer!

ACFID MEMBER

Salesian Missions Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to its Code of Conduct which sets out standards for practice in order to enhance transparency, accountability and effectiveness.

REGISTERED CHARITY
acnc.gov.au/charityregister

ASMOAF is registered with The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), the independent national regulator of charities.

Australian Salesian Bulletin



A vision for today's young people

SALESIAN BULLETIN
The Salesian Bulletin, a quarterly magazine of news and information, is available free of charge. If you would like to receive a copy please contact the office on 03 9377 6000 or visit the website: www.news.salesians.org.au

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



PACIFIC

Embracing New Pacific Opportunities

Don Bosco Co-Educational High School and Vocational Centre in Salelologa, has 224 students, most of whom come from remote villages and require the school bus to arrive at school on time. The use of the bus has increased consistent attendance and improved the level of the students education. A high percentage of students gain employment almost immediately after graduation, allowing them to start providing for their families and enhancing their quality of life.

The school offers courses in hospitality and is in the process of seeking additional resources, to help students find employment in the expanding tourism sector. These courses offer training as hotel staff, tour guides and other hospitality positions which are vital to keeping the industry growing.

Opened in 2016, the 'Fr Elio Proietto' School Hall is available for hire. It recently hosted boxing matches for the 2019 Pacific Games, attracting international attention to the facilities. The money procured by hiring out the hall is directly given back to the school as a means of helping to cover costs.

The Don Bosco Technical Centre in Alafua, caters to 198 students, most of whom come from families that experience financial hardship; so scholarship programs are vital. The Salesians in partnership with the Samoa Qualification Authority are finalising accreditation for the Vocational Training Programs offered at the school. This is essential for the International Certification of Graduates, so they can be confident in successfully obtaining employment soon after completion of the course.

The Cagliero Project is another Salesian venture that provides long term volunteer and immersion experiences for young people from Australia throughout the Asia-Pacific Region. Recently, a new partnership initiative was formulated that will allow for a crowd funding drive aimed at restocking, repairing tools and other equipment for the school's workshop. Furthermore, with the assistance of ASMOAF a joint fundraising venture is planned to take place during their 2020 immersion trip to Samoa, in which young Samoans and Australians are to walk side by side to provide much needed school resources in order to build a better future for all.

In Fiji, each Sunday after Mass, 105 children aged from 5-18 join the Salesians at the Don Bosco Community House for Sunday school. These classes are very popular amongst the young people as they often encounter the Salesians during the community service programs they offer, such as gardening, maintenance work and assisting those in need. During Sunday School, the children enjoy a range of activities such as songs, dance, religion and Salesian stories. The classes are specially designed to be engaging and creative which encourages the students to develop their communication and learning skills. A side-effect of building an incredible sense of belonging in the children, increases their happiness and the community feeling that exists at the Salesian Centre in Fiji.



Rising from Adversity

SOUTH SUDAN

The Salesians in Gumbo have found themselves living amongst the aftershocks of horrific violence and have dedicated themselves to placing smiles on young faces whilst building futures.

Over 4,000 children who attend the various schools come from one of the five villages in the area or the internally displaced people's camp.

The mission at Gumbo started in response to the outbreak of a humanitarian disaster as a result of the civil war in 2013. This centre has quickly grown to be a focal Hub for people living in this area. In addition to students receiving education, more than 10,000 people rely on it for food and other necessities and over 20,000 people come to the Parish in search of spiritual assistance.

Tools and training have been given to the local people, so that they may grow their own food. With the proper time and training invested, they will be able to become self-sustaining and earn an income by selling their crops. This will increase the viability of the area, encouraging people to work together for common goals and sowing peace in an area where it is most sorely needed.

ETHIOPIA

The Gambella region of Ethiopia is burdened by poverty, lack of infrastructure as well as ethnic and religious tensions.

The Salesians are managing to tackle all these problems by offering training at Don Bosco Technical Institute and another Salesian school. These learning centres have become common ground for all young people, regardless of their circumstances.

The Technical school has 150 students, whilst the other has 720 children, aged between 7 & 17 years. The Salesians Oratory has over 1500 young people coming together to mingle, enjoy each other's company and learn from one another. Fr Marcandalli, the parish priest, believes that, "The Salesian educational system promotes integration, respect and acceptance of diversity, which in turn contributes to building a peaceful coexistence between the different ethnic groups. Through studying, learning and playing sports together, children soon discover that different ethnic backgrounds are a source of wealth."



TIMOR LESTE

Real Commitment Has Brought Positive Outcomes

During my visits to Timor Leste over the past 20 years, I have personally observed the great impact made by the Salesian schools largely through education. They have grown by integrating into the curriculum high standards in literacy and numeracy, teaching employment-related skills and incorporating moral and character development.

The Priests and Brothers, of whom 95 per cent are locally born, have been a significant presence for more than 70 years; they are the largest religious congregation in the country.

When in Dili, I often meet former Don Bosco students with jobs in the different Government Departments, meet past alumni teaching in schools or working in the building trade and others who have jobs at the airport, in shops and cafes.

Although the schools have expanded, educating thousands who have successfully secured employment, as a nation the Timorese face the challenge of little local industry, as the Government is still the main employer.

I have been informed that Don Bosco Training Centre, Comoro, offers another highly regarded career opportunity, an Accredited course in Rural Road Construction. Through improved rural access, the aim is to promote agro-forestry development, job prospects and reduce food insecurity and malnutrition in rural areas.

I first visited Maliana just over seven years ago to view the newly proposed site of the Don Bosco Co-educational Technical School; today it is a flourishing centre of education, with an enrolment of more than 100 students all of whom reside on campus.

In the orphanages – for girls in Laga and Venilale and for boys in Lospalos, the Salesian Religious, I have observed, are providing loving care and attention to youngsters who are without parental support.

Salesian schools and parishes play host to several Melbourne schools, who choose Timor Leste to hold their annual immersion programs. It is always satisfying for me to see the wonderful relationships formed over many years and to hear about the warm welcome received. These visits have fostered greater understanding of the needs and challengers of a poor country. Unfortunately, four in ten are still living below the national poverty line, preventable diseases are widespread and many have limited access to clean water and sanitation.

In recent years Government priorities in other areas have curtailed the funds allocated for education, therefore the support of cash and kind by Australian donors has been vital to sustain the survival of these school projects: as most parents can only make minimal contributions.

With your help, Salesian Missions will continue to assist the youth of Timor Leste.

Br Michael Lynch



INDIA

Push for Rights and Independence

Every 5 minutes a vulnerable young person arrives alone and frightened at a train station in Bangalore. BOSCO, a Salesian run program is doing all it can to halt the alarming trend. The Salesians provide a safe, caring venue that does all it can to replicate family values. The rehabilitation program has over 120,000 success stories, with many of its past pupils returning to volunteer their time and help to inspire the younger generations with their own stories. One such person who returns frequently is Lokesh, who has now become a highly accomplished actor, artist and singer.

To help protect these vulnerable youths from exploitation, the Child Rights Club was established. This Club encourages young people to enrol in school and to maintain their attendance despite their difficulties. It travels to different schools and community events, educating children on their rights and encouraging them to speak up on the issues they see in their lives. Information sessions are held for parents to dissuade them from making the young children responsible for earning money through child labour or early marriage, showing them that education allows a person to reach their full potential.

In Mumbai, Salesians at the St. Joseph's Industrial Training Institute have identified that there is a significant gap between the ever-growing number of motorized vehicles on the road and skilled technicians with the abilities to service and repair them. Through a partnership between a leading manufacturer, a training centre will be established to teach underprivileged youth how to maintain motor vehicles in a year-long course. This course will have accreditation to ensure students receive a qualification that will enable them to find work as quickly as possible.

The Salesians are adamant in reaching gender equality, though programs targeted specifically for women and girls such as education, rights education and workforce development courses. These programs strive to empower women and girls, providing opportunities for education and training that lead to liveable wage employment and their independence free from violence and exploitation.

Sharmila, one recent beneficiary of the program, whose young family lost everything they owned due to a fire that gutted their house, revealed to the directors her dream of starting a sandwich-making business. With some start-up funds, equipment and training, Sharmilia is now earning Rs 900 a day (20 AUD), enough for her to become self-reliant, provide for her family and allow her children to now focus on their education.



VIETNAM

Creating Hope, one Roof at a time!



Before



After

Vietnam is a densely populated country with diverse needs spread out across a great distance. A number of projects are catering to various needs in local areas.

In the Tien Giang province, 4 new homes costing A$3,700 each were built and 245 poor families received gift packages containing rice, fish sauce, noodles and cooking utensils.

Sr Maria Vu Minh located in Ho Chi Minh City and her Australian supporters are making a real difference by helping improve housing and living conditions for the many orphans and disabled to suit their needs. In addition, Lepers and disadvantaged people were given gift packages which resulted in many happy smiles. New homes for the elderly and poor were built in the Vinh Nghe An Province.

In the city Phan Rang, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians repaired the Pan Tai Vocational Training Centre, ensuring that students will receive a good education. Scholarships and Tutoring were awarded to many needy children at Don Bosco Xuan Hiep and students in Ky Anh. Desks and chairs were also provided for the all-girl boarding house in the Go Vap District.

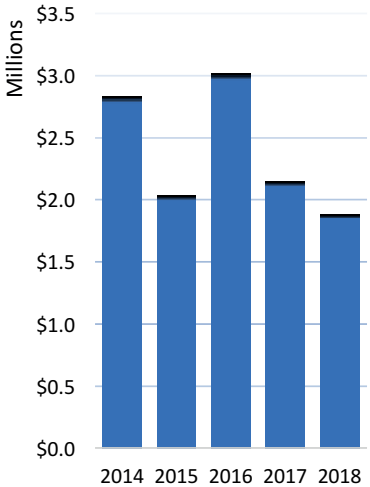
Financial Snapshot

During 2018 ASMOAF distributed over 1.9 million to Fund International Relief and Education Projects. Total revenue raised in 2018 for overseas development work was $1,885,294, a decrease of $264,150 from the previous year. This was mainly due to a decline in bequests combined with fewer and smaller donations.

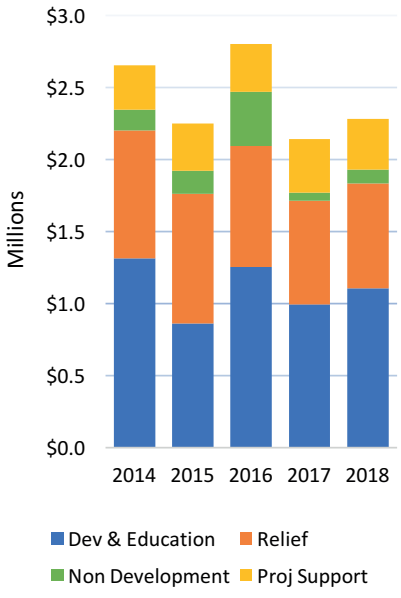
Our Commitment to donors is to ensure every effort is made to maximise the value of their contribution. The Salesians of Don Bosco are working in over 132 countries with over 28,000 committed religious men, women, volunteers, working in many of the world's 'trouble spots'. Our Mission is to support the vocational teaching of underprivileged young people in developing countries, in order that they find employment and become self-sufficient members of their nation.

A copy of the Audited Annual Report can be found on our website or obtained from the Salesian Missions Office.

Income



Funds Distributed



STAMPS – Salesian Missions, PO Box 264, Ascot Vale Vic 3032 collects used stamps for fundraising purposes. Income raised is dispersed for education and relief purposes in Samoa, Guatemala and Timor Leste.

BEQUESTS

Continue to make a difference

A bequest or legacy is a gift included in your Will.

Bequests, 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.

Such a gift enables you to continue your care of poor people in less developed countries, help educate many needy children and touch the lives of many young persons.

By naming the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF) as the beneficiary of a fixed cash amount or a percentage of the estate, will ensure that the funds are dispersed to the project of your choice.

A solicitor can help you with the wording of the Will to accurately reflect your wishes.

For further information, please contact the Salesian Missions Office 03 9377 6060 or by e-mail salmiss@salesians.org.au



ONLINE DONATIONS

Can be made through our secure website www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au
A tax-deductible receipt will be sent to your email address.

Please send your donation to:

Salesian Missions

PO Box 264 Ascot Vale
Victoria 3032 Australia
Ph: 03 9377 6060
Fax: 03 9377 6066
Email: salmiss@salesians.org.au

Salesian Missions:
www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au

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ASMOAF – SALESIAN MISSIONS
PO Box 264 ASCOT VALE Vic 3032

Please insert your Donor Number
(Please refer to covering letter)

Enclosed please find my donation $_____ for the support of _____
(name of mission project)

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

Card Number: ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Cardholder's Signature: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ P/code: _____

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

Salesian Society (Vic) Inc. ABN 43 206 946 086
Endorsed as a deductible gift recipient (Subdiv. 30-BA ITAS 1997, item 1)