



MISSIONZ

Providing for the Pontifical Mission Societies

News

Issue 4 | October 2009

Providing for the Pontifical Mission Societies

Propagation of the Faith – funds struggling missionaries.

St Peter the Apostle – funds seminarians and religious in mission territories.

Holy Childhood – supports the health & religious formation needs of mission children.

REACHOUT GIVELIFE



Welcome To Africa

“If it bleeds it leads” – seems to be a NZ media policy certainly in TV news – but not if it is happening in Africa with the exception of Zimbabwe. With little in-depth coverage on the huge continent of Africa it means we in New Zealand do not know too much about life there – except if it be the Springboks.

This issue of Missionz News is focusing on Uganda and Zambia and the efforts being made there by the Pope’s Mission Societies (PMS) to support missionaries who are ‘living and teaching Christ Jesus’ amid the poverty and HIV-Aids issues that oppress majority of the 20 million people who live each country.

While 260 African Bishops are in Synod in Rome with Pope Benedict who declared this was “a moment of great hope for Africa” many of the now 165 million Catholics spend their days just striving to survive. I felt a glow of admiration and pride for the many wonderful initiatives Church people are achieving in the midst of hardship and social corruption.

Mrs Edna Choonga like the good Samaritan used her own limited means to give some HIV orphan’s an education and with PMS Mission Month money she helped build four simple school rooms to give these young people some sort of an education.

Also Kiwi Sr Sue McGregor helps form leadership of the local Church among Religious sisters and brothers while Irish woman Sr Kathy Crawford has for 15 years built up a Cheshire Home that gives free medical care to the poorest.

Your support does make a difference and you are assured it gets to Missionary Bishop’s – some a 1100 of them and to the projects we from New Zealand are supporting this year. Thanks for caring and helping.

Paul G. Shannahan sm

Father Paul G Shannahan sm



Missionz Diocesan Directors met at Emmaus in Wellington in August 2009

Back: Fr B.O’Donnell (Pth Nth); Fr C. Friel (ChCh);
Bishop O. Dolan; Fr Paul Shannahan sm; Fr R. Pipe (Ham)
Front: Fr P. Bridgman (Wgton); Fr B. Francis (Ak);
Mons V.Walker (Dn)



Missionz Office

1B/33 Kaiwharawhara Road
P O Box 12322 Thorndon; Wellington 6144
Phone : (04) 472-2210. Email : pmsnz@xtra.co.nz

Missionz is the National Office for the three
Pontifical Mission Societies.

“Someone has passed on the faith to us” Bishop Owen Dolan DD



Bishop O. Dolan

The preaching of the Good News of Jesus Christ to God’s World – this is the mission of the Church. On the eve of his return to his Father’s side, Jesus gave this commission to his disciples “go and teach all nations”.

This the apostles did and from them others received the faith and believed the Good News.

And they in their turn passed it on to others, and so on down the ages. And the reason why you and I are believers in the Good News is because someone has passed it on to us.

Let us make sure the line does not end here. Let us make sure that we hear the commission of Jesus “go and teach all nations” and let us do our part to pass it on to others. That means in the first place we witness to this in our own homes and families. But it also means doing what we can to make sure that the message of Jesus goes out to the millions of people in God’s World who still are to hear it. That they will have witnesses, teachers, and missionaries – Religious and Lay – who will bring the Good News to them.

The Propagation of the Faith is the official arm in the Church responsible for preaching of the Good News to all peoples. Prayer, personnel, material resources are the means that they are within the capacity of us all. The Mission Sunday collection is taken up worldwide. May we see it as one tangible way of acting on the mission which Jesus has made to us all “go and teach all nations”.

Bishop Dolan is the new Episcopal overseer for Missionz NZ. From 1991-95 he was the National Director of the PMS –Missionz after being on the Missions in Peru 1973-77. His experience makes him well placed to promote the needs of the Missions.

Welcome to Jo-Anne Carley



Jo-Anne Carley

Hello, I’ve been with Missionz since August 2009. My husband, son and I have recently returned to NZ from three years living and working in Suva, Fiji.

During our time there I worked with charity groups to raise funds to better the lives of women and children - mobilising volunteers and distributing cash and goods to schools, the hospital, old people’s homes, the women’s prison, and other needy groups. One major project we financed was to have a remote Fijian village lit up with solar light – truly a life changing development for the recipients.

Having lived six years previously in South East Asia I have a great interest in seeing resources go where they are needed, where I know they are greatly wanted and appreciated. Working with Missionz is a terrific way to blend my office background with my Catholic faith and global interests.

It’s a pleasure to be part of the outreach work of the Catholic community

FAREWELL TO KATH CASEY

Kath received the Gold Card recently and decided to retire and attend to the many things she could not do in her busy working life. She has been the friendly, obliging face of Missionz. She helped greatly in getting it established here. Ad multos annos Kath.

St Peter Apostle

NZ Support In Training Local Church Leaders.



All foreign missionaries labour to introduce Christ and the Gospel to the peoples they are sent to and to see the local leadership established as soon as possible.

There are 22

Dioceses in Papua New Guinea and fifteen of them now have local bishops running the Church. But in Vanimo diocese in northern New Guinea there is just one locally ordained priest and over 20 foreign missionaries coming from the Argentine, Burma, Poland, Indonesia and India. So Bishop Bonivento started his own seminary and has 23 young men now in training and studying theology. New Zealand has been asked to help fund the students this year for their upkeep and formation. A \$500-00 donation goes a long way to achieving this and several have made that gift over the past year. The Society of St Peter the Apostle handles this through Missionz and tries to support over 900 seminaries worldwide as well as subsidising religious men and women in training. It is a mammoth task but so essential to seeing the Church set up. They rely heavily on support from fellow Catholics like us in New Zealand.

We have been asked to find over \$NZ35,000 for Vanimo in 2009. Your support would be appreciated.

+ IN UGANDA

Vocations are thriving in many parts of Africa and certainly in Uganda where many suffered under the tyrannical rule of Idi Amin – “Big Dadda”.

Those days are well past but Uganda is still a poor country where most people live at the subsistence level yet from the midst of poverty and need vocations are forthcoming as I witnessed when taken to visit St John Bosco Minor Seminary in west Uganda. This is a mixture of high school and spiritual formation. As government education is often of a low standard and just as often there is no school available – so the Church provides. It ensures that seminarians will be up to standard for the major seminary.

St John Bosco Minor Seminary students in June 2009. Of the senior class of 34 students about 15 have decided to go onto priesthood studies in 2010.

Last year New Zealand sent \$NZ30,000 to support these students.



A Kiwi Experiences Africa



By Sr Sue McGregor PBVM of Dunedin

What do you put into a suitcase to go to Zambia for one year? With a 20kg limit and clothing, toiletries, documents, knickknacks, and enough medication to give a drug runner a run for his money.

Sr Sue McGregor PBVM

I was actually minding my own business when I was asked by my Presentation leaders to consider working for a year in a Christian Brothers novitiate in Lusaka – a place that was also an International Spirituality Centre. With blessings from both my parents and the sisters in NZ, I decided to “give it a go”.

Arriving in Lusaka I was greeted by my own sisters who were anxious for me to see the ministries they worked in, this includes Cheshire homes, orphanages, schools and clinics building wee villages and a fish farm as well as empowering widows in small industries. Then I was introduced to the variety of brothers and novices. They came from Sierra Leone, Kenya, from PNG as well as different parts of Zambia, from Ireland and even one from NZ – Br Richard Walsh the now provincial of the CB’s in Africa.

Thus began an amazing adventure. I was gifted a Zambian dress and shown how to wear it. There were dancing and drumming lessons. One of my assigned tasks entailed listening to wonderful stories of witches, initiation rites the role of witchcraft and the issues around the topic of polygamy. Then there was the matter of language... there are 73 but when Zambia became a commonwealth

country in 1964, the far sighted first president chose English as the unifying medium.

There have been interesting experiences working with so many people. One particular group are the volunteer workers who visit AIDS patients in their homes. Many of these workers are themselves HIV positive and yet care for others in conditions that are hard to describe.

One of my duties for my “Pres” sisters was to accompany 2 young women on their journey to making their Final profession. This event occurred in their home towns. Such celebrating! There were drums and dancing, local rituals and official speeches. And as for the offertory procession – chickens and eggs, toilet paper and crates of soft drinks, bag of mealie meal and things wrapped in plastic bags! The 8 hour journey back home was filled with fun and laughter.

It was April 1 in 2004 when I began my year here... And I was once told “there is no hurry in Africa” so I’m not quite sure when the year will be up!

Let me assure you that in spite of the terrible poverty, the child headed households, the scourge of AIDS and huge numbers of orphans and the lack of adequate health and educational services for many, the people here are obviously conscious of the Divine Presence in their lives and carry an image of God that celebrates life in so many ways and teaches us “imports” to do the same.



Propagation of Faith

Edna Choonga of Zambia – Reaching Out, Giving Life



Edna Choonga is an inspiring person. She saw HIV Aids orphan children who had no school – so she used her limited means to start one.

She saw a need. She took action just as Pauline Jaricot did in France for missionaries and as Mother Theresa did for the abandoned in Calcutta. Single handed she set out to give a group of young people a chance for an education. She found she could get a hand up rather than a hand out from the Pope's Mission Societies and now has a school for over 100 young people on the outskirts of Lusaka. Missionz has been commissioned to find funds for a kitchen and eating area to be built. That is one of our aims for Mission Month 2009.

Two of Edna's children died young while a third is a young widow with children. She was looking for a way she could best remember her children. A chance arose when she acquired a five acre piece of land. Each time she visited her land, she met children playing on the roadside. She always stopped to chat with them and find out why they were not at school. Some of them would tearfully respond that they would love to go to school but it was just not possible. She discovered that most of these children were orphans and were

being kept by aged grandparents while some came from very poor families who could not afford to buy even a pencil. At this time, Edna was approaching retirement. Soon she would get her Pension contributions from the National Pensions and Savings Fund (NAPSA). She went to NAPSA to find out how much she was entitled to and although the money was not enough, she decided to build a school to help these poor, orphans and vulnerable children especially the handicapped in memory of her sons.

She got some of the locals to make concrete blocks and build one very simple tin roofed school room. Money ran out before the roof could be finished. One day, after visiting the construction site, she was praying and crying in her office asking God to come to her aid so that at least this room would be completed. She looked up and saw this stranger who had come to her office making enquiries on the possibility of getting his daughter to teach at one of the Catholic Schools However, he told her that he heard everything as she prayed and he was going to help her do the roof.



This was the beginning of God's work into DEDAMA.

The roof was done and the school was ready to open in January 2005. A young man she had helped go to College to train as a Primary School teacher came looking for her and she shared her dream of DEDAMA and he offered to help until Government posted him to a Government school.



DEDAMA COMMUNITY SCHOOL was opened on 11 January 2005 with two classes of Grades 1 and 2 with 50 pupils. Grade 1 had 8 boys and 17 girls; Grade 2 had 9 boys and 16 girls.

Now there are 4 rooms made the same way with Pontifical Mission Societies assistance. They are very basic.

Concrete floor, some acquired old desks and a blackboard.

No power. No comforts. And only volunteer teachers for a roll now of over 150 youngsters. Local people help prepare a simple meal from maize flour and in season produce. It is prepared in the open air. Not good in all weathers especially in the rainy season.

The Pontifical Mission Societies were asked for assistance to provide funds to build a one room kitchen and shelter where all could eat in all weathers. We are wanting with your help to reach out with love and life to these our brothers and sisters in faith.

New Zealand is being asked to provide \$US15, 219-00 to provide materials for this simple kitchen.

Pope Benedict XVI on our Mission to the World



A Primary Duty – The mission of the Church is to 'infect' all peoples with hope. This is why Christ calls and sends his disciples to proclaim the reign of God. To announce the Gospel must be for us, as it was for the apostle Paul, a primary and impelling

duty. It is the desire of the Church to transform the world with the Gospel of love and to bring the light of God into this world. The mission must be a priority in their pastoral planning.

Presentation – Many missionaries bear witness to the spread of the faith in difficult situations, ranging from social discrimination to prison, torture and even death. In this they walk the same path and suffer the same destiny as Christ.

The Pontifical Mission Societies – I thank the Pontifical Mission Societies for their indispensable service in inspiring and promoting involvement in the missionary activity of the Church. I thank them for the financial assistance to the Young Churches. They help to realise in a practical way the communion between Churches and the concern they should have for one another.

Pray – that the Church will always have a passion for the mission to spread the Kingdom of God. Please give financial assistance to the Young Churches especially in these difficult economic times. At Rome – May 2009

Holy Childhood

Papua New Guinea

Education is a primary service the Church provides in Papua New Guinea. This is what Fr. Lino Pedercini, PIME Missionary in Papua New Guinea since 1990, said in describing the situation of the Catholic missions and religious orders.

There are three kinds of schools in the country: the government-run (public) schools, those under the patronage of the Catholic Church,

and those run by Protestant Churches. The schools run by the Churches make a fundamental contribution to society and the country, especially in forming the new generations.



In his past 20 years spent in Papua, Fr. Lino has been working on the Island of Kiriwina and in Normanbay. He has helped to start various schools, churches, and social projects such as wells for drinking-water. In Normanbay, as well, which is a mountainous area; he previously lived on the coast and helped build schools, churches, an oratory with a chapel and meeting rooms, and five wells with a manual pump. The schools begun by the missionary are now attended by nearly 3,000 children.

The missionaries' work, he says, is sometimes exhausting as "there are no roads and the means of travel are limited to mountain passes and waterways." The indigenous people living in the area are extremely poor and live off their crops and small agricultural trade consisting of coconuts and betels from their property. Given the social and economic conditions of the families, the children do not receive an education and the missions often go to meet this need. Catholic schools offer thousands of children the opportunity of receiving grammar school education, as well as upper level education to many. "Usually about 30% of the alumni go on to higher education," and this is definitely a sign of success.

Getting our Donations to Liberia, North Africa

Dear Rev. Fr. Shannahan sm

In response to your kind communication, I would like to inform you that the amount of US\$ 4000,00 has been deposited in our account from your office. The aforesaid sum will be duly sent to Mr. Luckie through the good offices of the Bishop of Gbarnga,

Liberia. I will certainly ask the him to send to you a report on the use of the financial aid on the completion of the project.

I take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your praise worthy support in favour of this local Church.

May God bless you and your collaborators! In union of prayers

George Antonysamy – Apostolic, Nuncio in Liberia

Missionz Supports NZ Volunteers in Pacific



Christine Reymer

“Mahitahi is the official Catholic overseas volunteer sending agency (COVS), which seeks New Zealanders to enter into mission project partnerships with the communities of Oceania. It seeks to recruit people with the appropriate expertise to work in jobs

and projects alongside Pacific Island Partners,” explains director Christine Reymer of Hamilton. It is the one mission agency supported financially by New Zealand through Propagation of the Faith. \$8,000 was given from 2008 collection.

The church in the Melanesian Pacific has undergone a significant process of localisation in the last two or three decades, so the local people lay, priests and religious are now running the schools, health facilities, parishes, community organisations formerly run by expatriate missionaries. But they may not have had the benefit of an education to the level we have, so they task for further education and training, capacity building etc.

Peter and Marie Farrell of Putaruru, took their two young children to Nila in the Shortland Islands, to assist with management and organisation at St Anne’s Rural Training Centre where young women who have dropped out of the formal school system, have a second chance to learn skills appropriate for rural development. While their assignment was only for 3 months, their work was part of an ongoing partnership relationship Mahitahi has with the community in the Shortland Islands, assisting in whatever way they deem appropriate.

Angela Murray (in photo) of Woodville is a deaf interpreter working at the newly established Deaf and Disability Centre at Aruligo, Solomon Islands. She is just one of ten NZ people who have volunteered their skills through Mahitahi so far this year. Most of the assignments

are in the Melanesian Pacific, and for short terms, up to three months.

“It depends on what the development needs of the partners we work with” explains Christina “Our focus is to assist Church partners in achieving their development goals by offering skills in gaps where they identify them,” says Christina

Volunteering is a life changing experience, even a way of life. Some, such as **Elizabeth Connell** of Auckland, return for a second or even third assignment. Elizabeth has just returned from 3 months in East New Britain PNG where she assisted with redevelopment of the library at St Mary’s Secondary School. Elizabeth’s previous assignments were at Divine Word University in Madang, and at the Melanesian Institute in Goroka. Her age now 70 has not deterred her. In fact she wishes she’d discovered this “volunteering thing” when she was much younger.

“Perhaps could God be calling you to volunteer your time and skills to assist our partners in the Pacific? Visit our website www.mahitahi.org or to find out more, and there may be an assignment there for you, God only knows how and where,” Christine Reymer.



World

China

More than 20,000 Catholics from both the government-approved and “underground” Church communities bade farewell on Oct. 10 to Bishop James Lin Xili of Wenzhou who years ago had been clandestinely ordained as the first bishop of Wenzhou. He was 91.

Both open and underground Catholics joined together in the five-kilometre-long funeral procession and the interment of his ashes at the Catholic cemetery on Panyang Hill. About 1,000 uniform and plainclothes police were stationed outside the church.

The local government had designated Bishop Lin’s funeral to be held at the Qiligang Church, which is managed by the open Church community and accommodates only 200 people. Officials helped to level and clean up a neighboring plot of land to allow the crowd to view the funeral proceedings via a TV screen. Most of the 19 open priests and 18 underground clergy of Wenzhou diocese attended the funeral Masses.

Officials forbade the use of the term *zhujiao* (bishop) on banners and wreaths, but a compromise was reached with the use of “Lin mu” (shepherd Lin)... They did not allow Bishop Lin’s body to be clothed in bishop’s garb, but his family members placed the zucchetto or bishop’s skullcap on his head just before the cremation. RIP



United Kingdom

The Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) in England and Wales announced they have relaunched the missionary society with the name of “Missio.”



The announcement took place following a Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Faustino Sainz Muñoz, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, and reception at the PMS London headquarters. The Apostolic Nuncio’s presence, the statement said, demonstrated the importance of mission to Pope Benedict XVI and the Church as a whole.

Monsignor John Dale, National Director of the PMS explained the thinking behind the re-launch. “As a symbol of unity in faith and mission, several of the European offices have chosen to share a single name, Missio, a word that is simple and easily recognizable in many languages,” he said. “‘Missio,’ from the Latin ‘sending out’, also expresses commitment to the God-given mission of the Church.”

Its logo shows the Cross at the centre of its service to the Gospel. The new motto is ‘Sharing faith, giving life.’

Samoa and Tonga



In case you are planning to arrange support for the Samoan and Tongan Disaster you may like to know that from moneys collected in last year’s international Mission month appeal – Western Samoa received \$US157,000; American Samoa \$US 65,000 and Tonga \$US 165,000 for a total of \$US 387,000 which is about \$500,000 NZ.

And that figure has been much the same for many years. So supporting the annual Mission Collection in October will ensure this ongoing support will continue and would likely increase when the Bishops there seek extra money for replacement projects from this year's Mission month collections from around the globe.

China

22,308 were baptized at Easter in the 90 dioceses of mainland China, fruit of the intense evangelization effort promoted by the Year of St. Paul.

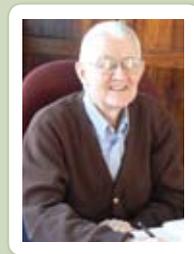
The great number has been in part thanks to the initiatives that have arisen in honour of the Year of St. Paul declared by the Holy Father Benedict XVI. This was up on 2008 where statistics from 80 diocese, which had baptized a collective total of 13,608 people.

In the province of Si Chuan, heavily affected by the earthquake on May 12, 2008 in which over 80,000 died, is located in the south western area. There, over 2,000 baptisms were recorded. According to the local priest, "the earthquake destroyed our churches, but not our missionary spirit, nor our faith and hope. In fact, it has served to reinforce and reawaken the religious sensibilities of the people." The Catholic Chinese stronghold of the province of He Bei has brought joy to the Church with over 3,700 baptisms. In the tiny Diocese of Fen Yang, in the predominantly Chinese Catholic province of Shan Xi, with a little over 20,000 faithful, celebrates the rite of the "missionary sending" of 100 catechists every week.

Mass Stipends Welcomed Here

Many missionaries serving parishes and communities in Africa, Asia and Oceania are heavily dependent on Mass stipends for their work and sustenance. This places them in a very fragile position and can make it even more difficult for very poor communities to receive the pastoral and sacramental care they need. Parishes and parishioners are invited to send us their Mass Stipends and will forward them to needy missionary bishops. Forward to: **Fr. Paul G. Shannahan sm, Missionz, PO Box 12322, Thorndon, Wellington 6144**

A Grateful Bishop Writes



Thank you for the NZ\$1000.00 (US\$627.50) which was wired to our account for Mass stipends. We appreciate your support.

As I am sure you learned from your visit, Mass stipends are practically the only support our Diocesan priests have. So any time you have stipends, know that we would be able to fulfill them in a very timely manner. It's always a struggle to have sufficient stipends for each of our priests.

Fr. Paul, thanks again for your support and may the Divine Missionary continue to bless you and all your endeavours on behalf of the missions. Fraternally in Jesus and Mary.

Bishop Paul Duffy O.M.I.
Mongo Diocese in Zambia

Missionz Shop

Here are three helps to prayer. They have been designed by various Pontifical Mission Society personal and are now available to purchase from us.

Novel 'Roll-a-Prayer Box'

A bed time prayer aid. Sells at \$5-00 plus postage



Missions Money Boxes

For class or family or individual use. No charge.

Free for Mission donations.

- All profits go to Pope's Mission Societies
- Become a Children's Mission Partner. \$15-00 monthly.

Prayers and Reflections



This is a new version from Ireland. Very brief inspirational prayers and illustrations. 5000 used here in 2008.

Sells at 50 cents which includes GST Plus packaging and postage

Mission Rosary



Bishop Fulton Sheen originated this five coloured decades of the rosary to pray for the mission of the Church on the five continents. Leaflet included.

Sell at 80 cents each which includes GST. Plus packaging and postage.

October Missionz Appeal.

I wish to donate to needy missions.

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Fr/Sr/Br.....

Address.....

Town/City.....

Postal Code.....

Email

Ph.....

Send to: Missionz Office, PO Box 12322
Thorndon Wellington 6144

You will be sent a receipt in acknowledgement of your gift

Here is my gift \$.....cash/cheque.

Make direct payment anytime to our National Bank account
060-411-0021447-00 (Please include name and address details).

Or debit my credit card for \$.....

Visa MasterCard Other.....

Name on Card.....

Expiration Date.....

Card number

Direct my support to:

- Propagation of the Faith – spreading the Faith
- St Peter the Apostle – for seminarians/Novices.
- Holy Childhood – aid for health and education
- Pay \$15.00 a month as Children's Mission Partner (Send me a bank auto-payment form).
- Give \$500.00 to support a seminarian for one year.
- Give \$250.00 to support sister novice for one year.



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