

Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

Dear friends of the OLSH Missions

November 2011

Update on South Sudan

Since last I wrote momentous events have taken place in Sudan.

Pride of place goes to July 9th 'Independence Day', when the world's newest nation was born, "The Republic of South Sudan". (Now officially named the poorest country in the world].

In the midst of wide-spread violence, tribal clashes, random shootings, killings, revenge, retribution, bombings and threats of genocide - the country stood still for one magic moment as the new South Sudan flag was raised in every corner of the country, and countless voices were raised in the singing of the new national anthem.

Here in Mapuordit the day began with a wonderful Mass. The Church was packed to overflowing. The main celebrant was Father Mark, the one and only Sudanese priest in our Parish.

Since July 9th South Sudan in many areas has slipped back into its familiar way of life and violence continues to create fear, and some IDP's have become displaced a second time.

We are still in the process of sharing your wonderful contributions to the needy:

- (1) food - which is still in very short supply in the markets,
- (2) Water - one water pump has been installed, but at least two more are needed
- (3) Rebuilding of burnt-out homes -still in process but hampered by the wet season which is still with us,
- (4) A school to help rebuild, for the beginning of next year.

This is how we use "Mapuordit Emergency" funds. But we still have our normal projects to keep going -schools, hospitals, women, the poor, and incidental needs that pop up at any time.

We thank you all for partnering our efforts to bring love, security, hope and happiness to the lives of "the anawim of Yahweh" (his little ones).

With love and gratitude,
Sr. Mary Batchelor



Internally Displaced People Lakes State South Sudan



The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Overseas Aid Incorporated is a signatory to the Australian Council For International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

www.acfid.asn.au

Gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible

South Africa

Dear Members of the Overseas Aid Board,

We wish to thank you very much for the care and consideration you have given to our ministries in South Africa over many years.

As you know, our Diocese is the second poorest in the country, larger than Tasmania and very rural. Across this area our five communities are scattered and each one faces the daily reality of orphans, refugees, unemployed, disenchanted youth, sick and distressed people coming for help.

There has been a significant decline in funding over the last twelve months everywhere. It seems to be a world-wide issue with money markets volatile and investments shaky. Bakhita with St Brendan's supports 44 girls and lost a big investor when the Swiss Solon Foundation just dropped to assisting only 7 and saying that they will continue to decrease each year until they no longer help with food, fees, uniforms or personal needs.

The President's fund from America that supported the Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) and the nursing staff's wages is folding up and that has been a huge disappointment. The Catholic Relief Services is pulling out of the Home Based Care projects at the end of this month meaning that many carers are now out of pocket and receiving no stipend to feed their families.

We are forced to lay off bread-winners in an already fragile economy. They will need to be assisted in the Poverty Alleviation if no job is found quickly. 70% of youth are unemployed and it seems even more difficult for an older man, limited in skills, to get work. We have them knocking at our door several times a week.

Last night on the National News the Education Department was reporting on the infrastructure shortage in the schools. There are over 3000 with no electricity, 2,400 with no water, 1,100 with no toilets, 20,000 with no libraries and 21,000 with no laboratories.



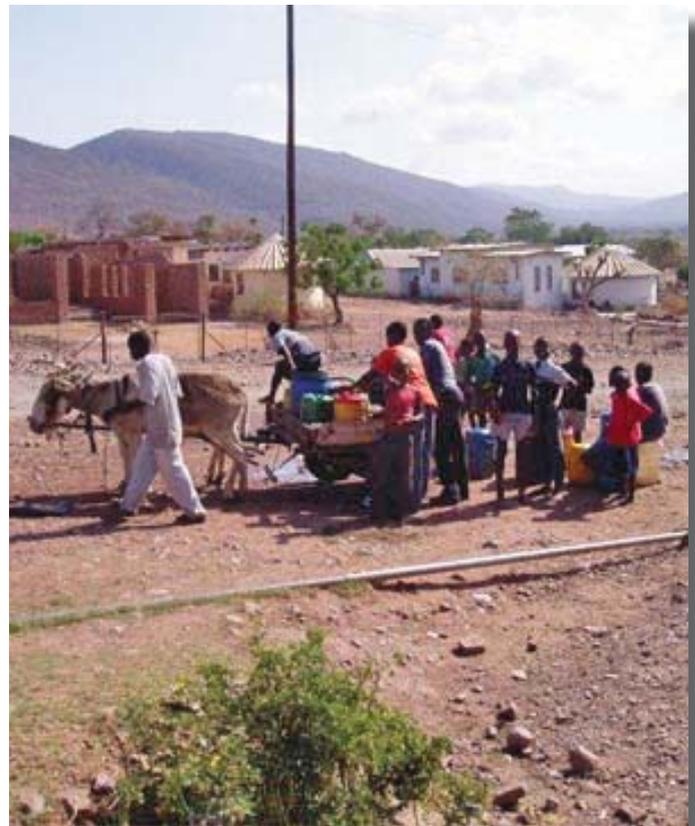
Sr Christine Martin with an orphan girl and her baby

Most of these schools are where the village orphans go and where the Ametur money to support them is needed. Of course, their own homes are like their local schools — no electricity, no water (it has to be bought from a truck that comes around or, if they are lucky, they get some from a nearby creek).

As you are needing to discern where to support, with what donations have come in, I believe you should know that our situation has worsened and the coal-face aspect of helping the poorest is in reality drying up and they are suffering greatly. It is bitterly cold and raining on and off ... strange for August here but that is how it is. I realize that you have only what is sent in to work from so ask only that you consider the number of works we are responsible for within South Africa. Again I thank you on behalf of the Australian Sisters here.

Yours in trust

Christine Martin olsh



Waiting for the water carrier in rural Limpopo Province



Rural children in the water line

OLSH Cards

We still have some of our beautiful blank or Christmas cards featuring people from some of our overseas missions. Proceeds from the sale of the cards will go to our missions. Your support will be appreciated. If you would like to order packets of 6, please fill in the details below and send to:

OLSH Overseas Aid Fund
2 Kensington Rd
KENSINGTON NSW 2033

I would like to order some OLSH Overseas Aid Cards:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Number of packets required: Blank _____ Christmas _____

Cost at \$6 per packet of 6: _____

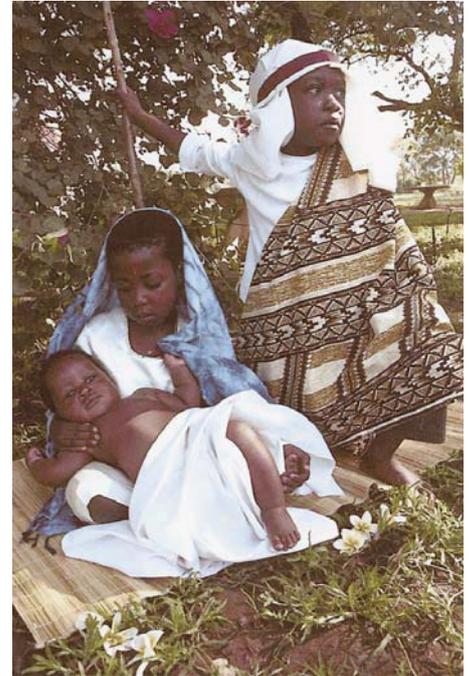
PLUS Postage \$1 per packet: _____ Total: _____

Payment Options: Cheque enclosed payable to OLSH Overseas Aid, Credit Card – see below

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard American Express

Credit Card Number: _____/_____/_____/_____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____ Amount Authorised _____



Gift Certificates for Christmas

If you would like to give a gift certificate to a loved one at Christmas instead of a regular present, contact us and we can produce them for you. They can be for any of your favourite missions and will state the amount gifted and the area it will be sent to.

Would you like to make a bequest in your will to OLSH Overseas Aid?

If you would like to include the work of our Missions in your will, we will gladly advise your solicitor of the specific terms of the bequest. Alternately, Michael O'Dea AM, of Carroll and O'Dea Lawyers, would be happy to advise you at no cost. He may be contacted directly at 02 9291 7100.

Or would you like to request mourners at your loved one's funeral to donate to OLSH Overseas Aid in lieu of flowers? Both these things can make a significant difference to the way we can help the people in need.