



Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

NOVEMBER 2018

SOUTH AFRICA

Nzhelele

Thank you to OLSH Overseas Aid donors for your continued support given to our orphans in South Africa under the supervision of the OLSH Sisters. There is no greater help than the simple daily commodities that make life easier for these struggling children. They have no plumbing or electricity in many of their homes and the outdoor cooking of food, hand-washing of clothes and selves, and garden watering is all done with buckets and with care.



Working in a vegetable garden

We try to get every household a secure fenced area so the wandering cattle, goats, donkeys and wild pigs do not spoil their growing vegetables. Such gardens are encouraged all the time for, without proper incomes, these family members would not have food to sustain them. Always we like to think we are helping the orphans and vulnerable children to become more self-sufficient. However, they do rely on us for the seeds, the hoe and spade, the water

containers and all else to set up their gardens. Then we have success or not depending on grubs, disease, weather conditions and neighbours in need.

Water and firewood – two vital tasks children must do in South African rural areas

Wheelbarrows are necessary for every household to own. Not only do they carry essential items for the family but often you will see a sick child or an elderly granny being pushed along in this, since wheelchairs are not easily available. We buy them at the hardware store and are regularly replacing wheels.



I really appreciate all that you, the donors, do on our behalf. *(Sr Christine)*

Gifts of \$2 or more
are tax deductible

SOUTH AFRICA

KURISANANI – “We help each other to grow”

Our outreach here at Kurisanani would not be possible without the assistance of 36 carers whose ministry with the orphans and most vulnerable children takes them to more than 38 villages spread throughout five of the parishes within the Diocese of Tzaneen. Earlier in the year we held a three day capacity building workshop for this group of carers. Everyone without exception participated fully and with great enthusiasm in each activity. The purpose for this capacity building workshop was to strengthen unity among the carers, to share successes and challenges in ministry and thus better equip each one for this important outreach to children.



Refugee children from Zimbabwe



Role play at a workshop

In some of the villages we find refugee families from Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Some are economic migrants while others have fled from warfare or violence. Without the necessary documents, they are unable to access grants or other services and are forced to work illegally. Aware of their vulnerability, we extend our outreach to them and their children. We do our best to make sure that the children attend school, that they have sufficient food, uniforms, clothing and other assistance so that they can live as normal a life as possible under very trying circumstances.

We are so grateful for the generosity of our donors which makes possible this work of charity for the many in need. *(Sr Helen)*

SOUTH SUDAN

SATELLITE SCHOOLS – Serving an educational purpose or a waste of time and funding?

A few years ago I visited a small seemingly insignificant Satellite School, Piny Path. While there, I walked into a Grade 5 Maths lesson. The topic was “Solving Equations”. The lesson I witnessed was one of intense enjoyment, enthusiasm, stretching of pupils’ minds, with hands waving in all directions to answer questions being tossed at them.

Currently in Mapuordit we have one of the many success stories from Satellite Schools. One is Angelina Athiec. She is the fifth child of 8 and the first of the 7 girls to go to school. The small classroom she first entered in Grade 1 had been constructed by the local youth who had been motivated by a young head teacher. For 4 years the school progressed well, with great community support and frequent support visits. In September 2011, as children were lining up for morning assembly, gun shots were heard in the bush nearby. Teachers and pupils all ran for their lives and within a few days all classrooms were burnt to the ground in retaliation for a similar incident. The small school was relocated to the main road and reopened the following year.

On completion of Grade 8, Angelina progressed to the secondary school in Mapuordit. Though she was not an above average student, Angelina was tenacious, persevering and determined to move forward. Last year she successfully completed Form 4 and was accepted to begin nurse training at the Mapuordit hospital. After almost 6 months of training, Angelina now confidently and competently gives injections, takes patients’ histories and vital signs, knows admission procedures, can administer prescribed medications, and can recognise symptoms and diagnose. All this sounds so simple but, because of the isolation and setting of Angelina’s social background of shepherding goats, carrying water and firewood all the years of her primary school, this was a significant achievement. She now looks forward to full training as a registered nurse.



Angelina, trainee nurse

(Sr Rita)

2005 - The teachers in the 'staff room' of a Satellite School



Over the years, with the help of OLSH Overseas Aid funding, a number of Satellite Schools have grown from being in the open, under trees, to simple buildings.

2014 – Students & Sr Rita in a Satellite School with walls, furniture, etc.



PHILIPPINES

MATANG TUBIG – outreach to the poor

Matang Tubig is one of the very poor areas in Quezon City. It has an estimated population of 2,000 people, consisting of approximately 325 families. The land area is less than 2 hectares. Men, if they have employment, usually work as tricycle drivers, construction workers or labourers. Women, apart from being full time housewives, work as sales ladies, household helpers or laundry women. According to the latest census from the Barangay, only 1% of the population is composed of professionals.

Matang Tubig – giving hope through education

The children go to public schools in the morning where the maximum number of pupils per class is 60. The teachers can barely monitor the needs of every pupil and the majority of the mothers in Matang Tubig do not have time to assist their children with their studies. Therefore in the afternoons we run tutorial classes. The maximum number of pupils per class is 10; if there are more, another class is created. We currently have 65 pupils enrolled.



Sr Rita with students at Matang Tubig



The aim of the tutorial program is to assist the pupils with their assignments, to assess their reading and comprehension skills, and to help them with simple calculations and problem solving in Mathematics. It is expected that by the end of this program, students will become independent learners.

The 7 volunteer teachers are former pupils of the tutorial program plus a scholar of the Overseas Aid Fund (i.e. someone who has received financial support for his/her education). We also have 9 volunteer teacher-aides; these are grade 7-9 pupils who excelled during the program. Another aim of the project is to encourage these volunteers to help the community and, at the same time, to acquire skills in teaching and classroom management, and to gain confidence.

We have been conducting the tutorial program for some time now and hope to continue it into the future. Towards the end of every year, the mothers and I evaluate the program and plan for the next one. They are very grateful because they can see how their children are benefitting from it.

Thank you for helping us to fund this ministry in Matang Tubig. The students and the mothers very much appreciate your continued support.

(Sr Cherry)

Houses in Matang Tubig



Christmas Cards

Get your Christmas cards out early this year!

You can purchase a pack of 6 cards from us for \$5 per pack, plus \$2 postage. If you wish to purchase some, please contact the office on (02) 9663 3599, or send an email to overseasaid@olshaustralia.org.au or download a donation form from the website, specifying that you want cards.



GIFT CERTIFICATES

Gift Certificates are available for those who wish to use their donation as a gift for others.

Use a form printable from the website or, alternatively, contact OLSH Overseas Aid Fund on 02 9663 3599.

Gift Certificates can be for any amount and any region.



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

Regularly we receive project applications that far exceed the money we have available; therefore, we cannot fund the full amount requested. A bequest is a chance for you to do great things. Although you will not be here personally you will still be able to make a real difference.

If you would like to include the work of our Mission in your will, we will gladly advise your solicitor of the specific terms of the bequest. Alternatively, 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 7104.

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

Donations can also be made online through the OLSH Australia website www.olshaustralia.org.au/overseasaid

Because of the high cost of postage, we are gradually moving away from sending hard copies of *Keeping in Touch* to our donors. Many have let us know their wish to have the newsletter sent to their email address. If you would like to help us save postage, please send an email to overseasaid@olshaustralia.org.au.