



# Keeping in touch

## *Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

### Happy 10th Birthday to Bakhita Village *March 2012*

The girls presently at our home of safety at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Mission, Dwars River, had a wonderful celebration marking the beginning of Bakhita in 2002 until 2012. It was acknowledged that many graces and blessings have come to the many Sisters, Carers and girls who have been part of this ten year journey. Many guests attended: the Bishop, Chaplain, Parish Priest, Teachers, Carers, and girls who are now at Tertiary who were part of ex-Bakhita. Secondary students from St Brendan's also joined the party as did the Sisters from many of our other places.

Donations from local businesses were generous from rolls, chicken, sausages, cake to music and special T-Shirts to mark the day.

Now all we have to pray for is a new roof to keep the girls and their bedding dry when it rains!

Thanks to all who donate to the Overseas Aid Fund for the work with orphans and vulnerable families.

**Sr Christine Martin: Ametur Project**



*These primary students are lining up to present a song and dance routine for the entertainment section of the afternoon.*



*Sr Marilyn Lee (Australia) – Project Officer, Sr Jeanne (Indonesia) – Director, Sr Anne-Marie (Democratic Republic of Congo) – top right hand side. Our International Sisters all help to show Jesus' love to these orphaned young women.*



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](http://www.acfid.asn.au)

**Gifts of \$2 or more  
are tax deductible**



## Nutrition Program - Surigao City

During 2011 sixty-two vulnerable children in Surigao were enrolled in a three year program to provide each child with the recommended nutrients needed for growing development. Their mothers are involved in:

- Cooking the food for their children on feeding days. Fruit and milk is given as well. Severely malnourished children are given supplements of milk and vitamins.
- Monthly lessons in nutrition, suitable menus and aspects of primary health care.
- Taking responsibility for weighing and assessing the progress of their children.

In an evaluation done in January 2012 a change in the children's weight and mood was noted. They were also more active and healthier looking. A doctor is now available for free consultations for sick children.

Thanks have been expressed to the benefactors. May your concern and financial support to the poor bring you joy and fulfilment, for indeed you have given the people involved in this project not only food for the body but also feelings of importance, of being loved and cared for. May you be rewarded a hundredfold by the Source of all goodness and love here on earth.

Sr Charlita Llemit & Sr Sally Amodia

## Mary Immaculate Hospital - Mapuordit, South Sudan

In the last six months OLSH Overseas Aid donors have made many generous donations to the hospital in Mapuordit where Pauline Carr from Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney continues to work as a volunteer.

She has been joined for another three month stint by her Nurse Educator colleague Anne Jackson. Anne's husband also visits Mapuordit regularly to assist where he can. Both these women are dedicated to providing assistant nurse training for local Sudanese, and as well have initiated tertiary nursing scholarships in Kenya. Once qualified, graduates are obligated to return to the Mary Immaculate Hospital in Mapuordit for a period of time. Your specific donations for this purpose will allow more of these promising students to become fully qualified.

## Pig Projects - Philippines

Some of our donors are involved in supporting pig-raising projects in the Philippines. Small pigs are purchased, raised and mostly sold for income, with just enough kept to ensure the business can continue and develop.





## Girls Training Centre - Burkina Faso

Sr Marie Lompo has had her project application for a multipurpose Training Centre for Young Girls approved and work has begun. These girls are from nine to fifteen years of age and are not in school. The Training Centre is being built at Ountendeni in the rural community of Diapangou in the Eastern Region of Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso has been an independent country since 1960. It has a population of 15,746,232 people and includes 60 different ethnic groups. It is one of the poorest countries in the world. This is partly due to the dry soil. Agriculture accounts for 32% of gross domestic product and occupies 80% of the workforce. It is ranked 177th of 182 countries according to the Human Development Index. Its capital is Ouagadougou and its official language, French. The town of Fada N'Gourma near to where the hostel for girls will be located, is in eastern Burkina Faso, 219 km from the capital Ouagadougou. Fada N'Gourma is the capital of the Eastern Region.

The country is characterized by its youth (50% of the population is under 15 years). The rate of young girls out of school and those who abandoned school because of lack of financial resources or social problems (difficult family situations, forced marriage etc) is very high.

The various religions practised in the Eastern Region are Christianity, Islam and Traditional African religions.



Girls out of school without vocational training are facing many difficulties. They can be summarized as follows:

- The girls work at home as 'servants' among employers or relatives. At this level, they are poorly paid and exploited
- Often it is the girls who do everything in the home
- Forced marriages: Young girls are married off without their consent
- Many parents believe the future of the family rests on the boy, not the girl. So, to educate a girl, even if the family can afford it, is seen as an unproductive investment
- They are vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases

Therefore the girls do not acquire a basis for becoming active citizens.

This project aims to:

- Provide basic education on health, hygiene, nutrition
- Teach a trade such as sewing, hairdressing, childcare, etc.
- Promote the integration of girls into the social fabric of the society
- Help the girls to be independent
- Contribute to reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

Thank you to the donors who have already contributed to this project. It is exciting to see the work beginning – as you can see from the photo above.

**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 on **02 9663 3599**.

**Gift Certificates can be for any amount and any region.**

## St Gerard's School of Nursing at Veifa'a Papua New Guinea

A newspaper in PNG published the accompanying photo and report: Ten thousand people living along the road to Alpeana and Veifa'a off the Hiritano Highway in Kairuku district are badly affected by heavy rains which have submerged much of their main road under water. The road is now in a terrible condition and has been in the same state of deterioration since 1999. Locals helped a nun (Sr Marlene Dewar) by pushing her in a wheel barrow.

Sister Marlene Dewar writes in November: We are hurrying to putting in thirty-six big Southern Cross tanks in the village before December. Tanks are necessary because of the polluted rivers in the area due to mining. We also want to put in pit latrines and simple showers. Our road was out for three months due to flooding so time was lost.

Thanks once again to all who help. God bless.



*The road was out for 3 months. I had to walk for 2 hours before I could get on a vehicle.*



# News from Sudan

The new year 2012 has started very differently from the fiery destruction, insecurity and loss of life of 2011, with its slow, gradual movement through poverty, hunger and fear, to a more settled way of life.

School reopened this year in early February, as against the previous opening day of April 1st, and surprisingly most were there on time, in spite of extreme heat and temperatures in the mid or high forties.

Primary School has already registered 1200, with more to come. Secondary has opened its doors to students from adult education, an initiative of Sr. Wendy's which has 'come of age' with students looking beyond primary level for higher standards of education.

Many of Adult Education's 150 students are women, able to be supported through the generosity of 'Overseas Aid', since the chances of further study for women are remote in Dinka culture.

Our secondary school is at an interesting stage, with a total Sudanese staff, apart from Sr. Philippa and Sr. Lorraine who will conduct a 'Training on the Job' program. This has generated a lot of enthusiasm among our staff – 'a sense of ownership', as most secondary schools are dependent on qualified teachers from Kenya or Uganda. Please pray for the success of this project- which involves a considerable amount of risk and trust.

Another blessing for Mapuordit is the return of Sr Rita after two years back in Australia. She takes up again her work with the women, as well as satellite schools and other disadvantaged groups.

We continue to support the hospital with medicines, and the training program for medical personnel goes on at considerable cost.

Last but not least is our program for the poor, the blind, lepers, handicapped – anyone in need. The 'Beloved of God' and 'nearest to the Heart of Jesus' (and to our hearts, and yours).

Our OLSH community at Mapuordit has been further blessed by the arrival of two Indonesian Sisters for the Primary school – one a teacher, the other a librarian. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart continues to make it clear that this country is hers and she will hold it closely in her care.

The response to last year's appeal was so incredible and so deeply appreciated. Now we do not have that emergency, thank God, but we still need your help to carry on and develop our projects. Education at all levels is a priority this year – 'the hope of the future for South Sudan'.

We know we can depend on your continued support – we could not function without our 'Australian partners'.

May God bless and reward you as he is able – though we are not.

Gratefully in the Heart of Jesus

Sr Mary Batchelor



## 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.