

Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

November 2014

SR MARY BATCHELOR - 26 YEARS IN AFRICA

Dear "Keeping in Touch" readers,
As my 26 years in Africa come to an end (7 in South Africa and 19 in South Sudan), I look back in time and I marvel once again at the incredible generosity of so many wonderful Australians who have kept our missions afloat during all these years.

I went to South Africa in 1989 during the apartheid system of government into a mission already established by the Irish OLSH sisters, with whom I worked for many happy years. But my arrival in South Sudan was a different story altogether - this time at the height of a civil war, with next to no infrastructure at all in place in the country.

Over the years Sr Moira's mud brick clinic developed into a hospital, and the education system took shape. Our bamboo classrooms have given way to permanent buildings, and the secondary school, begun in dire poverty to keep our boys out of the army, is now well equipped, well staffed, and still developing. Teacher training is ongoing, and creates a problem in itself, as the government does not pay replacements when teachers are released for training - an added burden on us. Girls'

education is on the increase and we are in the process of improving hostel accommodation for girls coming from a distance away. The OLSH community in Mapuordit now consists of two Australians, two Indonesians and one from Papua New Guinea. The need is greater than ever with renewed tribal warfare, wide spread hunger and destruction of so much of what has been achieved in the country. As always the poor are the ones who suffer most. In conclusion I thank you once again for the many happy years of our partnership and

*"I thank my God each time I think of you,
And when I pray for you I pray with joy.*

*There is one thing I am sure of,
He who began his work in me
Will see that it is truly finished
When the day of Jesus comes.*

*I thank my God each time I think of you,
And when I pray for you I pray with joy."*

I know you will continue to support our mission as you have done so well for so long.

God bless and reward you. Sr Mary Batchelor



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The *Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Incorporated* is a member of the Australian Council of International Development (ACFID). Their Code of Conduct 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**



Sister Mary with South Sudanese women



Sister Mary with children

Salary Support in **South Sudan**

Due to the rigid austerity budget imposed by the government in South Sudan, the only way for the Mapuordit Hospital to retain their newly qualified staff is to offer them private contracts. Liberty International Underwriters and Dick Smith have generously offered to contribute to the funding of these contracts. Local people very much want to see their own South Sudanese leading health care initiatives in the community.



Dick Smith with Mapuordit Hospital current and past volunteers Pauline Carr and Anne Jackson

Bakhita Village – Dwars River South Africa

Orphaned and vulnerable girls rely on Bakhita Village as a place of safety and an opportunity to be educated. Recent projects from Overseas Aid have funded transport costs to get the girls to school – it is several kilometres away. Our aid also funds cultural excursions and other educational costs such as uniforms and fees. We also provide opportunities for the carers of these girls to further their training and development.

Sr Helen Armstrong is in charge of Bakhita Village now that Sr Merrilyn Lee is back in Australia.



OLSH School Covered Assembly Area, Cebu, Philippines

Since the OLSH School opened in Cordova, Cebu in 2007 there has been a need for a covered area for assemblies and other activities. Overseas Aid funds were used to purchase materials such as cement, metal bars and nails as well as for labour costs. The realization of this project means the students will be sheltered from the rain, leading to more comfort and convenience for all. The students will use the area for many activities, including parent assemblies, and parents will become more involved in helping the school as they see the improved conditions. It will benefit all the school community.

Sr Carmelita Franco fdnsc



Kiribati Empowerment of Women Project

Climate change is having a severe impact on the islands of Kiribati. Many recognise that eventually they will probably have to leave their country and don't want to become climate refugees. Overseas Aid is funding the Kiribati Choose Life Program to train women to be teachers, nurses and counsellors. The community of Kiribati will benefit from having trained people to assist them during the time of transition to a different future in relation to the climate change crisis.

Sr Beneteta loane fdnsc

Christmas Cards

We still have plenty of our beautiful OLSH Overseas Aid Christmas Cards. They are \$6 for a package of 6 cards, with \$1 postage per package. Please contact the office on 02 9663 3599 if you wish to purchase, or download a donation form and specify that you want cards.



CHRISTMAS GIFT CERTIFICATE



OLSH
Hearts for Others

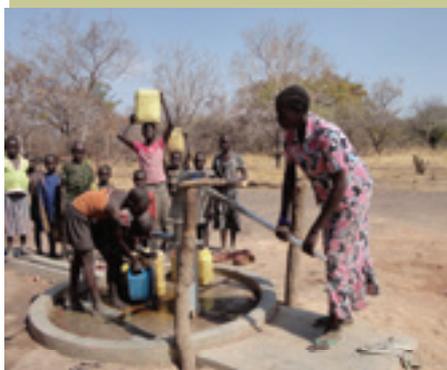
This Christmas you can make a difference to those countless people, around our globe, who need your generosity.

Help them choose Life!

If you would like to support one of our projects please fill out the enclosed form with the number you require and we will send the gift cards to you.

For further information please contact Barbara Davis on barbara.davis@olshaustralia.org.au or 96633599

CLEAN WATER PROJECT SOUTH SUDAN \$100



**CLEAN WATER
PROJECT**
Helping ensure that
communities have
access to clean drinking
water

EDUCATION SOUTH AFRICA \$50



EDUCATION PROJECT
Helping ensure that children in
poverty can receive what they
need to get an
education

CARE FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN PHILIPPINES \$50



VULNERABLE CHILDREN
Helping ensure that
children in poverty can
receive what they need to thrive

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

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. 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 7104.

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.