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## Tell them your hopes...



"By no means presume that the readers know your conditions in New Guinea, e.g., how many workers you have on your stations and plantations. On the contrary you yourself must introduce them to the conditions. You will succeed better if you take a more human point of view.... Tell all this with a certain reserved or balanced

openness, as the case may warrant. You could also mention the trouble you have taken, the hopes you have, the support which you found in the beginning, and then the disappointments, problems, and irregularities which cropped up later. Here you can go into more detail and turn your whole report into a feature article." -St. Arnold Janssen, July 1906

This was Father Arnold's advice to missionaries on how to write a feature article. Our founder knew the importance of telling the "mission story." He also knew people will pay attention if the story is told from a human point of view.

More than 100 years later, we are still following the guidelines St. Arnold recommended to tell the human story of our mission work. Karl Fluch's camera captured the joy, the pain and the incredible human kindness of Father Heinz Kulüke SVD, our Superior General, and his many trips to the Philippines. Both Father Cyril Agera SVD and Father Jerzy Faliszek SVD describe in detail the importance of education and the life-changing effect it has on poverty. And once again we hear from Bishop Jozef Roszynski SVD with more stories of life in Papua New Guinea, the mission where St. Arnold's letter was directed, a place that may be at the far end of the earth from us but where a child's heart remains the common denominator.

Yours in the Divine Word, Bro. Daniel Holman SVD Mission Director

Holmen Dit en. Denus

Contact me any time, my email address is: director@svdmissions.org

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**DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES** 

School with a Difference An Option for the Poor Cyril Agera SVD

The Heart of a Child Bishop Jozef Roszynski SVD



update

They came closer. pulled some coins from their pockets and said, "Maski pater peim em." which translates to "Father. do not arque. **Pav him.**"



**Educating through Evangelization** and Evangelizing through Education Jerzy Faliszek SVD

Jesus invited me to be a sower of his Word in the never-ending fields of Latin America. After some years, I came to the conclusion that the best soils for sowing and growing the seed are the hearts and the minds of the "little ones."

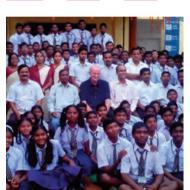


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### An Option for the Poor Nabajyoti High School, Kerjenga, Pallahara, Odisha, India

Odisha, one of the states served by Divine Word Missionaries India East Province, has a high concentration of people that the Indian government categorizes as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These terms refer to groups of historically disadvantaged indigenous people who are among India's most impoverished.

Fulfilling a preferential missionary option for these underprivileged groups, Divine Word Missionaries established Nabajyoti High School in Kerjenga, located in the town of Pallahara. Opened on July 1, 2000, the school was designed at the outset to provide quality education and all around development for students from this area's Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Located in the beautiful foothills of the Malayagiri Mountains, Nabajyoti High School is situated in the midst of tribal populations. The vast majority of our students come from the Scheduled Tribes rather than the Scheduled Classes. Many tribes live in Pallahara, including Bhuyan, Soharo, Juang and Munda. Predominant among them is the Ho tribe, and it is within the Ho that our pastoral ministry is concentrated. Lessons in the school are conducted in Oria, the official language of Odisha state.

The school opened in a makeshift location in Kerjenga with 103 students in two classes (the equivalent of grade levels in America) of VI and VIII. A year later the school moved to its present location. During its 17 years of existence, Nabajyoti High School has grown in stature and built its credibility. It is recognized by local administration and education officials as an ideal school for the area. Written by Cyril Agera SVD

Father Agera is headmaster at Nabajyoti High School in Kerjenga.











Today the school has 422 students—282 boys and 140 girls—in five classes, VI through X. Proving that the school is taking care of the impoverished groups, only one student of the 422 does not come from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or other disadvantaged sections of the community.

Being a tribal and low-caste stronghold, Pallahara's environment is not conducive for education. The area's literacy rate is far below the state average, both for men and women. Poverty and underdevelopment of the area are the main causes of illiteracy, along with social evils such as drinking.

To create a productive study atmosphere for the children from this background, the school provides dorm facilities for students—for boys and for girls separately. Today there are 261 boys and 118 girls in the dorms. These students hail from nine districts of Odisha and even a few from the neighboring state of Jharkhand.

From its very inception, Nabajyoti High School has made its presence felt in academics. Even though it gets students who are at a high risk of academic underachievement, the school has produced excellent results thanks to the commitment and determination of the staff and management. The 100 percent results on the High School Certificate examination for the past five years illustrate this point, demonstrating the school's academic excellence and quality of instruction.

The school also has made its presence felt in extracurricular activities and sports. Students regularly participate and are rewarded at cultural competitions throughout the region. A few







students, both boys and girls, have represented the state at the national level in athletics, field hockey and kabaddi, a popular sport in South Asia that combines wrestling and rugby. Nabajyoti High School is the district's main school for archery, field hockey, kabaddi and kho kho, which is a competitive form of tag.

Students have proved themselves in other extracurricular activities as well. During the 2014-15 academic year, Joseph Jank prepared a science project that he presented at the state level.

Nabajyoti High School has taken keen interest in the environment. Planting trees is a regular activity that has transformed the barren land into a lush green field. Students attend awareness programs on environmental issues such as waste recycling and the ill effects of the use of plastic. The school also conducts health awareness programs, with special emphasis on personal health and hygiene. Sensing the necessity for computer literacy, the school has introduced computer education with a well-equipped lab.

The learning curriculum of Nabajyoti High School is enhanced by the ability to have both the boys' and girls' dorms on the property. These facilities provide the students a decent environment to live, guided study, opportunities to develop talents, spiritual nourishment and faith formation. During the past five years not a single student from the dorms has failed in the High School Certificate examination, while 65 percent of them have secured first division. Certainly, the school staff, and the students can be proud of this achievement.

Students' progress, even after they leave school, is the joy of the staff. We are proud of alumni who go on to excel in their lives. While one alumna is training for her doctorate, several other alumni are seeking their diplomas in engineering at Instructional Training Institutes. Some have even taken up teaching as a career. Our goal is to provide a chance at a better future for all who pass through our door. ◆







# A Wish list for our growing environment...

Nabajyoti High School has 14 teaching and four non-teaching staff. Because the school is not yet financially self-reliant, the Divine Word Educational Society supports their financial burden. The budget for the teaching staff is pushed to its limit. Teachers leave the school for higher pay and this creates a gap. We are working to build up a payment plan that would ensure



continuity of the staff, continuity of curriculum and continue to grow the school's credibility.

As student enrollment increases more dorm space is needed. The boys' dorm was originally planned for 150, but today 261 boys are being housed, causing over-crowding, and ultimately leading

to unhygienic living. While beds have been placed in the boys dorm, the female students still sleep on the floor. Beds are needed. Both the school and the dorms need additional toilet facilities. Supplying these basic necessities will help these students from impoverished backgrounds live in dignity and be proud of their school.

The school has other items on its wish list. A science lab for students to learn hands-on experiments, a library and a gymnasium. We are sure that as we grow, so too will our wish list.





#### Written by Bishop Jozef Roszynski SVD

He professed first vows in 1982 and was ordained a priest in 1989. His early pastoral work was in Poland, followed by language studies in Ireland. In 1992, Bishop Jozef began his mission assignment to Papua New Guinea. He has served for 23 years in the Diocese of Wewak in parish ministry and in various leadership roles in the Papua New Guinea Province of Divine Word Missionaries. Those roles included district superior and acting provincial superior. He was ordained bishop of the Diocese of Wewak in 2015.

# Papua New Guinea the heart of a child







From early on PNG kids are taught how to fish, garden, and hunt for birds. At a very young age small girls mimic carrying the string bags their mothers use for transporting practically everything.

Unfortunately, Papua New Guinea is one of the countries in the world with a high mortality rate for newborn babies. Most babies are born at home in remote areas without the help of nurses or doctors. Babies born far from clean water, electricity and medicine have an increased chance of infection. Sadly, for some families who are already deep in poverty, the addition of another child is the addition of another burden—a burden that needs lots of care, shelter, food and, eventually, school fees.



I was happy to know that this year the Church in Papua New Guinea decided to focus on the well-being of children. No matter where you look in in this country there are many, many children. For a long time, I was convinced that all the children here were happy. But the closer I looked, the more I realized I was wrong.

Very often the children are neglected. They go hungry and become malnourished. They are exploited or sometimes abused. Most of the time they look after themselves and are forced to be independent from their early years. On their own they are responsible for fishing, working in the garden and finding food in the bush.

Once while driving I came across some boys carrying what they called "flying foxes" on a stick (I knew them as bats). I asked them curiously where did they find these "flying foxes"? Thinking that I wanted some "flying foxes" of my own, they told me I could get them down by the big tree, where there were plenty. I didn't go.

There was not always such an abundance of children in Papua New Guinea. Many customs in days of old had a side effect of family planning. Frequent tribal wars discouraged having children. Before going into battle, in order to remain strong, the men abstained from being with a woman.



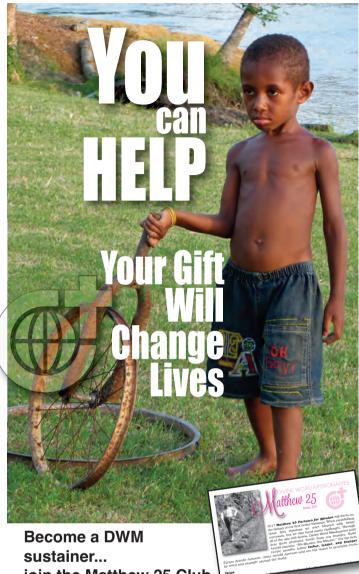


In turn, during battle the women who were strong and not pregnant were able to grab their children and run from the war zone. In more peaceful times, planting and tending new gardens kept the man absent from the family home for seven to eight months of the year. These traditions are gone, leaving Papua New Guinea with so many children who must fend for themselves.

Like anywhere in the world, life in Papua New Guinea can sometimes be maddening. One day I was going for a swim at the beach. On the weekend the beach gate charges a fee for entrance, but not so during the week. As I crossed the gate that day a boy came running after me and angrily demanded a fee. I began to argue with him that I would not pay because it was not the weekend. Near me were some children—they knew I was a priest. They came closer, pulled some coins from their pockets and said, "Maski pater peim em," which translates to "Father, do not argue. Pay him." They were ready to give their money to help me out of trouble.

To this day I am still think of those children and their readiness to help me using their own money—even though they barely had any. It shows me that the heart of a child here in Papua New Guinea, and hopefully around the world, remains loving and kind and open to helping mankind. ◆





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of each month in a novena of Masses. Should you choose, you will receive a monthly email/mailing with a short mission story and your special intention request form.

Your monthly gift will assist mission programs that range from building chapels and churches, schools, hospitals and orphanages, to teaching farming, sewing, and digging wells, to spreading the Word through Bible studies and catechist training.



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or... Call toll free: 800-275-0626 you can also visit our website at: WWW.SVAMISSIONS.ORG Written and photographed by Karl Fluch For a number of years Primus Invest has been involved in supporting Fr. Heinz Kulüke's projects. Mr. Karl Fluch regularly visits the Philippines and it is here that he got to know Fr. Heinz. The regular visits enable him to witness first-hand the necessity for, and impact of, support of this program.

#### Photographer Karl Fluch

I visit Fr. Heinz Kulüke's world every year and it enriches me every time: One day the world will be a better place, thanks to the endless effort of Divine Word Missionaries and their supporters.

> On the second-to-last day of my trip to the Philippines, I had the opportunity once again to accompany Father Heinz Kulüke SVD, **Superior General of Divine Word Missionaries**, and view his work in the Philippines. As in previous visits, the camera is my main tool to give people an insight into his incredible role.

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# In 2012, Fr. Heinz was elected Superior General for a

six-year term. In the first four years he constantly traveled from one human crisis area to another, slept in 420 beds and visited 70 countries. He starts work at 1 a.m. and sleeps two to three hours. Days off do not exist. He knows that this grueling schedule cannot go on forever.

His workload here in the Philippines was already immense. Then there is the emotional stress of missionary life in the Philippines, which amounts to a permanent residence in a war zone. There are weeks in which dozens of children are buried because they die of diseases that would have been cured easily in other parts of the world. Some children are run over by bulldozers or others die due to violence.

One of the root causes of poverty is the problem of corruption. Due to corruption, advances that are laboriously achieved are time and time again undone.

I met with Fr. Heinz at the University of San Carlo, a Divine Word Missionaries school that has the highest of reputation in Cebu. My plan was to take a picture of him in his simple, modest office before we went out to visit people at the rubbish dumps. However, now he no longer has an office in Cebu. His office is in Rome, where he stays, at most, one month a year. Technology (laptop, internet and the Cloud) allows Fr. Heinz to work from anywhere in the world, at any moment in time. And at this moment it was the university's pharmaceutical warehouse. So we took a few portrait images in the light of a neon tube and headed for the Inayawan landfill, the largest of Cebu's dumps, taking up 37 acres.





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As we were on the way, still in the city center, the number of homeless people lying in the dusty, heat-hazed streets became visibly larger. The population explosion is already having a dramatic impact. The slums are bursting at the seams, and those who cannot afford even a bed-surface in the slums instead lie on the road and struggle to survive. Divine Word Missionaries' efforts to give people a bit of dignity, sustenance, education and shelter appear overwhelming in light of the tremendously fast-growing number of people in need of help.

Although the overall picture is depressing, the accomplishments provide a tremendous amount of joy. Thanks to the willingness of dedicated individuals, businesses and organizations who donate to this missionary work, and to the tireless work of Divine Word Missionaries, the lives of thousands of families are made more livable.

Even though I have seen it before, the contrast of life in the slums and at the rubbish dump to life in resettlement areas is unbelievable. In Cebu this is mostly due to Fr. Heinz and the many other Divine Word Missionaries who have created so many local projects that have saved the lives of thousands of families that one month would not be enough time to visit all the projects. Even when the problems seem endless, it is always heartening to drive to the successful resettlement areas to find healthy children living on clean streets and to know that these children are going to have a future thanks to education.

No matter where Fr. Heinz goes he is met with gratitude. He talks to everyone, knows everyone's story, including that of a woman who brought 13 children into the world and each one died due to the hardships of living in the dump. She was not the only one we met that day with this horrible fate. There are times I'm glad that photography provides a distance. For example, when we visited an elderly lady waiting blindly in her hut for death. I watched, through the eyes of my camera, as she listened to Fr. Heinz's comforting words. Outside the hut, grateful to be surrounded by the sound of laughing children, I step in black mud and trash and immediately, again, am stricken by the harshness of this life.

I visit Fr. Heinz Kulüke's world every year and it enriches me every time. One day the world will be a better place thanks to the endless effort of Divine Word Missionaries and their supporters. This visit reaffirmed how valuable each and every dollar is for Divine Word Missionaries and how efficiently and well thought-out they work. I wish everyone could visit this place as I did, and I can say from experience that you will view life in a different light afterwards. Priorities shift—forever.◆

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The Divine Word Missionaries of the Southern Province of Argentina have two main fields of pastoral activity: parishes and *Colegios*, schools that include grades 1-12. As for the schools, we operate six major institutions in Argentina, all of which have very long and prestigious traditions of providing a solid Catholic education.

Educating through

#### Written by Jerzy Faliszek SVD

Father Jerzy Faliszek SVD was born in Biecz, Poland in 1966. His family has a missionary tradition, his uncle and cousin are Divine Word Missionary priests in Papua New Guinea and Kenya, and one of his sisters is a Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters nurse in Papua New Guinea.

Fr. Jerzy was ordained a priest in 1993. He was sent to Argentina in 1996 and spent six years as a parish priest, five years as a vocational animator, two years dedicated to the missiology studies in Bolivia and since 2011, as mission secretary. The schools are a privileged place for our missionary efforts, which we describe with the motto: "Educating through Evangelization and Evangelizing through Education".

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I am neither a teacher nor a catechist in any of our schools. Nonetheless, in my assigned role as Mission Animator for the whole province, I am able to meet and work with more than 10,000 children and young people each year. The "Mission Weeks" which we organize are an integral part of the pastoral program in our Divine Word Missionary schools each school year. For practical reasons, the Mission Weeks extend well beyond the month of October, which is the month traditionally dedicated to the missions.

By way of example, I would like to share with you the experience of my most recent visit to the Colégio San José of Esperanza, the place where the very first Divine Word Missionary began their work in the New World.

The city of Esperanza, located in the seemingly endless plains and prairies some 300 miles north of Buenos Aires. It had its beginnings as



## Evangelizing through Education an agricultural colony and today, with its 40,000

inhabitants, it has become an important industrial and university city.

In Esperanza, it's easy to discover the footprints left by many generations of Divine Word Missionary priests and Brothers. There are a number of streets that bear the names of Divine Word Missionaries, beginning with our Founder, St. Arnold Janssen.

Esperanza can also boast faculties of agronomy and veterinary medicine founded years ago by Divine Word Missionaries. Immediately next door to the school you will find the Museum of Natural Sciences, which features interesting objects from all around the world.

But there is a lot more to Esperanza than the traces of the past. The people of the town are very much aware that their lives are deeply intertwined with those of the "Arnoldus Family," the Society of the Divine Word, the Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Holy Spirit and the Sister-Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adorati, the three religious missionary congregations founded by St. Arnold Janssen.

I have been very much impressed by the spirit of the catechists and teachers of our Colégio San José, who contribute so much



# some students were surprised to learn that not only did Argentina receive missionaries from other lands in the past, but that it is also sending Argentinians out of the country as missionaries today.





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to the school's many missionary initiatives. Their enthusiasm is contagious and affects all of the students.

The most recent Mission Week at Colégio San José featured two audiovisual presentations put together by the students featuring the countries of Kenya and Brazil. Why those two countries? Because they represent the places where Fr. Hugo and Brother George, two young Argentinian Divine Word Missionaries, have been assigned in recent years.

Some students were surprised to learn that not only did Argentina receive missionaries from other lands in the past, but that it is also sending Argentinians out of the country as missionaries today.

The important thing to learn was that these young men who been sent beyond the borders of Argentina as missionaries represent the whole Argentine Church. The students of Colégio San José learned that there are two important ways in which they can actually participate in the missionary activity of men like Fr. Hugo and Bro. George: by praying for them and by helping collect material support.

The crowning jewel of each day of the "Mission Week" at Colégio San José was of course the Eucharist celebrated in the school's courtyard, decorated for the occasion with streamers of fabrics dyed the traditional colors of the five continents. Family members joined the student body for these Masses, raising the number of those present to almost 2,000. The students enlivened these liturgies with songs with a missionary theme, and even included several songs in other languages.

A week of mission animation, spread out as it was among more than a thousand students, proved to be too short. The school's teachers and staff decided to continue deepening the theme of 'Mission' for several additional weeks. During all this time, the students were adding their coins to the mission banks which were placed in each of the school's classrooms.

Teachers told many fine anecdotes about the generosity of their students, some of whom said that they were giving up snacks. Others said that each day they were bringing some small part of their savings to share with the children of Africa and the Amazon.

One of the mothers commented that her daughter asked her for 100 pesos so that she could give them away to children she had gotten to know through a film.

One girl convinced her mother to help by crying: "You know, Mama, those children's stomachs hurt them because they have so very little to eat. We have got to find some way to help them!"

It's a truism that each of us lives out in our life what we have learned in childhood. Childhood is also when we develop our attitudes of openness and generosity.

Some students of Colégio San José feel the need to widen their missionary activities. To do this, they get together in groups under the heading of "Missionary Childhood" (Infancia Misionera). The groups get together every Saturday in different parts of the city of Esperanza.

The program of formation and mission education adopted by such Missionary Childhood groups is far-reaching. At present, the children are learning something about being missionary by participating in ecological events and in sports. During the past year they organized numerous bicycle trips-something normal in a city where most of the inhabitants are used to getting around by bike.

Esperanza is known throughout the region for the many "two-wheeled vehicles" in its streets. One of the longest bicycle routes (25 miles, there and back) leads to a historic chapel in a village dedicated to St. Wendel. It's a small little place, but is very important for its role in the history of the Divine Word Missionaries in Argentina.

It turns out that the first two German Divine Word Missionaries to reach Argentina did not stay in one of the cities to learn Spanish. They had their first Spanish lessons in the little one-room country school in the village of St. Wendel.





One girl convinced her mother to help by **Crying:** "You know, mama, those **children's stomachs hurt** them because they have so **very little to eat.** We have got to find some way to help them!"

There is one other thing that makes the local people proud: it was in their midst, years ago, that Enrique Muhn was a Divine Word Missionary who one day would became the first bishop of Jujuy.

At Colégio San José, there is a great deal of passion and interest in the history of both the town and the school. Teachers and students together have just recently edited a book that contains many missionary anecdotes collected during recent years.

The students of Colégio San José also like to act. Some of them are discovering a vocation as a radio reporter thanks to a radio program that they prepare together and air each week at the school. The creativity and spontaneity of these children is doing much to awaken interest that missionary radio program.

Occasionally the students at Colégio San José have a chance to take part in a real "missionary experience." For some time now, "little missionaries" have been sent forth to the city's central plaza. There, they cheerfully greet passers-by and hand out small homemade cards which contain phrases from the Gospels and short messages thought up by the children themselves. God sometimes makes use of small things and of small people.

A person came came to the college and told the moving story of her conversion. It turns out that the grace of God touched her one day when a girl who was taking part in the school's urban mission smiled broadly at her and gave her a hand-drawn card bearing the sentence Jesus loves you!

I thank the Lord for having called me to serve my neighbor as a Divine Word Missionary. I was born in Poland and lived my entire childhood and youth together with my family on our farm. I loved to go with my father when he went out to sow grain in the fields. Eventually, he taught me how to perform this task by myself.

But Jesus invited me to be a sower of his Word in the never-ending fields of Latin America. After some years, I came to the conclusion that the best soils for sowing and growing the seed are the hearts and the minds of the "little ones."

Let us work tirelessly so that all the children of the world can live in peace and love, study, play and dream of a brave new world.  $\blacklozenge$ 

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