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Divine Word

Missionaries Magazine

Mission Updates from around the World

Winter 2014



Brother Tarcisius de Ruyter SVD
December 12, 1925
January 15, 2014

*May he
rest in peace*



Brother Tarcisius de Ruyter SVD, who spent most of his life in Ghana ministering to people physically challenged by polio, accidents, and other debilitating diseases, was laid to rest on January 31, 2014, following the funeral Mass at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Adoagyiri-Nsawam. Bishop Afrifah-Agyekum of the Diocese of Korforidua was the main celebrant. He was assisted by Archbishop Charles Palmer-Buckle of Accra, who conducted the final commendation, Archbishop Matthias Nketsiah of Cape Coast, Bishop Vincent Boi-Nai SVD of Yendi, and Bishop Gabriel Kumordji SVD of Donkorkrom, who gave the homily. Also present were the chief of Adoagyiri and the queenmother, the deputy regional minister, and the district chief executive of Nsawam. The president of Ghana sent a wreath.

Editorial



“Whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through him.”
(Colossians 3:17)

When Typhoon Haiyan slammed into the Philippines on November 8, the city of Tacloban, a center of activity for Divine Word Missionaries, was crushed. More than six thousand perished and over four million were left homeless.

Divine Word High School, our radio station, and Divine Word Hospital sustained terrible damage. Remarkably, the hospital remained open, albeit without utilities, and was the only functioning hospital in the city of Tacloban.

Divine Word Missionaries, along with volunteers from the University of San Carlos, mobilized to bring immediate relief of water, food, and medicine to people in and around Tacloban. Phase II, now underway, focuses on the long-term reconstruction of houses and the restoration of livelihoods for affected families.



When our superior general, Father Heinz Kulueke SVD, sent out an urgent appeal in the aftermath of the typhoon, the response of our benefactors was immediate and overwhelming. Within a few weeks, the Mission Center was able to send over \$360,000 to the headquarters of

Divine Word Missionaries in the southern Philippines. In a recent update on relief and reconstruction efforts, Father General wrote that the response “gives us all a sense of hope. It tells us that when we gather together our resources with our hearts open, coupled with strong faith and the resilience of the people to whom we have reached out, no amount of tragedy can pull us down.”

On behalf of Fr. Kulueke, our missionaries in the Philippines, and the many people who have benefited from your generosity, I extend our deepest gratitude.

Dennis Newton, SVD

Bro. Dennis Newton SVD
Mission Director
Contact me any time; my e-mail address is:
director@svdmissions.org

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES

AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND BROTHERS

Good News from Blagoveshchensk

Harald Menezes SVD

2

The Catholic population in Blagoveshchensk traces its roots to political unrest in Poland in the eighteenth century, when many Poles, Latvians, and Byelorussians were exiled to Siberia.

No Time for Tea

Alwin Mascarenhas SVD

4

Suguna, a widow only thirty-nine years old, was lying in the street shivering from a high fever and near death, with her young daughter standing over her helplessly.

Answering the Call

Afri Dietger SVD

8

On March 11, 2011, the largest earthquake ever to hit Japan occurred in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of the East Tohoku region.

Droga—the Way

Robert Kisala SVD

10

In 1987, Father Edward Konkol SVD was given permission to begin work with homeless youth in the city of Bialystok in eastern Poland.

Our Iowa Kids Help Children in India

Michael Hutchins SVD

14



We Left Them High and Dry

Dennis Newton SVD

16

The first photos showed a small group of children with mud over their ankles standing inside a wooden structure. I thought it might be a dilapidated barn or pig pen . . . It dawned on me that this was a school, not a pigsty!

It's Okay, Mom, I Love It Here

Michael Quang Nguyen SVD

18

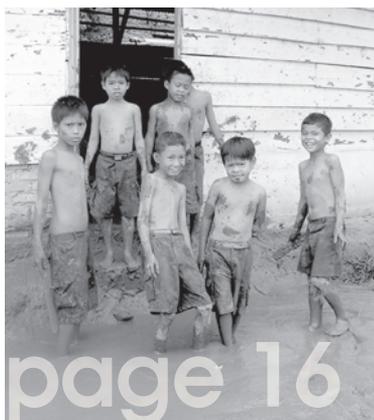
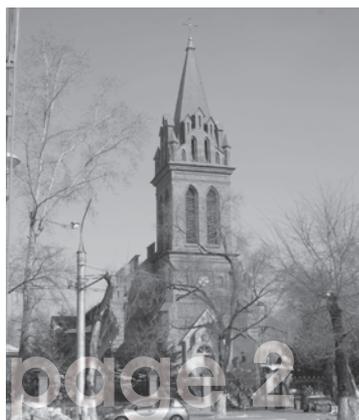
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A Good Neighbor

Dennis Newton SVD

20

Gear for Goals hits a grand slam with its shipment to Fr. Max!





Present chapel and offices for Transfiguration of Christ Parish



Good News from **Blagoveshchensk**

Harald Menezes SVD

Construction of the Transfiguration of Christ Church began in 1896. It was completed in 1912.

The city of Blagovschchensk, which derives its name from the word *Annunciation*, is called the “City of Good News.” Divine Word Missionaries have served the parish in Blagoveshchensk, Russia, since 1999, but the long history of Transfiguration of Christ Parish and its church before our arrival is both complicated and fascinating.

The Catholic population in Blagoveshchensk traces its roots to political unrest in Poland in the eighteenth century, when many Poles, Latvians, and Byelorussians were exiled to Siberia. Land for the parish was acquired on April 14, 1893, and construction of the church building, which began in 1896, was completed in 1912.

In 1932, the church was taken over by the government on the pretense that the declining parish membership could not properly maintain the building. From 1932 until 1947, the Communist government used the church as a military warehouse. After 1947, the Russian Orthodox Church was allowed to hold liturgical services in the building.

Aleksander Ivanovich Rineiski moved to Blagoveshchensk in the early 1990s and assembled the present generation of Catholics, mainly descendants of Polish, German, and Latvian Catholics who were in the Siberian and eastern territory of Russia during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Aleksander and the Catholics who gathered in Blagoveshchensk wrote to Pope John Paul II to request a priest to serve the community. The Vatican asked Archbishop John Bukovsky SVD, the papal nuncio to Russia,



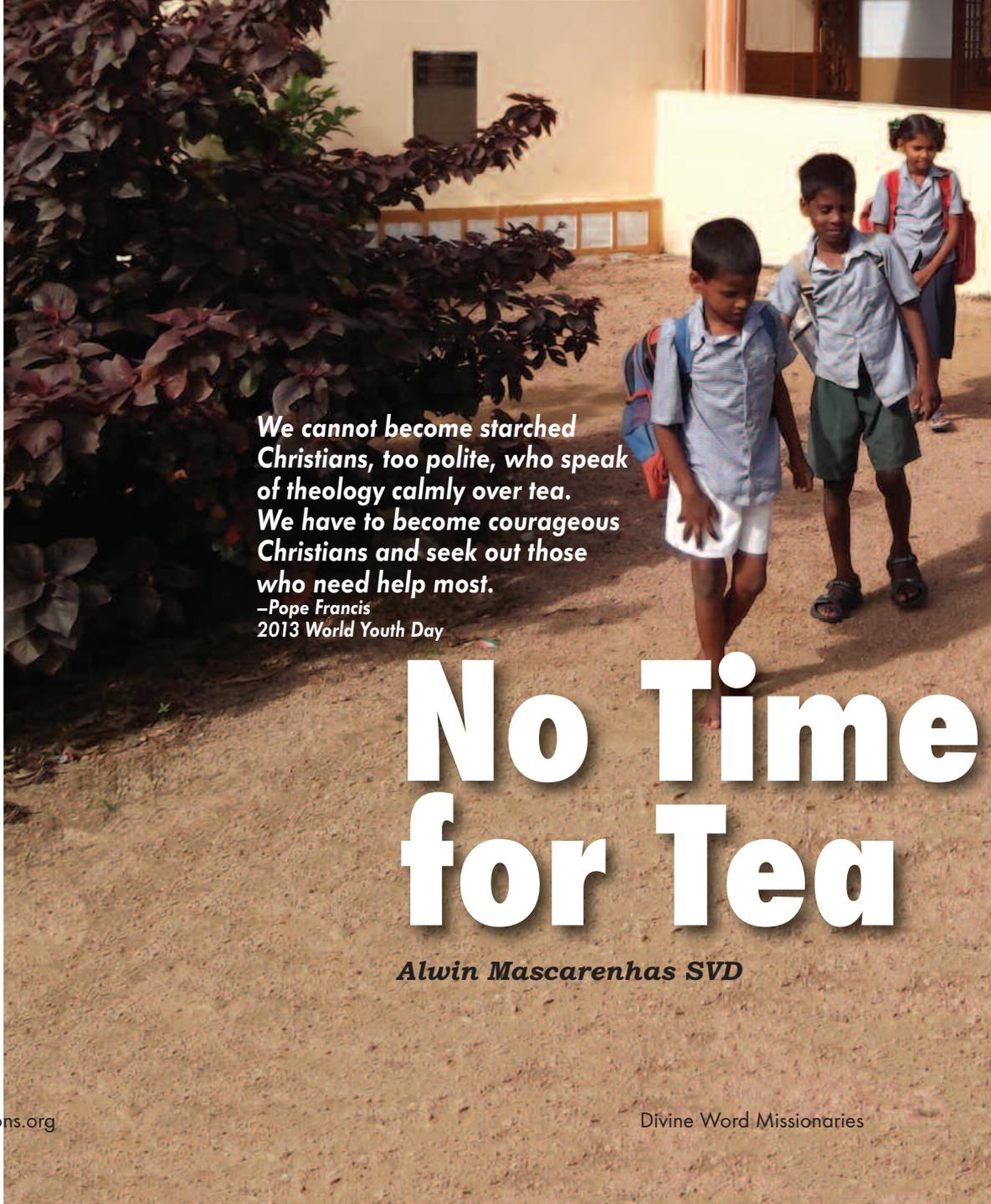
to handle the matter. He, in turn, asked the priests in nearby Vladivostok to serve the growing Blagoveshchensk Catholic community. In 1994, it was officially registered as a religious organization of the Catholic Church. Then in 1997, Blagoveshchensk officials gave the Catholic community the use of a one-story building formerly used as a chemical laboratory. This building provides space for a chapel, a sacristy, a meeting room, the parish library, and offices.

When Divine Word Missionary Most Rev. Jerzy Mazur SVD became bishop of Irkutsk, Divine Word Missionaries began serving the parish in Blagoveshchensk. Bishop Mazur approached Bishop Gabriel of the Russian Orthodox Church to negotiate the return of Transfiguration of Christ Church in Blagoveshchensk to the Catholic community. These talks, however, never resulted in an agreement for the handover.

More recent changes have led to new developments. In 2003, Bishop Cyril Klimovich became the new Ordinary of Irkutsk. Then in November 2011, the new Russian Orthodox bishop, Bishop Lukian, surprised everyone with the announcement that he intended to return Transfiguration Church to the Catholics. The Catholics are very optimistic that the process will proceed.

As they hope for a positive decision about the historic parish church, the faith community in Blagoveshchensk continues to develop through its liturgical life and many social and charitable activities. ♦





*We cannot become starched
Christians, too polite, who speak
of theology calmly over tea.
We have to become courageous
Christians and seek out those
who need help most.*
—Pope Francis
2013 World Youth Day

No Time for Tea

Alwin Mascarenhas SVD

HIV/AIDS Ministry Site



During a recent trip to India, I had the opportunity to see the impressive work our missionaries are doing in parishes, in education, and in providing social and medical care for those on the margins of Indian society.

One such ministry is Asha Jyothi, an HIV/AIDS care and support center. Fr. Alwin Mascarenhas SVD, the director, and Fr. Felix Roche SVD, are the two Divine Word Missionaries responsible for this ministry. They have many local co-workers, most of whom are themselves infected with the disease and are helping others. The center includes a clinic, a ward of ten beds for select short-term patients, and a hostel or home for children who are orphans and infected with HIV/AIDS.

I was moved by the faces of the children and by the dedication of our missionaries and their co-workers. They bring the message of God's love into their lives.

Roger Schroeder SVD

Suguna, a widow only thirty-nine years old, was lying in the street shivering from a high fever and near death, with her young daughter standing over her helplessly. Mr. Veera Babu, the outreach coordinator of Asha Jyothi, found her and called for an ambulance. Suguna was rushed to the Asha Jyothi clinic, where doctors discovered she was gravely ill from HIV/AIDS.

Suguna's husband had contracted HIV/AIDS through prostitutes and had transmitted the disease to her. He passed away, and Suguna's family disowned her when they learned she was also infected with the deadly disease. Undoubtedly, without the intervention of Mr. Babu and the resources of Asha Jyothi, she would have died on the street. Today, Suguna and her daughter, Bhavani, are both doing well.



Suguna today...



Suguna's family disowned her when they learned she was infected with the deadly disease.

We aim to create an AIDS-free society through awareness programs and to provide quality healthcare to the sick that is comprehensive and holistic, with a preferential option for the poor infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

- Asha Jyothi Vision Statement

Asha Jyothi, a ministry of Divine Word Missionaries in Andhra Pradesh, India, was founded in 2006. Responding to the complex social and medical issues of HIV/AIDS, such as poverty, ignorance, caste discrimination, and discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS, the center offers a comprehensive range of services for people with HIV/AIDS and for children who have been orphaned by the disease.

Asha Jyothi provides inpatient and outpatient medical services. For those who require inpatient care, the center admits twenty patients at a time. During a typical two-week stay, patients receive intensive medical care and are provided with education and training for home-based care after their discharge. Patients are served nutritious meals that help them regain their strength. During their stay, counselors provide psychological and spiritual support. Patients whose disease has progressed to a terminal stage are admitted to hospice care.

Each day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the outpatient clinic sees patients who come from throughout the Medak District. Patients can request testing and receive counseling and medication. Since persons with HIV are prone to tuberculosis, the center has a separate facility to treat HIV-TB cases.

Every month, former patients of the inpatient center can return for medical follow-up examinations, to have prescriptions filled, and attend counseling. During their daylong visit, they are provided with three nutritious meals. Those who are unemployed can get a monthly ration of rice, oil, and sugar to supplement their meals at home.





**Your donation matters.
Your donation will make a difference.**



Each day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the outpatient clinic sees patients.

From its founding in 2006 through March 2013, Asha Jyothi has served 4,674 persons in the inpatient center; 23,409 in the outpatient clinic; and 753 in the tuberculosis facility. Asha Jyothi also has an extensive outreach program. The center's staff organizes public meetings to provide information on disease prevention and to encourage voluntary testing for HIV/AIDS. In addition to public meetings, the staff sponsors less formal cultural shows and street performances to communicate their message.

Preventing transmission of HIV infection from parents to children has been of special concern to Asha Jyothi from its beginning. Through testing, counseling, and education before and after a child's birth, the center has been very successful in preventing transmission of the disease to newborns. Since its founding, Asha Jyothi has provided HIV testing to over 90,000 women.

Three years ago, we opened Arnold Children's Home, a facility for homeless children orphaned when their parents died from HIV/AIDS. Some of them are also infected with the disease. It is a home in every sense. We provide shelter, food, education, social and recreational activities, and an abundance of love. Today twenty-five children live at Arnold Children's Home.

In March 2013, Asha Jyothi was dealt a serious blow when the government withdrew its financial support from all HIV/AIDS centers in India. Although we are struggling, we remain committed to our mission. Asha Jyothi was founded to address the huge problem of HIV/AIDS. We are confident that we can meet the added challenge of finding the resources to carry out our ministry. ♦



The Arnold Children's Home provides care to children who have lost parents or guardian to HIV/AIDS. To those children orphaned and to those also infected with the disease, it is truly a home in every sense. Along with an abundance of love, Arnold Children's Home provides shelter, food, education, and social and recreational activities.

**Remember them in your prayers...
Send help today!**

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www.svdmissions.org
and click the **DONATE NOW** button.
or use the enclosed envelope to send a check or
make a credit card donation.



Answering the Call

Afri Dietger SVD



On March 11, 2011, the largest earthquake ever to hit Japan occurred in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of the East Tohoku region. The earthquake spawned a huge tsunami that leapt over seawalls and coursed miles inland. In a short time, it wiped out lives, livelihoods, and whole towns. When the tsunami subsided, it left behind massive amounts of debris throughout the area. The challenges of rebuilding the lives of people and the economy of the area were enormous.

Among the groups responding to the needs of the survivors is Caritas Japan. Father Daisuke Narui SVD has been coordinating Caritas Japan activities there since March 2011. As the relief efforts became more organized, he realized that the volunteer work in this area would be a good activity for the Divine Word Missionary seminarians and Brothers who are participating in the Cross-Cultural Training Program (CTP).

The CTP students come to Japan for a period of three years. Two years are spent in language and cultural study, and the third year is dedicated to practical experience of mission work in Japan. Until 2012, the CTP students were assigned to a Divine Word



Missionary parish, but in 2012, through the invitation of Fr. Narui, Joel Kanajar Aranha SVD from India, Fano Salvano Jaman SVD from Indonesia, and I, also from Indonesia, were appointed to volunteer work in northern Japan from June to December.

After we received our appointments, we were quite anxious because we had no training in this kind of work. Also, we were assigned to different places, so we hardly saw each other. Joel was sent to Ofunato, Fano to Kamaishi, and I went to Minami Sanriku. All three towns were famous for their fishing ports, which were completely destroyed.

On the trip north, we were accompanied by our CTP director, Brother Justin Mau Bau SVD. When we arrived, I stayed at the Caritas base where other volunteers from different places were also housed. The other two seminarians stayed at the local church. On a typical day, we woke up at 6:00 a.m. After our morning prayers, we ate breakfast. Then a car came to pick us up and take us to our workplaces. We worked until noon, and then ate the lunch we brought with us. At 1:00 p.m., we resumed our work and kept at it until 3:30 p.m. In the evening after supper, the volunteers gathered for group sharing. This became a good opportunity for me to practice the Japanese I learned at the Center for Japanese Studies at Nanzan University.

The volunteer programs focus on helping the victims of the tragedy rebuild their communities and their livelihoods. More than the actual help, the presence of the volunteers is a source of joy and hope for the local people. Some volunteers spend time listening to the stories of the people, especially the older people, although some asked us not to even mention the earthquake and the tsunami. We also did various kinds of jobs. In the towns, we gathered rubbish caused by the earthquake and tsunami. On farms, we helped local farmers plant vegetables. In the fishing villages, we helped fishermen mend their nets. There is still much work to do, so volunteers are still needed.

For me, the volunteer experience was an opportunity to meet new friends and to learn more about Japanese culture. But more than this, the experience has made me more mature in my religious missionary life. ♦

Divine Word College Pilgrimage to the Holy Land May 16-25, 2015



Fr. Tim Lenchak SVD

Join us!



Fr. vanThanh Nguyen SVD



Join Father Tim Lenchak SVD, president of Divine Word College, and Father vanThanh Nguyen SVD, associate professor of New Testament studies at Catholic Theological Union, as they lead a once-in-a-lifetime tour to many of the significant religious sites in the Holy Land.



- Experience a personal encounter with Jesus in the mystical land of his life, death, and Resurrection.
- While near the Sea of Galilee, in Bethlehem and Jerusalem, the Gospels will come to life as you walk, pray, and celebrate the Eucharist in the places held most sacred to Christians.
- Visit the sites where Jesus performed his miracles. Carry the cross and trace his last steps before crucifixion, as you walk down the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

This exciting pilgrimage will place you in the footsteps of Jesus. The cost of your unforgettable journey will be approximately \$3,000 including air and land travel, overnight accommodations, breakfast and dinner daily, certified tour guide and entrance fees. Please join us!

For more information contact:
Mark Singsank or Len Uhal
Divine Word College
phone: 563-876-3353
email: singsank@dwci.edu
or visit us at:

www.dwci.edu

Droga— the Way

Robert Kisala SVD



Nasz Dom or “Our Home,” targets the whole family and has a seventy-five percent rate of recovery.

In 1987, Father Edward Konkol SVD was given permission by then provincial superior of the Polish Province, Father Konrad Keler SVD, to begin work with homeless youth in the city of Bialystok in eastern Poland. Many of the youth were addicted to drugs or alcohol, and some were suffering from HIV/AIDS. At that time, problems like addiction and the presence of HIV/AIDS were largely ignored or covered up by Polish society, but in a short time, Fr. Konkol was able to gather twenty volunteers, many ex-addicts themselves. They called themselves “weeds,” because that was how they were seen by society. Eventually, through their efforts, a detoxification center was opened at Choroszcza Hospital in the city, and in 1991, they were able to organize as a nongovernmental organization (NGO), called *Droga*, which in Polish means “Way.”



From this small

beginning, *Droga's* activities have grown over the years. Already in 1988, a vacation center was established in Jastarnia, on the Baltic Sea. It is a place where children of alcohol- and drug-addicted families can be sent to escape from their environment. Every year more than 560 children benefit from the center. In 1993, the city of Bialystok gave *Droga* an abandoned house. It was renovated and is now used as a place where children and their families can come for treatment together. The center, called *Nasz Dom* or “Our Home,” targets the whole family and has a seventy-five percent rate of recovery. In 1997, another center called *Etap* or “Stage” was established for addicted youth as well as those who have run into trouble with the law. Last year 9,500 young people were treated at the center, often referred by the police or courts. In 2000, *Droga* began to solicit donations of food, furniture, clothes, and other items, which are distributed to poor families in the city.



An orphanage, called Angels' Home, is presently home to twenty-five children between the ages of five and eighteen.



In 2008, a job

In 2008, a job referral center was founded. About one hundred people a year are able to gain employment because of the help they receive at the center. An orphanage, called Angels' Home, was established in 2010, and it is presently home to twenty-five children between the ages of five and eighteen. Droga also supplies twelve scholarships every year to those who want to train to be social workers. In addition to its generous benefactors, Droga is able to obtain funds for some of its projects from the local government as well as from the European Union. Droga has about twenty employees and over two hundred volunteers, many of whom have benefited from Droga's programs themselves. Bialystok has a large Orthodox population (about 30 percent), and many of Droga's collaborators are Orthodox or do not profess any religion. Prayer is very much a part of Droga's life however. Each day, the employees and volunteers join in the prayer for Divine Mercy and every Sunday the group gathers for Mass.



There are about a dozen Divine Word Missionaries living in the community in Bialystok. The apostolate of Divine Word Missionaries in Bialystok has grown over the years, and it now includes a parish established there several years ago. During my recent short visit to Poland, Fr. Keler accompanied me to Bialystok, saying that he himself had not been back there since he finished his service as provincial in 1992. I could tell that he was very proud of what had begun under his leadership.◆



Jastarnia, on the Baltic Sea is a place where children of alcohol- and drug-addicted families go to escape from their environment. Every year more than 560 children benefit from the center.



Winter 2014



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Beautiful Bracelets

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Our Iowa Kids Help Children in India

Michael Hutchins SVD

Civil officials in the Indian state of Odisha recently won praise for minimizing the number of casualties resulting from Typhoon Phailin, a tropical storm that struck the country's east central coast. Phailin, packing gale force winds of up to 140 m.p.h., claimed twenty-one lives. A storm fourteen years ago took ten thousand lives. Christian communities in Odisha are praying for similar success in forestalling the effects of another kind of storm.

Beginning on Christmas Eve 2007, anti-Christian religious fanatics carried out a series of attacks on Christian villages in Odisha, principally in the Kandhamal District. The attacks lasted for four days. Violence broke out again in August 2008. In a recent interview marking the fifth anniversary of the attacks, Archbishop John Barwa SVD recalled the terrifying events.

During the persecutions, there was an ethnic cleansing of all Christians in 400 villages, more than 6,000 houses, 340 churches and chapels, clinics and schools were burned and destroyed. Thousands of believers were

injured, several women and girls, including a nun, were raped and about 60,000 men, women and children were left homeless (Agenzia Fides, August 23, 2013).

The archbishop went on to report that, despite the loss of life (more than eighty Christians of various denominations were murdered) and other destruction, the Christians of Kandhamal have realized deeper sources of grace over the past five years. Their suffering has only intensified their love for Jesus and their longing for peace with everyone. They have undertaken the reconstruction of their lives, communities, and facilities,



not without challenge and apprehension, but not without hope and optimism either.

As new waves of violence swept over Kandhamal in late summer 2008, Pope Benedict XVI declared his personal solidarity with the suffering, “with the brothers and sisters in the faith who are so sorely tried” (Reuters, August 27, 2008). In that same spirit of solidarity, as a visible expression of support for those “so sorely tried,” Divine Word Missionaries have been reaching out in new ways to the Christians of Kandhamal.

Divine Word Farm in Weldon, Iowa, started a small herd of Boer goats in fall 2011, mainly as an attraction for visitors, especially children. Kid goats, in their baby stage, are agile, frisky, and quite entertaining as they frolic about their enclosure. As we developed a keener appreciation of the situation in Odisha, we decided, with support from the mission director, Brother Dennis Newton SVD, to increase the size of our herd and to develop its commercial potential. Income from our goat production will be earmarked for assistance to the Christian community of Kandhamal.

Mr. Dan Paxson, farm manager here in Weldon, gained valuable experience while caring for our small goat herd over the past two years. He has managed breeding schedules, hovered about solicitously during kidding season, administered vaccinations and identification tagging, kept all the necessary records, affectionately cared for the goats’ daily feed and water needs, and skillfully got their heads unstuck from openings in the fence. Early on, Dan recognized the commercial potential of an expanded goat operation. Boer goats, a South African variety, are a hardy, well-known breed.

Once we had a “green light” to proceed with expansion, Dan devised a plan for increasing our small herd of fifteen goats to one hundred and twenty-five goats over the next eighteen months. We have dedicated ten acres for good grazing and regular exercise. We have put up a new goat shelter that will accommodate the larger herd and facilitate efficient feeding, watering, and kidding.

Herd growth can be fairly rapid. During last year’s kidding season, most of our mother goats gave birth to twins; two mothers to triplets; only

one, to a singlet. Overhead costs for goat care are relatively small. They eat primarily hay that grows here on our farm. With the new pasture area, they will require even less hay and supplemental grain. Vaccinations and other medicines are fairly inexpensive. Market price for our end product is consistently strong; sales will be timed to coincide with periods of peak demand. All things considered, we are enthused about the likelihood of a solid annual profit.

Our efforts here at Divine Word Farm in Weldon are always a mixture of the practical and the symbolic. Through our expanded goat operation, we intend to offer concrete, dependable assistance to the children and families of Kandhamal. In a small way, we also hope to foster a deeper sense of solidarity between one community of disciples and another. We hope that together the followers of Jesus, in Iowa and in Odisha, will be a source of support and inspiration to one another. Please pray for the success of our efforts. ♦







We Left Them High and Dry and They Thanked Us

Dennis Newton SVD

We receive many pieces of overseas mail each day, so the envelope from Indonesia did not look very remarkable. I opened the letter from Father Karolus Lanang Ona SVD and began thumbing through the photos. The first photos showed a small group of children with mud over their ankles standing inside a wooden structure. I thought it might be a dilapidated barn or pig pen, since we often get photos of agricultural projects. The next showed a religious Sister and children at desks. It dawned on me that this was a school, not a pigsty! The up-until-now unremarkable letter became remarkably sad. When I managed to put down the photos, I began reading Fr. Ona's letter.



Pintu Angin is a village of 1,500 inhabitants in the Aceh Province located in the northernmost island of Indonesia. While most of the population of Aceh is Muslim, the small-scale farmers of Pintu Angin are predominantly Christian. There is a secondary school with about 165 students in Saint Joseph Parish, where Fr. Ona serves as pastor. In his letter, Fr. Ona described how the secondary school floods when the rainy season begins each November. Over the years, recurring floods have gradually destroyed the school, but it is still being used because the parish lacks financial resources.

Fr. Ona asked for help to build a new school with six classrooms. He itemized the costs of one classroom: preparing the site to stop the flooding, stone, gravel, iron rods, bolts, nails, cement, doors, windows, glass. Each classroom would cost the equivalent of \$5,387, and the entire project totaled \$32,322.

It took little to convince us that this was a project that needed to be built. We approached two benefactors, who immediately pledged the funds for the school building, new furnishings, a retaining wall to prevent future flooding, children's New Testament sets, holy cards, and classroom posters of the Stations of the Cross and the mysteries of the rosary.

As you can see from the photos, the gleaming new school is beautiful, and it matches the gleaming smiles of Fr. Ona and the students in Pintu Angin, who are immensely grateful.

Go ahead. Let it rain! ♦



Winter 2014



It's Okay, Mom, I Love It Here

Michael Quang Nguyen SVD



After seven years of education and seminary formation ministry in the lively city of Melbourne, I was transferred to the rough-and-tumble desert of Central Australia in 2009. My ninety-year-old mother in San Jose, California, thought I had done something wrong and was being punished by my superiors. In fact, I had requested the transfer, and when I reminded my mom that I was in a missionary community, she fully understood.

I currently serve Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Alice Springs, St. Teresa Church in Santa Teresa, about an hour's drive from Alice Springs, and the surrounding Aboriginal communities. Central Australia is about 210,000 square miles, roughly twice the size of Colorado, and its population is only 60,000. The average temperature in the Central Australian desert is ninety-seven degrees Fahrenheit in January and sixty-eight degrees in July.

In Alice Springs and Santa Teresa, my pastoral ministry is typical of any parish: morning Mass, meetings with parishioners, office work, hospital and nursing home visits, religious education, Legion of Mary meetings, Bible study, and youth ministry.

I always look forward to the one- to four-day trips to the Aboriginal villages outside of Alice Springs. Archeological records indicate that the



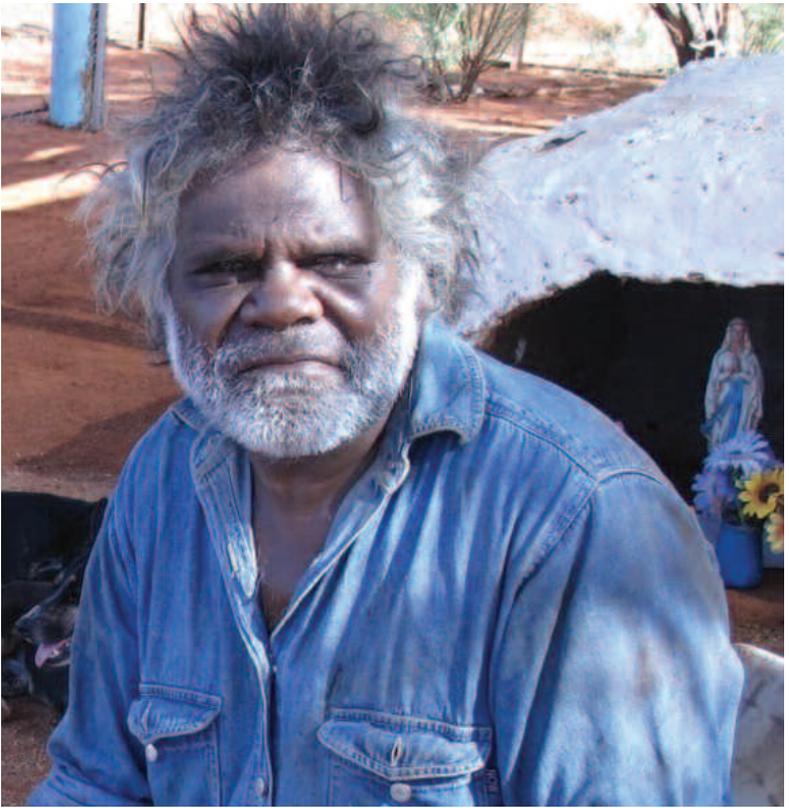


Aboriginal people have been present on the Australian continent for about 40,000 years, and today they comprise nearly one-third of the population of Central Australia. Originally, they were nomadic people who hunted for food. Living in the desert, the Aboriginal people depended on whatever nature provided for them, such as bush fruits and vegetables, kangaroos, and fish. Their traditional lifestyle was disrupted with the arrival of outside people, and permanent settlements were established.



Among my favorite activities on these pastoral treks are the evening campfires in the desert with the people. On moonless nights, we can view the vast Milky Way stretched out before our eyes like a shiny river sparkling with millions of diamonds. People in the city will never see a scene such as this. The Aboriginals are by nature quiet, but in that silence they communicate thousands of things to one another. They have preserved an ability to listen and recognize the meaning, the sound, and the language of silence that city people have seemingly lost.

I can truly say that my ministry among the Aboriginal people has reenergized my spirit. My missionary life has been profoundly enriched and has become more deeply meaningful. Indeed, this unique ministry has helped me to live and experience my missionary vocation. ♦





A Good Neighbor

Dennis Newton SVD



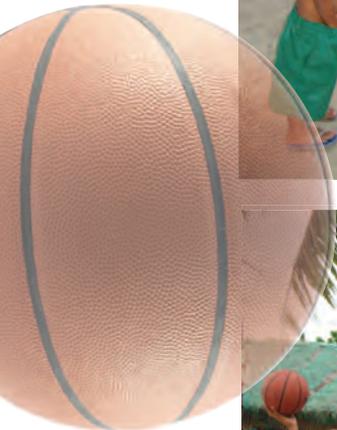
Fr. Max Abalos SVD

Gear for Goals, a charity in Northbrook, Illinois, has provided over 3,500 pieces of sports equipment and uniforms to children in Kenya, Cuba, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and the Philippines.

The executive director of Gear for Goals, Doctor Warren Bruhl, who lives near Techny, stopped at the Mission Center one day last spring. He offered to send sports equipment to children served by Divine Word Missionaries overseas. Within weeks, Gear for Goals sent boxes of sporting goods to Brother Bernie Spitzley SVD in Kingston, Jamaica, and to Father Max Abalos SVD in Metro Manila, the Philippines.

Fr. Max's ministry to families living in Manila cemeteries was featured in the Winter 2013 issue of *Divine Word Missionaries Magazine*. As you can see, Gear for Goals hit a grand slam with its shipment to Fr. Max! ♦

To learn more about Gear for Goals, visit www.dreamweaver911.org



MEET THE AUTHORS

Harald Menezes SVD is from Bhopal, India. He professed first vows as a Divine Word Missionary in 1997 and was ordained a priest in 2002. Father Menezes is the district superior of the Siberia District of Divine Word Missionaries and pastor of the Divine Word Missionary parish in Blagoveshchensk, Russia.

Alwin Mascarenhas SVD, from Miyar, India, became a Divine Word Missionary in 2002. He was ordained in 2009. He is currently the director of Asha Jyothi HIV/AIDS Care and Support Center in Pregnapur, India.

Afri Dietger SVD is a seminarian from Saint Paul Major Seminary in Ledalero, Indonesia. He professed first vows as a Divine Word Missionary in 2006 and is currently participating in a supervised ministry in Japan.

Robert Kisala SVD, a Chicago native, became a Divine Word Missionary in 1981 and was ordained in 1985. Father Kisala served in Japan for many years before his election to the General Council in Rome. He is currently vice superior general.

Michael Hutchins SVD, from Dubuque, Iowa, is assigned to the Mission Center at Techny and resides in Weldon, Iowa. Father Hutchins professed first vows in 1972 and was ordained at Techny in 1975. For nearly his entire career, Fr. Hutchins has been involved in education, teaching high school in Los Angeles and later serving as president of Divine Word College, Epworth, Iowa. He holds a doctoral degree from the University of Iowa.

Michael Quang Nguyen SVD, was born in Saigon, Vietnam, and immigrated to the United States, where he entered Divine Word Missionaries in 1997. After perpetual vows in 2001, he was ordained to the priesthood at Techny in 2002. Father Michael is currently working in Alice Springs, Australia.

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The Society of the Divine Word is an international Catholic missionary congregation with over 6,000 members from 70 countries.

They work in over 70 different lands on all the continents except Antarctica.

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