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# Divine Word

**Missionaries Magazine**

Mission Updates from around the World

Winter 2015



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## From the Desk of Fr. Richie Vaz SVD

***It is possible to give without loving,  
but it is impossible to love without giving.***

—Richard Braunstein

My first six months as mission director have been immensely uplifting and reassuring. As I reflect upon 2014, I cannot help but rejoice at the mighty ways God used your prayers and generous giving to help Divine Word Missionaries make a lasting difference by touching and improving the lives of the poor they serve. You have made it possible for us to carry on the mission entrusted to us by our founder, Saint Arnold Janssen, who said, “Missionaries are ambassadors of divine love. They are called to . . . establish the kingdom of divine love wherever it does not exist.”

In this Winter 2015 issue, you will find new stories from some of our dedicated missionaries around the world.

The Lord continues to bless Divine Word Missionaries with many vocations, especially from mission countries. These young men will become the missionaries who spread the gospel around the globe. Your contributions help us venture into new territories to respond to the cry of the suffering humanity, to establish faith communities and provide the people with spiritual nourishment, better education, health care, and socio-economic programs for a better life.

I am truly humbled by your commitment to Christ’s command to love one another as sisters and brothers. Please continue to pray with Divine Word Missionaries as we strive to steward resources faithfully and spread the joy of the Gospel across the globe in 2015 and beyond. Be the part of our mission to let God’s love flow into our loveless world to bring true life and joy, peace and harmony.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Richie Vaz SVD  
Mission Director



P.S. Please give this issue of *Divine Word Missionaries Magazine* to anyone whom you think might benefit from its content or have them visit our website: [www.svdmissions.org](http://www.svdmissions.org).

***Over the years we have told our mission story with pen and ink, the printed word and now, in 2015, we will meet the challenge of spreading the word through our website and social networking. YOU CAN HELP. “Like Us” on Facebook... follow us on Twitter...and post your thoughts on our missionary work... we would like to hear what you have to say!***

# DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES

AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND BROTHERS

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**You Helped Rebuild The Philippines**



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REJOICE!

**Rejoice!**

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From a distance, I hear somebody calling me, "Sir, how are you?" Then, I ask, "But where do you know me?" "Sir, you taught me in the technical school," they answer. This brings great joy in my heart.

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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.

Website: [WWW.SVDMISSIONS.ORG](http://WWW.SVDMISSIONS.ORG)

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES MAGAZINE, Vol. LVIII No. 1 Winter 2015 issued quarterly

Divine Word Missionaries • Mission Center, Techny, Illinois 60082

Subscription \$20.00 a year

Editorial Team: Carolyn Schmit • Bro. Dan Holman SVD • Carmelita J. Linden

Branch Office: Pittsburgh, PA

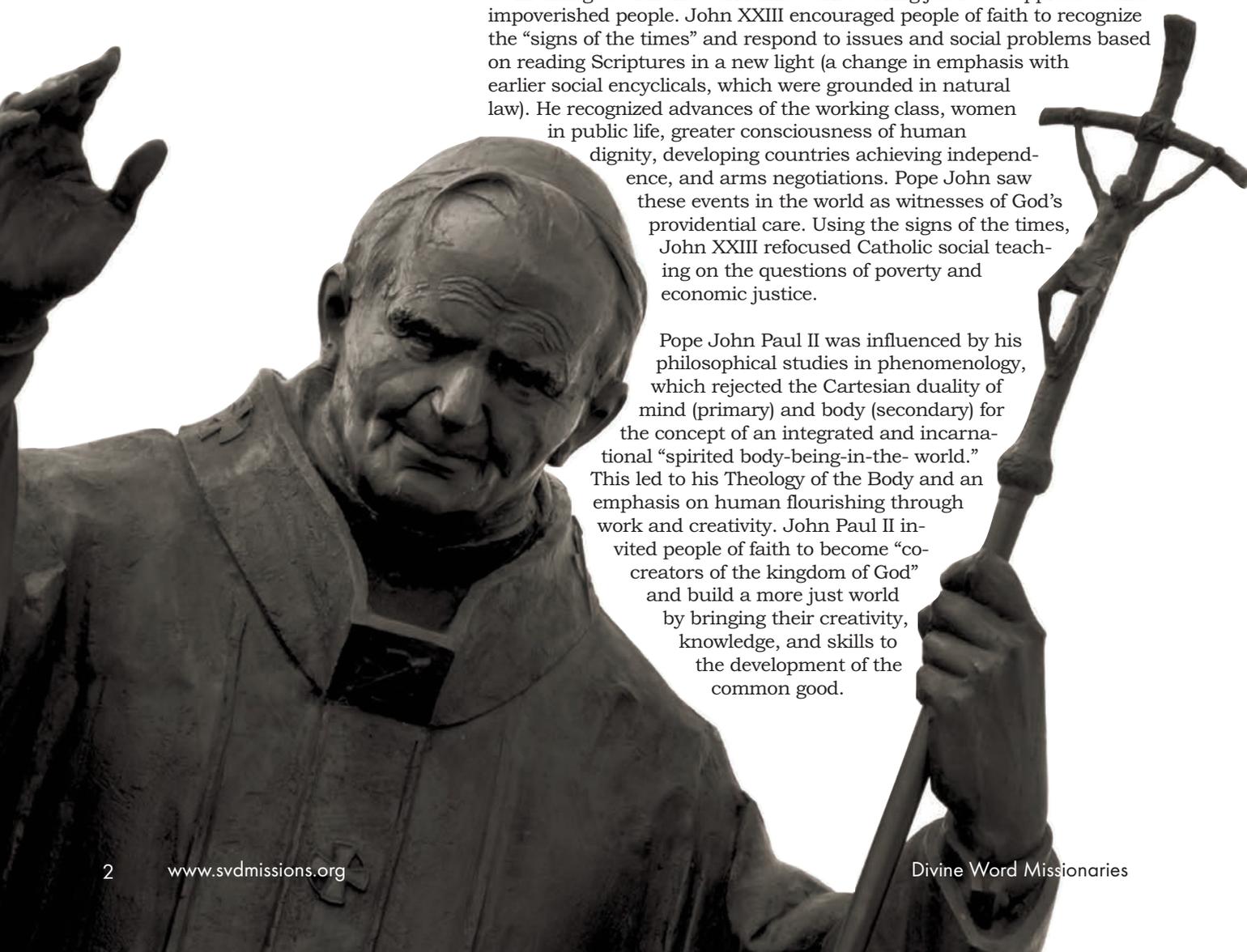
# Our New Saints

Pope John XXIII had a brief papacy, but his impact on the Church and its social teaching was great. He convened the Second Vatican Council and led it through its first session in October 1962. He also made major contributions to Catholic social teaching through his encyclicals *Mater et Magistra* (1961) and *Pacem in Terris* (1963).

John XXIII struck a more optimistic tone in the papacy with his openness to the modern world.

He saw people becoming more concerned with human rights and social justice, and believed the modern world might be more receptive to the Church because of its social teachings. He believed the Church needed to be in dialogue with the world and work to bring justice to oppressed and impoverished people. John XXIII encouraged people of faith to recognize the “signs of the times” and respond to issues and social problems based on reading Scriptures in a new light (a change in emphasis with earlier social encyclicals, which were grounded in natural law). He recognized advances of the working class, women in public life, greater consciousness of human dignity, developing countries achieving independence, and arms negotiations. Pope John saw these events in the world as witnesses of God’s providential care. Using the signs of the times, John XXIII refocused Catholic social teaching on the questions of poverty and economic justice.

Pope John Paul II was influenced by his philosophical studies in phenomenology, which rejected the Cartesian duality of mind (primary) and body (secondary) for the concept of an integrated and incarnational “spirited body-being-in-the-world.” This led to his Theology of the Body and an emphasis on human flourishing through work and creativity. John Paul II invited people of faith to become “co-creators of the kingdom of God” and build a more just world by bringing their creativity, knowledge, and skills to the development of the common good.



# and Catholic Social Teaching

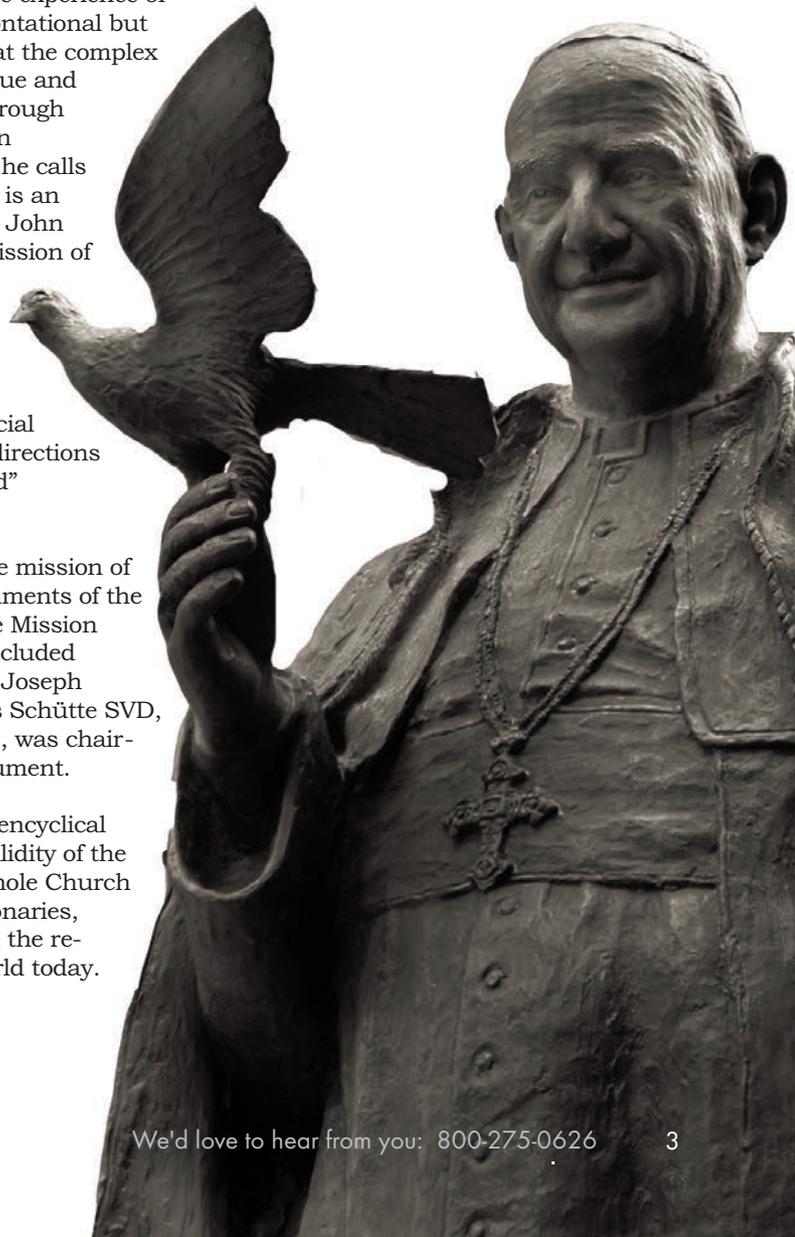
*Philip Gibbs SVD*

John Paul II was influenced in his social reflections by his personal experience of the Solidarity movement in Poland. He lifted up the experience of the Solidarity movement, which was organized and confrontational but not violent, as an example for the whole world to show that the complex problems faced by peoples can be resolved through dialogue and solidarity, rather than in struggle to destroy the enemy through violence. Under Pope John Paul II, Catholic social tradition becomes an essential dimension of preaching the Gospel; he calls it “doctrine” rather than “teaching” to emphasize that this is an essential part of the Church’s task of evangelization. Pope John Paul II ended any speculation about whether the social mission of the Church is integral and fundamental by declaring that “the new evangelization which the modern world urgently needs . . . must include among its essential elements a proclamation of the Church’s social doctrine.” Catholic social tradition has “permanent value” and is “genuine doctrine” that enables the church to “analyze social realities, to make judgments about them and to indicate directions to be taken for the just resolution of the problems involved” (*Centesimus Annus*, Nos. 3, 5).

Both our new saints have had a profound influence on the mission of the Church and Catholic social teaching. Among the documents of the Second Vatican Council was *Ad Gentes*, the Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church. Collaborators on that document included Bishop Karol Wojtyla, later Pope John Paul II, and Father Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI. Father Johannes Schütte SVD, who was the superior general of Divine Word Missionaries, was chairman of the editorial committee for that great mission document.

Among his many works, Pope John Paul II published the encyclical letter *Redemptoris Missio*, subtitled “On the permanent validity of the church’s missionary mandate,” in which he invited the whole Church to renew her missionary commitment. Divine Word Missionaries, encouraged by Catholic social teaching play a vital part in the renewal of that missionary commitment throughout the world today.

(Note: The author referenced resource material from:  
<https://educationforjustice.org/>)



# Down On the Farm —In Madang

*Dale Kueter*



*Bro. Larry and Helen Kueter*

*Dale Kueter and his wife, Helen, visited Papua New Guinea, Australia, and New Zealand in April and May 2014. While in Papua New Guinea, they visited Brother Larry Kieffer SVD. Dale and Bro. Larry are life long friends who grew up on neighboring farms near Bellevue, Iowa.*



Divine Word Missionary Brother Larry Kieffer SVD faces some of the same problems that farmers everywhere experience—uncertain weather, insects, and changing prices.

Bro. Larry, a native of Bellevue, Iowa, has been a missionary in Papua New Guinea for forty-four years. Divine Word Missionaries has about a hundred members in that South Pacific country.

Several times a week he hops into his battered Nissan truck and drives into the bush on pothole-filled roads to inspect Divine Word Missionaries' cocoa and coconut plantation located about twenty-five miles north of Madang.

While visitors are pouring sweat, he barely notices the ninety-degree heat and high humidity of the tropical

forest. It is easy to understand why Bro. Larry has a sweater with him, even on summer days, when he visits Iowa every three years.

“Good morning, Joseph,” Larry greets a smiling man who runs the day-to-day operation of the plantation. At age seventy-eight, Bro. Larry is “sort of retired,” but is the general manager. The plantation, nestled along the banks of the Pacific Ocean’s Bismarck Sea, has about 460 acres.

“Oh, look at the nice new growth,” Larry says, pointing to the cocoa trees that grow amid the towering coconut trees. Healthy plants are always a concern.

Right now the problem is the cocoa pod borer, a nemesis that penetrates the cocoa bean and eats the meaty interior. Damage this year could be as high as fifty percent.



Farmers in Queensland, Australia, have fought the same problems and are on the verge of defeating the pest.

Deep in the jungle, Bro. Larry finds Michael, who is husking coconuts, harvesting the inside flesh that is known as copra once it is dried. It is a source for coconut oil. Later, we visit six women who are opening the cocoa pods and removing the precious beans that will become chocolate.

At the bush plantation headquarters are buildings where furnaces fed by coconut husks dry the coconut flesh. Just outside are large concrete platforms where the sun is drying the cocoa beans. A low-profile roof on rails covers the beans at night to keep out animals and possible rain.

The plantation produces about 1.5 tons of copra per week in good conditions, and two tons of cocoa beans per month. Income, as for most world commodities, depends on the market. Coconut oil prices sometimes soar to a record high because of a copra shortage. Papua New Guinea is among the top ten producers of coconut in the world. Brother Larry was getting \$150 for a bag of copra weighing approximately 136 pounds.

The plantation provides jobs and income for about forty people. The income also supports a number of missionary services in the area, such as building and maintaining churches, health centers, and schools.

Papua New Guinea has changed since Bro. Larry first arrived. There are no longer headhunters in the Highlands, the mountainous region west of Madang. The country gained its independence from Australia in 1975 and is growing and gradually taking its place in the family of nations.

Long ago, an earthquake greeted Bro. Larry during his first night in Papua New Guinea, and a number of years ago, a powerful tsunami struck the coastal area several hundred miles northwest of Madang. Earthquakes are still a threat, but the earth and volcanoes on nearby islands have been quiet in recent months. The region sits on the Ring of Fire, an earthquake-prone circle that runs down to New Zealand and then up through Chile, California, and Alaska before swinging back through China and Japan. The last great earthquake in the region was in 2011.

About eighty percent of Papua New Guinea's seven million people live in rural areas. Life for them is still one of day-to-day subsistence. The few roads that lead into Madang are packed with walkers since few people own vehicles of their own. Some people wear flip-flops and many are barefooted. A public bus system does operate in Madang Province.

Many farmers have open-air markets along the roads. However, Madang has several modern, air conditioned food stores. There are electronics stores and stores that sell a variety of merchandise. There is even a resort with a nine-hole golf course tucked along a Pacific cove.

"We have a small upper class and then the lower class," Bro. Larry explained, "and a few in the middle."

At the plantation, there is an idyllic spot where the thick bush gives way to the brilliantly clear, blue-green water of the Pacific Ocean. A man fishes at the mouth of a broad

Your Mass offering directly helps and supports our missionaries in their ministries.

inlet. Another, just east of a clearing, gently rocks his child in a small hammock outside the family's thatched house. There is a short dock for fishermen and boaters nearby. Next to it is a grassy, shady area, a popular spot for picnics.

There is an elementary school on the plantation and a monthly health clinic for babies and children. At St. Joseph the Worker Church on the plantation, Mass is celebrated on Sundays for the workers and people in nearby villages.

In addition to the plantation, Divine Word Missionaries also operates Divine Word University, a modern-looking college in Madang with 1,400 students. Education is the key to Papua New Guinea's future. Half of the students at the university are women, an enrollment balance Divine Word Missionaries has striven to achieve. Divine Word Missionaries are well known in Papua New Guinea, a nation in a remote part of the world often regarded as the last frontier. Other Catholic religious orders and Protestant churches have mission operations in Papua New Guinea as well.

Madang is home for Brother Larry, a 1953 graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Bellevue. The farm boy who grew up north of Bellevue in frigid winters and hot summers is happy and comfortable with life and temperatures in the equatorial zone. At a small chapel, he participates in weekday Mass with Archbishop Stephen Reichert (originally from Kansas), and other archdiocesan priests, officials, and staff, while the squawks of native birds and a distant crowing rooster join the liturgy.

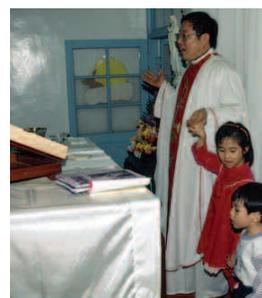
Brother Larry lives at the archdiocesan complex in Madang, a coastal city with a population of 25,000. His small office and living quarters are in one of the half-dozen or so buildings of the complex an easy two-block walk from the cathedral.

It still takes a month for mail to reach Madang and Bro. Larry. Now he depends more on the Internet, if the system is working. He sends e-mails and logs onto Bloomberg for the latest market information. And, of course, he checks the latest news on his beloved Cleveland Indians.

Thanks to his innovative driving, Larry misses eighty percent of the potholes in the road on the return trip from the plantation to Madang. He is happy as a missionary and farmer in Papua New Guinea, and he summed it up with a simple, reflective statement, "I could not have made a better choice of vocation or missionary country in which to live."

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### Mass Intention:

Living  Deceased

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**November 8, 2013,  
brought the news that  
a devastating storm,  
Typhoon Haiyan, had  
struck the southern  
Philippines.**

**Immediately, and through  
the following months,  
donations for the victims  
poured in from across the  
United States. Thanks to  
the generosity of our  
many friends, the Mission  
Center in Techny, Illinois,  
raised over \$400,000.**

**Today, guided by Father  
Heinz Kulueke SVD from  
our headquarters in  
Rome, funds raised from  
around the world  
continue to be distributed  
in the areas ravaged by  
Typhoon Haiyan.**

# **Taking Stock of Good Deeds**

*Heinz Kulueke SVD*

**In August 2014, I visited the disaster area caused by Typhoon Haiyan. About two million people were affected by the typhoon. The loss of family members and property was devastating. Emergency aid from around the world came in the form of food, drinking water, medical care, and trauma work that included the burial of the dead. With the aid of our generous benefactors, coupled with the coordinated efforts of a Divine Word Missionary Disaster Team, the reconstruction work is progressing well.**

**Presented here is an overview of all the efforts, programs, and activities onsite in Leyte, on the island of Bantayan, and in northern Cebu as of August 2014:**

### ***Emergency aid for families***

About 25,000 survival packs were distributed to families during the time of crisis. Many children and families participated in programs to help them process the trauma they experienced.

### ***Five thousand transitional houses constructed***

Transitional housing was chosen in order to get people out of tents or tarpaulins quickly. The houses benefit the greatest number of people who desperately need a proper roof over their heads. Five thousand transitional houses have already been built. The cost of a transitional house varies from \$450 to \$650, depending on its size and construction materials.

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Helped Rebuild  
The Philippines**

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***Repair of damaged buildings and construction of new school buildings***

A total of two hundred school buildings were damaged and are gradually being repaired and reconstructed. For many children, classes continued under tarpaulins after the disaster. To date, two school buildings have been completely rebuilt and were commissioned at the beginning of the new school year in June 2014. More school buildings remain damaged and will have to be repaired.

***Help for children***

Many of the children, especially those from poor families, lost their school supplies. Backpacks,

uniforms, and shoes were given out. Five thousand children have benefited from this program and this support will continue in the coming school year, or until the families have a steady income again.

***Income-generating activities***

- Fishermen received 125 motorboats to re-establish their businesses.
- Agricultural implements and tools were given to 1,400 families.
- Power tools were distributed so families could build their own homes.
- Seedlings, water buffalo, sheep, goats, and pigs were given to families to raise and sell.



### **Accounting of received funds**

The funds for all these projects were collected by the different Mission Offices of the Society of the Divine Word (aka Divine Word Missionaries) around the world. Our Generalate in Rome monitors the allocation of funds to the Southern Province of Divine Word Missionaries in the Philippines through the statements from the Mission Offices. Implementation of the projects is carried out by the Development Office of Divine Word Missionaries on location in Cebu.

### **Evaluation of aid for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan**

Father Daisuke Narui SVD is the coordinator for the development work of Divine Word Missionaries worldwide. He was in the Philippines in September 2014 to evaluate the various on-site assistance programs of the Divine Word Missionaries. This evaluation was necessary to prepare better for future disaster relief in the Philippines and around the world. Father Narui traveled in many disaster areas in different countries before taking over the global coordination work for Divine Word Missionaries. His work for Caritas Japan included coordinating assistance for the victims of tsunamis in different Asian countries and aid for the victims of the nuclear reactor disaster in Japan.

Thank you for your life-changing aid that made a difference in the lives of many people, especially the children. Your aid assures a brighter future for Leyte, Cebu, and other areas in the Philippines. Because of the global network of Divine Word Missionaries and very generous donors, the families affected by Typhoon Haiyan know that they were not left alone in the midst of dire needs and desolation.

Special thanks also go to the agencies that helped in the rehabilitation of the Divine Word Hospital in Tacloban. Many medical devices were destroyed during the typhoon and had to be replaced. The hospital is now fully operational again and can offer to the local people the necessary services they need. (Various devices such as MRI, CT-Scan, and X-ray units had to be replaced.)

During my visit, I met many of the people who have benefited from the assistance programs. About three hundred children welcomed me and offered words of thanks for being able to go to school again. The head of the village community introduced me to a thirty-year-old woman named Jocelyn. Jocelyn lost her husband and two children during the typhoon. She showed me her new house, where she lives with her two remaining children. Jocelyn is deeply grateful for their new home and the assurance that her children can continue to go to school. Jocelyn sighed with relief and told me, "Because of the love we receive, our life can go on." She paused and looked at her children, "Their lives can go on."

All this would not have been possible without the generous help of so many people. Especially in times of bitter hardship, global solidarity takes on a special meaning and gives new life to others.

**Thank you!**





## Update: Another Typhoon in 2014

*Ganie Ehido SVD*

Typhoon Hagupit (Ruby) made landfall in the Philippines on December 6, 2014. Liceo del Verbo Divino, our school in Tacloban, was utilized as an evacuation center for about 250 families. The Missionaries of Charity and the people they serve sought shelter at the school also. Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters gave the evacuees rice and canned goods. The electricity went out, so the school is using a generator borrowed from Divine Word Hospital in Tacloban.

The typhoon was not as strong as Haiyan in 2013. Nevertheless, the winds were powerful and decreased slowly as the storm moved out. Our school chapel building was unroofed, as was the newly rebuilt walkway near the entrance of the school. At the hospital, some sections were destroyed again. A portion of a wall fell down. Flooding made moving around difficult. Fallen trees and debris were hazardous.

As I write this, it December 11, 2014 and the general situation is already stable.

We are still evaluating damage in some areas where our housing projects were implemented. We estimate that the houses located near the sea or perched on elevated places could have suffered damage again.

There is no massive destruction such as we had from Haiyan, nor is the death toll as high. But, as you can imagine, the people who suffered so much just a year ago are traumatized again by the rushing winds, surging flood waters, and loss of homes, possessions, and livelihoods. The most serious destruction was in Eastern Samar Province, where thousands of people were evacuated and damage to houses, infrastructure, and farms has been reported.

Thanks to the lessons learned from Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, the people and the government were better prepared. Some government agencies quickly organized the distribution of relief materials and food.

Divine Word Missionaries will again collaborate with NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and church organizations near the affected areas. In the meantime, we continue to implement unfinished projects for survivors of last year's Typhoon Haiyan such as housing projects, school repairs, and livelihood programs.



# God Goes before Us

*Ashwin Vas SVD*

**I** just came back from an eventful and tiresome journey to the places where we have no Catholic communities. It was like the journey of Paul and Barnabas. I traveled with Raimundo da Sousa, a catechist who had gone to the villages to announce that we were coming to visit. No one believed him because they have not seen a priest since the years of the civil war and fragile periods of peace that lasted from 1975 until 2002. The most distant community was over one hundred and eighteen miles away. Over two days we ate only once, did not take a bath, slept on the floor, and traveled over rugged roads.

The journey was worth it because we can now begin our work in three of the four villages that we visited. I learned





**"God loves a cheerful giver."**

**-2 Cor. 9:7**

**Joyfully take part in the mission to the nations.**

**A monetary gift on your part is a sign of self-offering, first to the Lord and then to others; in this way your gift can become a means for the evangelization of humanity built on love.**

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some inspiring stories during the trip. In one village, a man built a small hut with mud and sticks and prayed there for two years. His friends and neighbors would not join him, since no one believed that someone would come to visit them. When we arrived, the man was so moved with joy that he could not speak. It made us forget our hunger, discomfort, and pains.

Now the people believe that they are wanted and that "people of God," as they call us, will visit them. This is just the beginning, and it makes me think of Jesus' parable of the seed in chapter thirteen of the Gospel of Matthew. The seeds sown during our journey need a lot of continuous nurturing, otherwise they will wither and fade.

Keep us in your prayers always. I write this to help all of us realize that God goes before us.

**"Like Us"**

**Divine Word Missionaries**



**Help us build our network**



# Not Bored Anymore

*Albert Nampara SVD*



**M**y journey as a missionary priest has taken me from my native country of Indonesia to a parish in Menzingen, Switzerland. It was not long before I noticed that the only young people at Mass on Sundays were the altar servers. I soon realized that the youth had little interest in coming to church because, for them, it was a boring place. It was difficult to have any contact with the young people, so I wondered what I could do to give them the joy that they longed for but could not find. Then I realized that two of my own talents would give me ways to reach out to them.

I began to visit the grandparents. Gradually, I got to know their children and grandchildren. At family Masses, the youth often came with their parents, so I used those occasions to get to know families also.

I am interested in music and began to play songs the young people liked on the guitar, harmonica, keyboard, and saxophone. The young people were attracted to the music and instruments and were willing to become involved. I invited children between the ages of eight and eighteen to get together to play music. They had many different instruments including trumpets, accordion, piano, flutes, and violins and they knew how to read



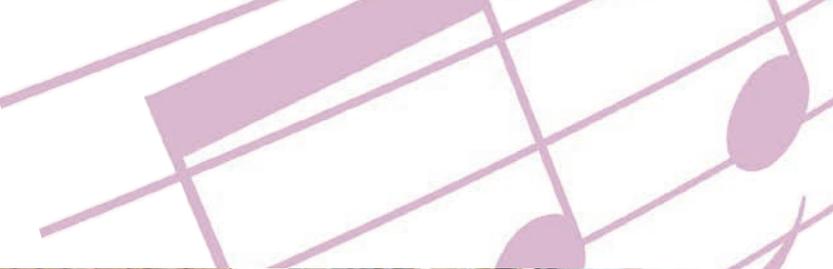
notes. Together we played church songs and the youth enjoyed it. Soon we were able to play during Masses. The parents have become curious and interested in what I am doing and come to Mass when their children are playing.

We have been invited to homes for the elderly, where youth and their families play favorite songs for the residents. The people's faces light up with joy as they sing along with us. I have also celebrated Mass at a family's farm. Someone played an alpenhorn while young boys played accordions. Cowbells ringing in the fields could be heard in the distance.

I have always enjoyed sports, so on other occasions I have invited the young people to play badminton, volleyball, or soccer. This has given me new opportunities to get to know the children and their families. They are surprised and happy when I recognize them and call them by name at church or in other places.

The connection between the parish, the young people, and their families is growing stronger through these activities. It gives me joy to see them at Mass and parish gatherings more regularly.





The young people are hungry to know the truth about life and are exploring their own personal path in life. They seek the truths and values that will give authentic meaning to their lives. They want to commit themselves to what will make the world a better place. Every day they meet difficulties caused by weaknesses in family life, negative influences of the media, and confusing messages from society. They often become doubtful and confused.

I am inspired by the Emmaus story in Luke 24:13-35. Two of Jesus' disciples walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus. A man they did not recognize approached and walked with them. The disciples talked about everything that had happened to Jesus, about the hopes they had had, and about the amazing story of angels and Jesus' body not being found in the tomb. Their traveling companion began to talk about the Scriptures. It became late so they stopped. At their evening meal, the man broke bread, blessed it, and gave it to them. In that moment, the disciples knew it was Jesus and he vanished from their sight.



As a priest and pastoral leader in the Church, I want to be for the youth and people of the parish what Jesus was to his disciples: a companion traveling with them in life. Together we travel the path to the fullness of life with Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior. I will continue to do all I can to help them to believe, to share their gifts widely, and to have a sense of belonging to the global Catholic community. Hopefully they will not be bored anymore! Please pray for God's blessings on us.



# A Different Kind of Feast

*Andrzej Dzida SVD*



**I**t was around midnight when I heard excited voices and saw bobbing flashes of light. The voices became louder and louder as excitement grew more intense. To satisfy my curiosity, I got out of bed to see what was happening.



I was surprised to see scores of people from our parish moving about outside with flaming torches. After a moment, I realized that they were hunting flying termites. The termites were attracted to the light. The “hunters” know where and when the termites will leave their underground nests by observing the elements of nature. The people are amazingly accurate. They were there that night to make sure that the emerging swarms of termites reached their waiting buckets.



The hunt was very successful, and the next day, the people began the process of cleaning and drying the termites. This particular kind of termite is edible and can be used in many delicious dishes.

One of our missionaries, Father Bernard Ilunga SVD, is from Congo and knows about this tasty food. He did not miss the opportunity to join the hunt and collect a great number of termites. Now we have more than enough termites for the coming year. Thanks to his culinary skills, I have had a chance to eat termites prepared in different ways. My favorite recipe is with eggs. For sure, a little more protein is very helpful in our missionary life because we do not have many ways to diversify our diet.

If you need a recipe from Fr. Bernard’s cookbook, I will try to find out one of his mother’s secret recipes. I have told my family that I will not bring them any termites when I come home to Poland to visit. I think I will wait for my favorite cheesecake and vegetable salad instead. *Bon appétit!*

**View more photos on our website at: [www.svdmissions.org](http://www.svdmissions.org)**

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**on Divine Word Missionaries**





# REJOICE!

*Stephen Bonsu SVD*

I began to experience my greatest joy in my service as a religious missionary when I was asked by my superiors to teach at St. Paul Technical School in Kukurantumi, Ghana. In my few years in the teaching ministry, I have found that teaching is a very time-consuming vocation. I have to make lesson notes every day, do extra studies to be ahead of my students, and attend to my responsibilities as a religious in the community where I belong. But despite all these, I am very happy to be a teacher in the classroom. A number of my former students are now in high positions in the government offices. Some have become very important people in the country. Very often I meet some of my former students. From a distance, I hear somebody calling me, "Sir, how are you?" Then, I ask, "But where do you know me?" "Sir, you taught me in the technical school," they answer. This brings great joy in my heart.

The Gospel, radiant with the glory of Christ's cross, constantly invites me to rejoice. "Rejoice!" is the angel's greeting to Mary (Lk. 1:28). Mary's visit to Elizabeth makes John leap for joy in his mother's womb (Lk. 1:41). In her song of praise, Mary proclaims, "My spirit rejoices





# JOYCE!

in God my Savior” (Lk. 1:47). Consequently, as a religious, I must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!

The joy of the Gospel is such that it cannot be taken away from me by anyone or anything (Jn.16:22). The evils of our world—and those of the Church—must not be our excuses for diminishing our commitment and our fervor. I look upon them as challenges which can help me grow. With the eyes of faith, I can see the light that the Holy Spirit always radiates in the midst of darkness, never forgetting that “where sin increased, grace has abounded all the more” (Rom. 5:20). My faith is challenged to discern how wine can come from water and how wheat can grow in the midst of weeds.

For many years now in my service as a religious missionary, I have the daily joy of praying Morning Prayer with my community and participating in the Eucharistic celebration before I start my daily work. In all the places I have worked, my joy in my service as a religious missionary has attracted some of the youth to consider this kind of vocation. Many of them have become religious sisters, Brothers, and priests. This too gives me joy.

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BUT YOU MAKE ME HAPPY.  
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS HOPELESS,  
BUT YOU GIVE ME NEW HOPE.**

**LOVING GOD, I THANK YOU  
THAT YOU ARE WITH ME IN MY LIFE. AMEN.**

In 1896, Father Arnold Janssen sent the first group of Divine Word Missionaries to what is now known as Papua New Guinea. Mission stations were opened along the coast, and later, in the mountainous interior areas.

The world wars, especially World War II, devastated our missions in Papua New Guinea. Many priests and Brothers lost their lives, and churches, schools, and buildings were destroyed. After the war ended, Divine Word Missionaries were sent to rebuild and continue the work there.

Many changes have taken place in the country and in the Catholic Church in Papua New Guinea over the years. Today there are 4 Divine Word Missionary bishops, 74 priests, 22 Brothers in Papua New Guinea, with 12 young men in formation.

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# AUTHORS

**Dale Kueter** is a retired writer in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He and his wife, Helen, visited Papua New Guinea, Australia, and New Zealand in April and May 2014. Mr. Kueter and Brother Larry Kieffer SVD are long-time friends who grew up on neighboring farms near Bellevue, Iowa.

**Phillip Gibbs SVD** is a Divine Word Missionary priest from New Zealand. Since 1973, he has served in various capacities as parish priest, director of a pastoral center, seminary teacher, and researcher at the Melanesian Institute for Caritas Australia. He is currently the secretary of the Office of Social Concerns for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Papua New Guinea. Father Gibbs has a postgraduate diploma in anthropology and a doctoral degree in theology.

**Heinz Kulueke SVD** was born in Spelle, Germany, in 1956. Before entering Divine Word Missionaries, he was an electrical engineer and served in the German Air Force. He joined Divine Word Missionaries in 1979, professed first vows in 1981, and was ordained in 1986. He was assigned to the Philippines, where he served for twenty-six years. Fr. Kulueke has a master's degree and doctoral degree in philosophy and taught philosophy at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, Philippines. He was elected superior of the Southern Province of Divine Word Missionaries in the Philippines. During his years in the Philippines, Fr. Kulueke was dedicated to helping the poorest of the poor. His has brought his commitment to the poor to his leadership as superior general since he was elected in July 2012.

**Albert Nampara SVD** is from Ruteng, Indonesia. He professed first vows in 1992 and was ordained in 1999. After language studies in Germany, he took up his assignment to parish ministry in Switzerland. Currently, Fr. Nampara serves in the parish in Menzingen.

**Andrzej Dzida SVD** was born in Poznan, Poland. He professed first vows in 2003 and was ordained in 2013. He is now part of the pioneering group of Divine Word Missionaries serving in South Sudan.

**Ashwin Vas SVD** is from Neerude, India. He professed first vows as a Divine Word Missionary in 2001. He was ordained in 2009 and received his mission assignment to Angola in Africa. Father Vas serves in the Kakolo parish and is also vice-provincial of the Angola Province of Divine Word Missionaries.

**Stephen Bonsu SVD** was born in Bankamba-Kpandai, Ghana. After his early education, he earned intermediate and advanced certificates in blocklaying, bricklaying, and concreting. In 1990, Stephen entered Divine Word Missionaries as a Brother candidate and professed first vows in 1992. Bro. Stephen continued formation to be a Brother and his professional training in construction. He professed professed final vows in 1998. He has a diploma in building construction, a certificate in education, and a bachelor of science degree in construction technology education. Since 2013, he has been teaching at St. Paul Technical School Kukuranfumi, Ghana.

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