



# Keeping in touch

*Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*

**OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED**

November 2017

## SOUTH AFRICA

### NEWS FROM BAKHITA VILLAGE

In most of the villages there is no electricity and no running water. The houses are built from scrap iron, wood or even cardboard. If they do not own the shack they have to pay rent to a landlord who can be unscrupulous. Those who are fortunate enough to reside at Bakhita Village have the advantage of being in a safe, secure and attractive environment and are well cared for by dedicated staff. This group of girls reside at Bakhita Village. As winter approached they were very happy to receive a colourful blanket each to keep them warm as they watched television in the evening or just spent time doing indoor school activities. Some of this same group of girls come from very poor homes in the surrounding villages.



*Girls from Bakhita Village*

### NEWS FROM KURISANANI

The day these photos were taken, Sr Helen had delivered a large food parcel and spent time with some of the members of this very needy family. It is three weeks now since the mother died of HIV/Aids. The teenage girl of the family was caring for her own three children as well as five of her sister's children. Her sister had died as a result of a workplace accident. Our Kurisanani carers continue to visit this home regularly to check that all is well and that the responsible adult and the children in her care are supported.



*Baby from the village*



*Sr Helen with family from the village*



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MEMBER

The *Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Incorporated* is a member of the Australian Council of International Development (ACFID). Their Code of Conduct requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

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

Gifts of \$2 or more  
are tax deductible

## NEWS FROM NZHELELE

Here at Sacred Heart Mission in Nzhelele, South Africa, there are support days for orphans. The children come and are divided into small groups to enjoy activities, have health checks, be informed about issues of concern and are given a hot meal. Trained carers, the OLSH Sisters and volunteers are mentors and activity leaders. This is a positive experience for the children and they love coming. Any problems such as house maintenance or school advocacy is also dealt with when children have one-to-one time. Our thanks to Overseas Aid donors for helping to support the wellbeing of these children.

the village. There children need to bring water from the creek, carrying it back home. They have to have a spade and pick axe to break up the stony ground and prepare a suitable garden bed. Every day they have to remember to water the plants. They use the water from washing themselves and their cooking pots. If the sun is very harsh they also need to make a shade with palm tree branches to protect the young plants from burning up. They also need a fence to keep the wandering goats, cows, donkeys and wild pigs out!



*Sr Jeanne and Sr Christine Martin with the young villagers*



*Essential school items*



*Planting in the field*



*Bringing water from the creek*

The Sisters keep all orphaned children in school uniforms, compulsory even in rural South Africa, so they are not turned away from class. Thanks to the donations, from the OLSH Overseas Aid Fund in Australia, these keen students are provided with the essentials needed to begin a happy year at their local school.

At Sacred Heart mission Nzhelele, South Africa, a group of orphaned children are being taught how to grow vegetables. This is a very important life skill for them. Here at the mission the ground was prepared, fencing installed, seeds given and the water supply is nearby. It is not like this back in

the orphan drop-in Centre, open every week day, children come for after school activities. The two groups here are with carers who check their homework, personal hygiene, health, play games, have quizzes and help the children to prepare items for entertainment.



*Children's after school program*

## NEWS FROM KIRIBATI

We are very appreciative to all our benefactors who have so generously contributed to the OLSH Overseas Aid Fund this year. Your generosity enables us to genuinely increase the quality of life of the families we assist in Kiribati. From the construction of a shelter for vulnerable women to practical solutions to assist families in their daily lives, the funds we are able to raise are put to many diverse and necessary uses.



*Damaged sea wall*

During the high tide season families are unable to utilise their land for simple daily tasks as hanging washed clothes. By restoring the coastal areas for use the local family's normal routines can continue without the stress and fear of tidal changes that affect their way of life. Families, Communities and an Institute in the region have expressed their deep gratitude for our assistance.

## NEWS FROM SOUTH SUDAN

### – Mary Immaculate Hospital Mapuordit

Mary Immaculate DOR Hospital in Mapuordit continues to provide health care to a large catchment area (more than 20,000) and for people much further afield, who come in search of good health care. The hospital has 98 staff, all local and with varying degrees of training, and is supported by ten expatriate qualified staff, including two Religious Brothers.

In the last five months, a suspected Cholera epidemic, worked its way to Mapuordit and during that period we have treated approximately 120 cases. The area formerly used by the relatives of admitted patients, providing a cooking/sleeping area, was co-opted and transformed into an eight bed unit capable of caring for acutely ill patients with suspected



*Two junior nurses*

cholera. With very few admissions to the Cholera Ward in the past few weeks we hope to be able to close the unit by month end. Reserve funds of the hospital were used to buy all the extra equipment and drugs needed for this unexpected extra influx of patients. Reserve funds are always kept ready for such occasions and are accumulated from any donations not tied to a specific purpose or project.

Those qualified staff supported through OLSH Overseas Aid Fund projects continue to provide a good service

to the hospital. We are very grateful for the salary support offered for these vital staff. These photos show some of the beneficiaries (staff) at their nursing duties.



### Thank you from Mapuordit

Deep gratitude to all who responded so generously to the appeal for funding assistance. Food is being continually purchased and we are able to respond to the many needy victims of the famine. Skeletal figures are slowly gaining flesh and energy. Famine victims still present though numbers are declining; all who come are assisted and it is you who provided their food. Blessings from the many who would not have survived the famine crisis without your help. Thank you, Sr Wendy and Sr Rita.



*Sr Wendy with Mapuordit women*



*Women gardening in South Sudan*

**Rising Tides at Kiribati** - During April 2017 homes were affected by the rising ocean tides. It is heart breaking to see the situation of these people in our local communities. Currently we have eight families and six large communities on our waiting list for assistance. We assist the neediest first, which is, most of the time very difficult to decide.



*Building shelters*

**The OLSH Crisis Centre** now fills the need for accommodation for women and children who have suffered abuse. Further development, such as separate accommodation for the children, is planned to cater for their future needs. For privacy reasons we do not publish photos of these members of the community.



*Outpatient registration area.*



*Banner made by the women*

## NEWS FROM FIJI - RABI ISLAND

In its sixth year, of supporting the Rabi Island communities in Fiji, the OLSH Overseas Aid Fund donated towards its tenth project aiding secondary school students at the only high school on the island. Rabi High School is now equipped with twelve laptop computers with external speakers, a multifunction printer and two internet modems for connectivity. This could not have come at a better time. Previously the school had a computer laboratory filled with mostly unrepaired desktop computers and access to the online information was a definite problem, restricting their ability to research on topics. With this assistance, we anticipate the students doing well in online topic preparation, typing assignments and preparing for their public examinations and venturing to tertiary level studies in the future.

Being a Pacific Islander myself it is indeed a joyous occasion to see the smiles of disbelief on the faces of

those the project purports to serve, the school children of Rabi High School. Having said that, it is never too late to say "Thank you so much OLSH" on behalf of the people of Rabi, Rabi High School staff and students and the project team in Fiji! – Sr. Teitirua Tangata olsh



Updated computer room

## Christmas Cards

**Get your Christmas cards out early this year!**

They are \$6 for a package of 6 cards, with \$2 postage per package. Please contact the office on 02 9663 3599 if you wish to purchase, or download a donation form and specify that you want cards.

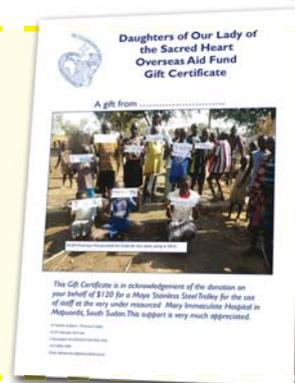


## Gift Certificates

**Gift Certificates are available for those who wish to use their donation as a gift for others.**

Use a form printable from the website or, alternatively, contact OLSH Overseas Aid on 02 9663 3599.

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



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

**Regularly we receive applications that far exceed the money we have available, and a bequest is a chance for you to do great things. Although you will not be here personally you will still be able to make a real difference.**

If you would like to include the work of our Mission in your will, we will gladly advise your solicitor of the specific terms of the bequest. Alternately, Michael O'Dea AM of Carroll and O'Dea Lawyers, would be happy to advise you at no cost. He may be contacted directly at 02 9291 7104.

Or would you like to request mourners at your loved one's funeral to donate to OLSH Overseas Aid in lieu of flowers? Both these things can make a significant difference to the way we can help the people in need.

## Online donations can now be made from the OLSH Australia website.

Because of the high cost of postage, we are gradually moving away from sending hard copies of the KIT to our donors. Many have let us know their wish to have the newsletter sent to their email address.

If you would like to help us save postage, please send an email to the address below.