



Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

Dear friends of the OLSH Missions

November 2010

KIRIBATI Overseas Aid supports three main areas in Kiribati: Education, the OLSH Crisis Centre and the Alcohol Awareness Family Recovery Program. Following are profiles of two young girls who have been influenced by these programs:

A. My name is Teretia. I would like to share some of my life story. In my school days I used to drink a lot and gave my parents a hard time, so much so that my parents sent me away to live with my grandfather.



After some time I went back to my parents because I loved them. My father told me he was pleased to see me being obedient. I was delighted to hear him say this. But not very long afterwards I started drinking again. So my parents decided to send me to the AAFR Centre.

During my stay there I attended lectures and other sessions. I believe that the AAFR programme and prayer healed me and helped me overcome my alcoholic life.

Looking back I feel ashamed for what I did in the past when I used to drink. I feel I am free of the problems and difficulties I had and I am very grateful for my changed life.

B. My name is Bwenataake. My father is Orotanga and I do not know my mother because she abandoned me when I was very little. She left me with my fathers' family who did not accept me, except for my aunt, Neikiebu who took me and raised me as one of her children. She has eight children and she told me that I am the seventh in the family.

I do not know my real age but my aunt told me that the sixth in the family is 13, and the one

after me is 11. This means that I am 12 years old. My uncle works but spends all his money on drink. My aunt works hard to get food for us. She goes out collecting shell-fish and sells them. When she comes home my uncle takes the money and spends it again on his drink.

Now I am staying with the OLSH Sisters. My other older sister stays with the Sisters too. Both of us left home because my uncle abused us. The policemen took me to the Sisters. The Sisters are very good to us. One of them taught me to crochet and now I am making shoulder bags.

I thank God for the care I receive from the Sisters. I sew my new clothes. I help around the convent. I know now how to water the garden using the electric pump. They also help me to read and write and to tell the time.

Even though I am enjoying life with the Sisters I am still sad and home sick. I miss my family, my brothers and sisters. I want to see them. Recently, I received a letter from my sister who is staying with the Sisters on an outer island. I was very happy to hear from her that she is doing her Form 3 and she is studying very hard for the entrance exam to Form 4 next year.

*Bwenataake and her aunt stayed at the Crisis Centre when her uncle was in prison. When he was released he went home which is near the Crisis Centre and he used to look for them there. So they came to stay at Teoraereke Convent which is further away and more secure. His case has not been brought to the courts yet.



The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Overseas Aid Incorporated is a signatory to the Australian Council For International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.
www.acfid.asn.au

Gifts of \$2 or more
are tax deductible

SOUTH AFRICA

During the year Sister Pauline Compton and Sister Therese McNamara from the OLSH Provincial Council visited the missions in South Africa. Here are some of their reflections:

A. The most moving experience at Ave Maria was meeting the volunteer carers who were being trained to work with AIDS victims. These volunteer carers are wonderful women and men who work in the villages with those who are ill and dying. Theirs is truly a work at the 'coal face'! Their voice raised in song at our morning Masses was wonderful to experience.



Sister Christine Martin with volunteers at Ave Maria

B. Our next encounter was with HIV positive children. There are 70 orphans at Holy Family, 35 of whom are HIV positive.

The children appear to be very emotionally needy and seek to hold, touch and be touched by all.

Little wonder that they seek such assurance and affection! Mary is totally given to the needs of the children. Lorraine organises out of school study, classes and activities both on weekdays and weekends and is also totally committed to the children as are Gabrielle and Helen who work in the clinic. The latter attend to the health and wellbeing of the children together with distributing and overseeing their medication.



Some of the children from Holy Family dancing for us.

It is impossible not to be deeply moved by the plight of these very young children who are so lovingly cared for.

The sisters have our greatest admiration. We are in awe of their ministry and the emotional demands it must make on them.



Pauline and Terie keeping warm on a chilly African evening

C. We were privileged to visit Bakhita Village and St Brendan's secondary school. Again we were deeply moved by the situation of the orphans and vulnerable children.

D. South Africa is a country of great contrasts and ambiguity. It has immense beauty and also the 'darkness' of corruption and witchcraft. It is a country of wealth as well of poverty and injustice.

We have the greatest admiration for our sisters who are on mission in South Africa and thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their generosity and self giving. They are indeed, trying to make a difference to the lives of the people and children among whom they minister and they certainly bring them the presence and compassionate love of God.

We thank them for the love and the witness of their lives. Our visit was a greatly blessed and rich experience for which we are abundantly grateful.



OLSH Missions in South Africa

SUDAN

In a recent letter from Sr Mary Batchelor to the donors for Sudan, she said: "It was good to return to Mapuordit [after a holiday in Australia] without responsibility for the Secondary School [Sr Philippa Murphy is the new Principal of Comboni Secondary School], and not having to make decisions for such things as:

1. What to do when a qualified Science teacher from Kenya walked out after a few days.
2. How to implement a new syllabus, produced by the Government of South Sudan without any text books and including topics that are not in the current texts we use.
3. How to get from the Ministry of Education the certificates of the 2009 students, or any information regarding the 2010 exams. It goes on and on...

I am still looking after the Primary School, but we have a very good Dinka Head Teacher who carries most of the burden. The "new face" of the primary school is very exciting. After 18 years of mud brick classrooms (now beyond repair) permanent buildings are appearing in their place.

Funding agencies of the Rumbek Diocese have helped a lot, but right now a four-classroom block is being constructed from Overseas Aid contributions. One more block is needed and we hope for that in the near future. The "new look" has added a new dimension – the morale being high among teachers and pupils alike.

In the meantime a building program is underway for the secondary school, under the skilled leadership of Sr Philippa and the generous donations of many friends and benefactors. This is also a pressing need as most of the buildings there are locally built and need replacement."

HOW HAVE YOUR DONATIONS BEEN USED?

Following is a table outlining where your donations have gone this year. Funding Meetings are held twice a year. Donations in the last six months were up \$100 000 over the previous six months, due to two extremely generous individual donations.

We thank you so much for your generous support of people in some of the neediest areas of the world.

Country	Projects Supported	Amount Donated in 2010 in AUD
Angola	Female education at Cazombo	20 000
Burkina Faso	Infrastructure at Zagatouli Pre-School, Ougadougou	11 000
Kiribati	Education, OLSH Crisis Centre, Alcohol Awareness Programs	60 000
Philippines	Clinics, Education *	27 000
PNG	Infrastructure at St Gerard's School of Nursing	3 300
South Africa	Education, HIV/Aids Treatment, Refugee Support	160 000
Sudan	Infrastructure, Education, Health, Community Support	235 000

* \$40,000 more ready to send from one generous donor

TOTAL 516 300

IDEAS FOR GIFTS

1) Gift Certificates

Do you ever feel you are wasting your money giving gifts to loved ones who seem to have everything? Perhaps you would prefer to give them a gift certificate for much needed goods at the Mapuordit Hospital.

Interested?

Go to www.olshoverseasaid.org and click on the page for Sudan, then click on Supplies for the Hospital. You will see a range of items available for sale. If you see something you would like to give, download the order form and send it with payment to OLSH Overseas Aid.

The Gift Certificate will be emailed to you (along with your tax-deductible receipt) and you can print it off and give to your loved one. The money is sent to Sudan and they purchase the item when next in Nairobi (the closest large city).

In the last twelve months AUD22,000 has been donated to the hospital through the website for badly needed equipment.



2) OLSH Cards

This year we have produced some beautiful cards featuring people from some of our overseas missions.



Proceeds from the sale of the cards will go to these missions. Your support will be appreciated. Please see the order form on the back page.

3) 2011 Calendars

For the last few years the Canberra Rotary Club has created and sold beautiful calendars featuring areas in Africa.

The 2010 Calendar focused on St Jude's School in Tanzania and we are thrilled to report the 2011 Calendar will feature our mission in Angola.

The details are available on the insert.

OLSH Cards

This year we have produced some beautiful cards featuring people from some of our overseas missions. Proceeds from the sale of the cards will go to these missions. Your support will be appreciated. If you would like to order packets of 6 different cards, please fill in the details below, clip out the form and send to:

OLSH Overseas Aid Fund
2 Kensington Rd, KENSINGTON NSW 2033

I would like to order OLSH Overseas Aid Cards:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Number of packets Christmas _____

Blank _____

Cost \$6 per packet of 6: _____

PLUS Postage \$1 per packet: _____

Total: _____

Payment Options

Cheque enclosed payable to Trustees of DOLSH

Credit Card – see below

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard American Express

Credit Card Number: _____/_____/_____/_____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

Amount Authorised: _____



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

- If you would like to include the work of our Missions 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 7100.
- 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.