

Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

April 2015

MEMORIES OF SR MOIRA LYNCH RIP

Sr Moira Lynch was one of the founding members of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Mapuordit Mission in South Sudan. She went there in 1995 and Sr Mary Batchelor followed the next year. Moira Lynch died on Ash Wednesday and Sr Mary Batchelor has written the following in memory of her.

"I received the news of Moira's death with a mixture of feelings: sadness at the loss of a friend, joy as she enters her eternal reward, gratitude for the privilege of having lived and worked and prayed and loved with her, just the two of us, for close to seven years in South Sudan, classified at that time as the poorest nation in the world.

In this war-torn wilderness of displaced people Moira set up a clinic – a couple of bamboo huts, no doctors or qualified medical personnel of any kind apart from herself, and limited supplies of medicines – so power, no running water, no sanitation, no refrigeration, no nothing. Moira told me once the hardest thing for a nurse was to watch people die when you know they shouldn't. Moira did this, but she also did the opposite, she saved lives, many of them – victims of war and disease of all kinds – who would otherwise have died. Moira's Clinic is now a hospital, and even though it is twelve years since Moira left

Mapuordit (for health reasons) she is alive there today as she was the day she left. Her memory lives on in an extraordinary way in that hospital and surrounding districts. People still talk about Moira with awe and reverence, "our living saint" as they called her.

The Scripture reading for Mass on the Moira's "memories vigil" was taken from Isaiah and was so appropriate for Moira, "As the rain and snow came down from the heavens, and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield, and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes forth from my mouth, does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do."

I thank God for the gift of Moira to South Sudan and I thank Moira for the total gift of herself to the neediest of all people whom she loved without limit.

Perhaps some of you, if you are able, may like to make a donation to her Mission in South Sudan, to honour the memory of Sr Moira, as the work she began is being carried on by similarly committed people. If so please label your contribution Moira." At the time of writing, the Moira appeal has already raised \$8700. Thanks to those who have responded to Sr Mary's Appeal.



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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

Gifts of \$2 or more
are tax deductible

Picture: Sr Moira Lynch fdnsc

LOVE AND COMPASSION in action at Holy Family Care Centre

Holy Family Care Centre, Ofcolaco in the Limpopo Province of South Africa, is nestled below the majestic Drakensburg Mountains. The Centre cares for children, both male and female, between the ages of 0 to 18, especially those with HIV/Aids who are orphaned or vulnerable. Most of the children are malnourished, ill and traumatised when they arrive.

OLSH Sisters Srs Emilie, Sally and Jeanne take good care of the needs of the children along with the staff. One of the objectives of the Centre is to re-unite children with their families wherever possible. Unfortunately this cannot always happen and some of the children are here for many years.

The children are very happy and it is wonderful to see the way they adjust to life here. There are a number of programs to help them to heal and to grow. The centre needs continuing aid to keep the children fed, clothed and to provide the resources needed to implement the programs. At present Sr Jeanne is focusing on special education, helping many children who have fallen behind with their schooling.

Since Holy Family began in 2001 many volunteers have spent time at the Centre supporting the work of the sisters and making a difference in the lives of the children here.



Srs Emilie, Sally and Jeanne.



Baby Khutso



Sr Jeanne with students



Sr Emilie helping with a bath.

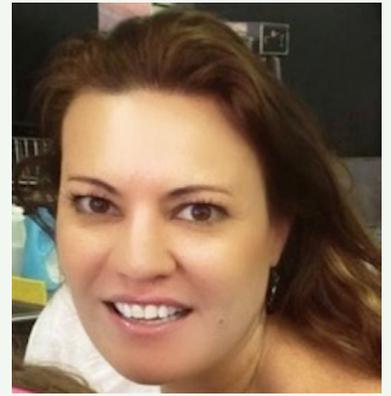
VOLUNTEERING AT HOLY FAMILY – Vanessa Ambrose

Volunteering at Holy Family has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The children were very helpful, happy and full of promise and hope. Every day was an exciting new adventure. I accompanied the children to and from school on the bus and their faces when greeting me were priceless. It is great to know that the children are in a safe and clean environment.

At Holy Family each child is given the opportunity to explore whatever gifts or talents they have. Because these children come from situations where they have been neglected, abused or abandoned, these children need all the love and protection possible. I was delighted to share in caring for the children for

the time I was with them. Every day we played games outside, read and learned new things.

Every child deserves the right to have a chance at life. Holy Family Care Centre is an environment where children are given the support they need to deal with their past and to look towards the future. I have had the time of my life here and shall never forget it.



Vanessa Ambrose with the children in the crèche.



Left: Carmel our Outreach Coordinator and Nurse and Louisa our Educator enjoying their FRIED GRASSHOPPERS DINNER – they are PALMS Volunteers.

Some information from Marc Purcell, Executive Director of the Australian Council for International Development regarding the importance of maintaining federal aid to overseas countries in the coming budget.



Last year Australian aid:

- Enabled over 1.3 million more children enrol in school.
- Built more than 9,000 new classrooms.
- Trained over 100,000 teachers across the region.
- Provided more than 400,000 poor farmers with access to farming technology.
- Vaccinated more than 2.3 million children.
- Ensured nearly 1 million additional births were attended by a skilled birth attendant.
- Helped over 66,000 women survivors of violence access critical services.
- Gave 2.9 million people access to safe drinking water.
- Increased access to basic sanitation for over 1 million people.
- Responded to emergencies in 24 countries including Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and flooding in Solomon Islands.

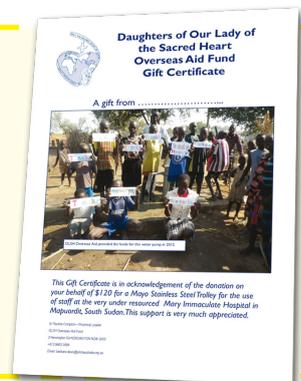
We at DOLSH Overseas Aid also take pride in contributing to lifting people out of poverty.

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.

Annual General Meeting

After the passing away of our Honorary Auditor James Evans, it has become necessary to find a new auditor. We are grateful for the many years of honorary service that Jim gave to the Overseas Aid Fund. It has been decided that we will use Ian Yum from Watson and Erskine, Level 4 55 Clarence St Sydney. The 2015 Annual General Meeting will be held on 28 April and a copy of the report will be available on the website shortly after.