

Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

May 2016

A LETTER FROM SR RITA GRUNKE IN SOUTH SUDAN:

Some excerpts:

I want to start this letter with a quote from Oscar Romero as it encapsulates where I feel I am at, at this stage of my presence in South Sudan. This is what he says:

"This is what we are about:

We plant the seeds that some day will grow.

We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects, far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that.

This enables us to do something and do it very well."

Even with the seemingly hopelessness of the situation here, my hope grows and I believe

in the end "THE TREE" will bear good fruit. Resources, both human and natural, are abundantly available. We just need cultural and attitudinal changes. This may take a century, but already positive glimpses are beginning to appear on a fairly distant horizon with WOMEN leading the way for change, peace and development. Open meetings, with women having a fair input, are frequent and problems are addressed. Our works of Education (including peace dramas), Health, Agricultural, Women's and Disadvantaged Youth Development, all continue because of your contribution to our work.

Blessings in abundance and again deep gratitude for enabling us to continue offering a quality service to the people of South Sudan.

Sr Rita Grunke



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**Gifts of \$2 or more
are tax deductible**



These goats love the water point too!



*The joy of plenty of water at
a new water point*



*Seedlings prosper with water and
a strong barrier*

Ametur Project South Africa – Sr Christine Martin

The main emphasis lately has been training young men in bricklaying. With little rain they have been busy, as bricks and cement are delivered, building two –room houses for Orphans and Vulnerable Children(OVC) to live. We have also undertaken pit toilets, guttering and tank stands. The fencing of orphans' properties has resulted in vegetable gardens being prepared. Wheelbarrows for collecting water and wood are essential. Curtaining windows and supplying items of furniture have been possible in some cases.

Orphans and vulnerable children struggle to remain in school when there is no income for uniforms, books, stationery, tuition, transport or daily necessities of life. OLSH Overseas Aid helps these young ones to stay focused on their studies by providing homes and school essentials.



A hamper delivered to a family



Sr Helen Armstrong supervising the delivery of a bed to one of the new homes



Ametur Project building team

Kiribati

OLSH Overseas Aid has responded to an urgent need to repair inadequate retaining seawalls in Kiribati. A local maternity hospital is very close to one wall and was recently severely damaged in bad weather. Kiribati is feeling the effects of climate change with rising sea levels. Cyclone Winston has caused further damage to this very low-lying group of islands.

The ongoing Empowering Women Project aims to educate women in Kiribati so they will have qualifications useful in other countries if and when they need to emigrate.



Waves flood over the existing retaining walls



Flooded maternity ward



Water-damaged site

Nzhelele

The sisters at the Nzhelele clinic also work hard to support the Orphans and Vulnerable Children. Many of the OVC have been assisted with obtaining birth certificates for securing an Identification Book, whilst referrals and networking with Social Workers, Government Departments and School Principals continues. An immune boosting food supplement is given to OVC who are HIV positive. Some OVC

have also had renovations to their houses, such as roof repairs, external rendering, window repairs, foundation repairs and painting. Educational resources, school uniforms, bags, books and track suits have been purchased. Each week the OVC are visited in their homes by their assigned caregiver and participate in weekly educational and fun activities relating to HIV/AIDS, TB, Health and Hygiene.



Nutritional Supplements



A caregiver at the Drop in Centre uses the ALphabet Chart to also promote nutritional values.



Srs Helene and Emily monitoring height and weight.

Some acknowledgements from the Mary Immaculate Hospital Mapuordit Annual General Report:

- **OLSH OVERSEAS AID**, Australia, for continuing to contribute towards South Sudanese staff private contracts, as well as dedicated projects such as medical supplies, salary of the RN Tutor who supervises ongoing staff development, educational aids (extensive contributions to our Reference Library), and so many other smaller projects. Their commitment to our Hospital and especially to the professional development of our Sudanese staff is so greatly appreciated. Included in these donations is the continued and greatly valued support of Mr. Dick Smith, the well-known Australian entrepreneur, as well as a number of regular donors connected to the families and friends of OLSH Sisters and of volunteer staff at the hospital.
- **LIBERTY INTERNATIONAL UNDERWRITERS(LIU)**- Sydney, Australia- Donating through OLSH Overseas Aid, the present three year commitment to top up staff new graduate salaries, especially in this climate of uncertainty about staff retention, is very much appreciated and helps us to plan better for the future. Many of our staff remember with great affection former volunteers, Anne and Ian Jackson, who continue in their fundraising efforts

for Mapuordit. We thank them for this commitment and for their initial introduction of the hospital's work to colleagues at LIU.

- At the end of the year we said goodbye to: Ms. Pauline Carr, who has worked with us for almost 9 years as a registered nurse/midwife, and in the areas of staff development and administration; as well as to Sr. "Philo"Ani'isa OLSH, who gave a valuable service to the community as senior midwife.



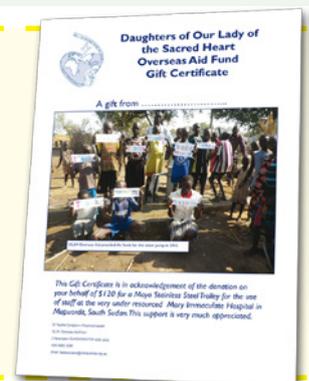
Pauline Carr, Dick Smith, Anne Jackson

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.