



Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

MAY 2019

SOUTH SUDAN

Progress in Mapuordit

Among the 18 candidates now in their third month of Nurse Training, there are two young ladies who, ten years ago, were shepherding the family's goats and sheep while training their small siblings to step into their role. Now with successful secondary studies behind them, they recall quite fondly their primary years of open air classrooms under trees at Amatnhom. This is progress.

Mapuordit is currently witnessing progress in another form. The ladies of Mapuordit, those without formal education, recently united to openly voice the need for cultural change, particularly in relation to family life. Polygamy and the resultant absence of the father figure in the home and family, and consequential overload of work and worry for the mums, are unsustainable.

The new step taken was that the authorities listened to the united voice of so many mothers declaring their unwillingness to continue accepting such burdens, since today's society gives evidence to much family disorder and hardship. A new project, a new development was needed to initiate a united change.



Progress in the women's garden



Testing the new hand pump

Gardening was awarded new status. There is sufficient evidence that much hunger is experienced locally and is self-imposed. Gardening, around water points, is a delight to behold. So many communities request boreholes as a means to establishing irrigated gardens. Thank you to all who contributed so generously to the appeal for the women's garden. Its soils, just after three weeks, are already producing greens, resulting in so much happiness as the ladies with their small children gather to watch the "impossible" ... greens growing during the dry season.

(Sr Rita Grunke)

Gifts of \$2 or more
are tax deductible

KIRIBATI

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Crisis Centre

OLSH Crisis Centre is the only centre of its kind in Kiribati, providing shelter for abused women. Unfortunately, the abuse of women is still strong in our country – we have observed that the number being admitted to the centre is increasing; and the women arrive with their children, not wanting to leave them with the abusive husband. Often they come in the middle of the night or early in the morning, generally brought by the police. They are distressed and traumatised, hungry and without any belongings.

The three Sisters who live there and care for the women work very closely with counsellors and the police – not only to provide support and advice but also to help, where possible, with the family situation.

The place is very secure because of the presence of the Sisters and the police are readily available in case of any disturbances.

We are very grateful to all those who have helped us provide this shelter for the women and children.

(Sr Kateia Teanako)



Volunteers from the community assist with maintenance.

PHILIPPINES

Centre for Women – Cordova, Cebu

With the assistance of funds from the OLSH Overseas Aid Fund, we were able to construct a secure and solid building which we call the Centre for Women. The previous building had been put together with chicken wire and corrugated iron sheets!



The old and the new

On weekends, groups of women come in to learn some skills or income-generating projects such as sewing, bag making and food processing, which can be used to earn some money for their families. Other services the centre offers are regular classes for 4 and 5 year old children, Parent's Development Programs, courses in literacy and numeracy for women and children, Responsible Parenthood and Drug Awareness Seminars. The centre is staffed by Sisters and volunteers from the local community.

Gratitude will always be in our hearts to our generous donors.

(Sr. Luisita Carreon)



Small classroom inside the building



Celebration at the end of a Parent's Development Program

SOUTH AFRICA

Outreach in Kurisanani

The Orphans & Vulnerable Children (OVC) outreach of KURISANANI takes us to many very poor and remote villages in this rural Diocese of Tzaneen. In some of these isolated areas, there is no running water, no sanitation and no electricity. As well as this, service delivery in the form of health care and education is substandard. It was to one such village that I recently went to visit one of our carers who was gravely ill. She was a reasonably young mother of 32 suffering from kidney disease. Tragically, as a result of delayed diagnosis and then inadequate care from the nearest hospital, she passed away leaving three small children. Soon after, the woman's mother (suffering from diabetes) who was caring for the children during her daughter's illness and subsequent death, had to undergo surgery for the amputation of one of her legs. Fortunately a nearby and caring neighbour has taken the children under her wing until such time that the granny is able to cope with this very sad situation.



The 3 children in the family

Thanks to the financial aid received from the OLSH Overseas Aid Fund KURISANANI is assisting this family with regular visits to deliver food parcels, uniforms and to monitor their welfare.

(Sr Helen Armstrong)

Community Development – Ametur

Thanks to the funding sent through the OLSH Overseas Aid Fund we are able to assist with a one room house for an unemployed youth whose initial building was burnt down. The structure is being rebuilt and, as you see, still requires windows, a door and roofing to be attached. The drum inside stores water for mixing the cement which will be put on the floor when all else is completed.



Another vital commodity for households is water. Trucks bring this essential resource to local villages. Often we have had to help an orphaned family to buy the big drum to store the water and a wheelbarrow to carry it home in smaller containers, whilst the drum is rolled back and refilled. Because of a serious drought year, it has been a very precious resource and children here know that every drop counts. Paying for water is also a serious consideration in rural villages where the pump has dried out or broken down and an enterprising man loads his ute with containers and distributes for a price.

(Sr Christine Martin)



Capacity Building at Nzhelele

The peer support meetings with the guardians of the orphaned children are part of our Capacity Building. Here is the group which gathered for a day to share challenges arising from bringing extended family members into their existing households.



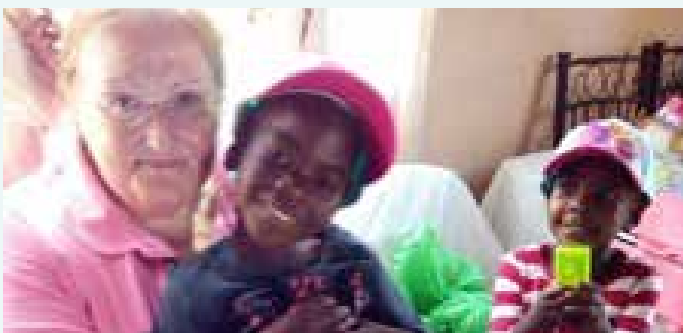
Many take a long time to settle into a new environment, with the added grieving of the loss of parents and being relocated. Children sometimes act out their frustrations - forgiveness became a major theme during this workshop. At times tension in the home is difficult to overcome. We appreciate our donors who sponsor these days which enable practical encouragement and guidance. Guardians need to know that they have emotional support from others.

(Sr Christine Martin)

Holy Family Care Centre



Our nurse, Debra, prepares special meals in the clinic for some of our sick and malnourished children. Carmel, a volunteer, is holding "Matamela", who arrived in 2016 weighing just over 5kg at the age of two – now she is 4 years old and thriving.



Successful reunification – Carmel holding Hlonipho, an orphan, now in the care of her Granny. Big smiles are evidence that her Granny is providing loving care.



Volunteer teacher, Harold, is working with Emelda, assisting the teaching of the children in small groups.

Donations can also be made online through the OLSH Australia website www.olshaustralia.org.au/overseasaid

Because of the high cost of postage, we are gradually moving away from sending hard copies of *Keeping in Touch* 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 overseasaid@olshaustralia.org.au.