



# World Bulletin

Fall 2017

Prepared Exclusively for Special Friends of Salesian Missions  
A Written Testimony Of How You Bring God-Saving Grace To A Troubled World

## New Hope for Children in Zambia

Throughout Zambia, an ongoing HIV/AIDS epidemic has exacted a devastating toll on children. More than one million of them have been orphaned by the disease.

Left without experienced or caring adults to guide them, these children struggle to access even the most basic services for themselves or others. Zambia's widespread poverty only makes the suffering worse. In the country's mostly rural areas, a staggering 80 percent of the population lacks the income required to feed themselves.

This is why, since 1982, our Salesian missionaries have been dedicated to the holistic development of Zambia's impoverished, marginalized and at-risk youth: with programs and services that address their most urgent, as well as their longer-term, needs.

In Lusaka, missionaries delight in the smiles of the thousands of children who participate



in programs at the City of Hope. Most of them are victims of abuse, child trafficking, and the hardships of living on the streets. A girls' home offers safe shelter to orphaned girls between the ages of 7 and 22 while they attend City of Hope's primary and secondary schools. In total, more than 800 girls and boys go to school here. More than 5,000 receive daily meals.

The children are so grateful for these, in fact, that they call their meals "*vi musanina*:" loosely translated as "you will

gain weight" or "you will grow healthy."

In Kazembe, dozens of impoverished children who otherwise would not be able to afford it can now go to a Salesian school, thanks to the generosity of caring donors. Today, these girls and boys are learning to read and write, to speak English, and to work toward their full potential. Many had never seen or used a colored pencil, or even played with a ball, before.

Finding reasons to laugh – something that should come so naturally to children – is an exhausting chore that many youth in Zambia have lost the will to perform. But in our eight communities across the country, Salesian missionaries are working hard to reconnect these girls and boys with the simple joys of being a child – while equipping them with the knowledge and skills they need to truly turn their lives around.

## This Month's Child



Name: Shata  
Age: Unknown  
Home: Sunyani, Ghana

His real name is Shata, but the villagers called him "Ebola." He was a hungry, filthy and ill little boy whose parents had abandoned him to the streets because of a physical deformity. One day, when he suddenly disappeared, these same villagers assumed that Shata was dead.

Fortunately, their assumption proved wrong. Rescued by our Salesian missionaries, Shata has instead experienced a rebirth.

Now living at the Don Bosco Boys Home in Sunyani, Shata is "beloved for his generosity,"

says Father "Uba" Andrade, director of the program. "He comes from a place of such deprivation, yet he always shares what he has with his mates."

Shata also attends school, and has proven to be an eager student. He understands the local language, is learning to express himself clearly, and performs homework and chores without having to be asked.

Perhaps most important, reports Fr. Uba, is that Shata has discovered his smile: a sure sign of newfound inner joy.

## This Month's Call For Prayer

Please pray for the thousands of men, women and children who have suffered senseless tragedy this year: those who have lost their lives to natural disasters or violence, and those who have been left behind. May God's love and mercy heal their pain and bring them peace.



Advent Devotionals - Sign Up Now: [www.SalesianMissions.org/Advent](http://www.SalesianMissions.org/Advent)

Advent is a time for intentional prayer, reflection and joyful anticipation. Our special devotionals, emailed weekly beginning Sunday, December 3rd, will remind you of the true meaning of Christmas – and will inspire and guide your own preparation for our Savior's birth.

# Monthly Missions Report...

## In DR Congo...

Salesian missionaries are bringing better health, new dignity, and renewed hope to child laborers in Mbuji-Mayi.

Here, in the “diamond capital of the world,” girls and boys are regularly exploited for their small stature and obedience: lowered into the mines, day after grueling day, to search for precious stones. These children are poor, malnourished and are sick enough to require daily medical care their families cannot afford.

A new medical facility at *Muetu Don Bosco*, where Salesian missionaries also run a primary school, high school, vocational training center and overnight shelter for street children, will offer wellness check-ups, preventive care, and treatment for illnesses such as tuberculosis and typhoid fever. Because of the clinic’s proximity to the schools, children will also learn about educational opportunities that can assist them in transitioning out of the mines and into sustainable, well-paying work.



## In Peru...



Puerto Chalaco, Peru is among the most dangerous places in the world: the rates of gang and drug related murders are so high that the district was recently declared an emergency zone.

Understanding that education is one of violence’s most effective preventive weapons, the Association of *Damas Salesianas* operates a home for youth where girls and boys can study, do their homework, and be in the presence of caring adults during out-of-school hours. Called “Welcome Home,” dozens of children discover respite each day from the physical and psychological stresses of ongoing violence, while working toward a better future.

Founded in 1968, *Damas Salesianas* operates humanitarian projects in 23 countries. With a specific focus on women and children, they work to improve quality of life by addressing the causes of poverty.

## In Philippines...

Thanks to a new partnership with Schneider Electric, 30 underprivileged youth in Mandaluyong City are learning the skills they need to find long-term employment in a rapidly growing industry.

The project is called the “Green Electrician’s Laboratory” and is offered through the Don Bosco Technical-Vocational Education and Training Center. It’s comprised of a 14-month curriculum that will educate youth in the fundamentals of sustainable energy installation and management, and its impact on the environment.



After successfully completing their coursework, which includes soft skills such as spoken and written English, computer basics, and entrepreneurship, students will have the opportunity to take the national certification exam in electrical installation and maintenance. Those who pass will be well poised to escape the conditions of poverty that affect more than 80 percent of the Philippines’ rural population.

## Missionary of the Month: Fr. Graziano de Lazzari

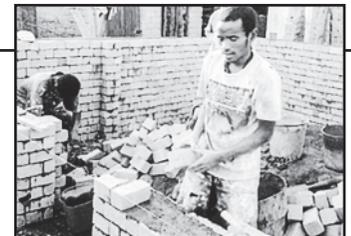
In Madagascar – one of the poorest nations in the world – Fr. Graziano de Lazzari has devoted the past 20 years to small acts of mercy that make significant personal impact.

Circulating among the residents of Ivato, a shantytown located on the outskirts of Madagascar’s capital city, he observes their most urgent needs and strives to address them.

Take, for example, the young

couple who lost their six-month-old baby to a disease they had no money to treat. As they readied to welcome a second child, Fr. Graziano arranged for the mother’s hospitalization and post-natal care, and is currently assisting the father in finding a job.

With the help of generous benefactors, Fr. Graziano has helped build decent housing for those living in shacks. He has also provided bicycles for children



who otherwise could not make it to school; medical interventions for residents who can’t afford even basic care; and more. In this way, he embodies Don Bosco’s loving kindness for the least among us: a true Salesian!

## Now, more than ever, we need you

Dear Friend and Partner in Mission:

All the wonderful, life-saving work we do, is possible only because good people like you continue to open your hearts for the disadvantaged.

You have been so kind and generous to our mission and I find joy sharing all the success stories with you in these World Bulletins.

But sometimes I need to tell friends like you news that isn’t so good...and I’m afraid this is one of those times. We may be facing some tough roads ahead.

You see, Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria – among other disasters – have forced our missionaries to direct finite resources to urgent humanitarian relief. And, because these events have personally affected so many of our donor friends in Texas, Florida, California and Puerto Rico, we simply cannot ask for their financial assistance. As a result, we face an unprecedented budget shortfall: one whose implications break my heart to consider.

Please pray with me today, that we successfully weather this challenge.



Together with your kindness, we can continue to ensure uninterrupted service to those depending on us the most.

It’s during times like these that I especially thank God for your friendship and your decision to make Salesian Missions, your mission.

May God Bless You!

*Fr. Paul Hyde, SDB*

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