

MARIST - SM - AUSTRALIA

*Australian Marist Mission Centre
Marist Fathers International Mission
Australian Marist Centre Overseas Aid*

EASTER & ANZAC DAY Celebrating Sacrifice

MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER AUTUMN, APRIL 2011, VOL.62 No.1

Christ
Has
Risen



2010 PROJECT YEAR

CHINA / HONG KONG \$58,214
Mentally Disabled Youth /Adults

THAILAND, BURMA \$52,347
Burmese Migrant Workers Centre
HIV-AIDS / Literacy/Child Protection

PHILIPPINES, VIETNAM, JAPAN \$149,093
Child Protection / Rural Development
Tribal/Housing /Micro-finance/Lay

CAMBODIA \$290,817
Physically Disabled Youth/Education
skills-Training /Micro-finance

BANGLADESH/ INDIA / SRI LANKA \$67,735
Micro-finance/ Primary Health Care/
Early Childhood Education

SOLOMON/SAMOA/TONGA/VANUATU \$74,909
Youth Development / Special Ed. Deaf
Youth / Livelihood Skills-training

TANZ'A/ZAMBIA/ETHIOPIA/CAMEROON \$51,900
Child Protection /Education/Development

BOLIVIA / PERU / VENZUELA/BRAZIL \$61,890
Community Organizing /Advocacy
Education - Urban poor

FIJI/KIRIBAS/TIMOR/COOKS/WALLIS \$162,300
Media Watch / Social Development
Early Childhood Education/Relief

THAI - BURMA REFUGEE CAMPS \$118,634
Mae la, Maera Moo, Mae la Oon
Child Protection / Health / Education

GLOBAL (MFIM & AMCOA) - \$434,856
Mission Support / Training Marists-
development/Emergency Aid

SHARING HOPE



Dear Friends,

This Newsletter is a brief snapshot of your generosity in 2010. The Annual Financial Report, soon to be online (www.Maristmissions.com), fills out in dollar terms our working together.

However, statistics do not capture inspirational human achievements made possible by your generosity.

Your generosity and compassionate concern inspired real hope among our courageous young people who yearn to improve their lives. Your support tells them that they are not alone on this journey. Thank you for sharing their dream to live with dignity, that disability becomes ability.

Fr Kevin Stewart, SM

AMCOA MISSION STATEMENT

Empowering vulnerable young people challenged by physical, mental or social disadvantage in the Asia-Pacific Marist Family networks, assisting them sustain and improve their quality of life through education, micro-finance, livelihood skills-training and child-protection.

\$1,528,695.00 SHARED THROUGH MMC IN 2010

Australian Marist Centre Overseas Aid (AMCOA) \$1,081,275

Counterpart: Marist Fathers International Mission Fund (MFIM) \$447,420

SHARING HOPE



The Power of a dream.... Graduating from the University of Life !

Fr Mike McVerry, a Marist who has dedicated a lifetime to bringing out the best in young Fijians, putting them on the right road and taking pride in striving for excellence, reflects on his 40 years in Tutu, Fiji. His has been an extraordinary journey, enriching so many.

Based on the picture-perfect island of Taveuni, Fiji where the international date-line dissects their property, Fr Mac engineered, with the people of Cakaudrove, a remarkable *University of Life* whose graduates are recognised for their quality as human beings and their gifts of leadership as much as for their broad skills in farming and so much more.

Today, Tutu offers 6 quality programmes covering a broad spectrum: young single women, young farmers, married couples, parents, a village course and leadership. At heart, all programs are basically about becoming a better person focussed on where you live and what you do.

Best known is the young farmers course. Five weeks farming and learning at Tutu followed by 5 weeks back in their home village. Their Tutu week is divided - 3 days planting their own dalo and yaqona on an assigned piece of land. 1 day spent working for money to pay for their food and another day doing volunteer work which continues the tradition upon which Tutu was founded.

It is a balanced regime, fulfilling their personal needs and respecting the common good. "Our challenge is to open the door for them" says Fr Mac, "to enable them to take responsibility for their lives". There is a pride in graduating from the *University of Life*.



A Tutu Couple looking to a better future.



Fr Mac tapping the wisdom of the life.



END OF FINANCIAL YEAR DONATIONS

Donations to Australian Marist Centre Overseas Aid Fund (AMCOA) are tax-deductible. 100% of AMCOA donations go to beneficiaries.

Further information about donations phone 02 9844 2275 or email MMC at admin@maristmissions.com or visit www.maristmissions.com to make online donations.

Faces of Marist Mission Ranong Thailand

Education and school shoes for Burmese Children of Migrant Workers !



Pastoral and medical care for families and persons with HIV/Aids



Fr Larsen offers solace to a family in crisis. HIV/Aids is a serious problem among the migrant workers and forces many to become outcasts in a foreign land.

Ian John is a lay-marist. Marist Ranong is pioneering new ways of being "marist" in Mission as part of their lay gift.

Physiotherapists - short-term volunteers ...

Sr Julienne (Marist Missionary Sister Nurse working in Dhaka, Bangladesh) is looking for a short-term speech therapist, physiotherapist and occupational therapist for her program with disabled kids. A Japanese Physio who has been helping Sister says that anyone coming would need to know how to do back assessment and therapy with children. (this differs from adult therapy).



Ayako from Japan says that she only does simple basic physiotherapy. She says the primary focus should be to teach some of Sister's staff how to do

this therapy and they teach mothers of the disabled.

Therefore, whoever comes, for a few weeks should be someone who can share his/her knowledge and skills with others, who can be very patient and is willing to repeat things over and over again. It takes a long time for the staff and mothers to actually do all the right things!

Her comments also cover the need in terms of speech therapy and occupational/life-skill therapy: So wanted are patient teachers, willing to share basic skills in these areas with staff and with mothers of disabled children. This little exposure might suit a student in their final year of study or a senior physio who has time. Volunteers would stay with the Sisters in Dhaka.

For more information - admin@maristmissions.com or Sister Julienne: juliennehayessmith@yahoo.com

The face and heart of young Refugees through the eyes of Marist Missionaries on a journey of discovery

Last February, a band of young Filipino Marists ventured beyond their comfort zones to find again the mission spirit that carried their Marist forebears across the wild Pacific oceans to bring the faith to Australia, New Zealand and Oceania



Meet Sarah (not her real name or she might be picked up) in Mae-la Refugee Camp, Thailand. As we young Marists walked amidst the poverty of these surroundings, Sarah shared her story: *I have a sad story to share, she said. When I was nine years old, Burmese*

troops over-ran our Karen village, burned our homes to the ground while all of us villagers fled to the safety of the nearby forests.

Later on, to protect us, my parents sent my sister and me across the border to Mae-la camp. My older and youngest sister stayed with our parents to help rebuild our home and work on a small piece of land. We walked three days, avoiding detection, to make our way to this camp. I was so grateful when a couple who knew my Mum welcomed us and we stayed with them for a little while.

The experience of fleeing home was terrible. All through those early years, I was lonely and cried often. We survived on two meals a day; breakfast at 7am, lunch at 4 pm. Slowly, as my confidence grew, I realized I was safe at Marist Karen Education Dormitory.

Sarah completed basic education in Mae-la and a few years ago began online distance study with Australian Catholic University. To do this we were allowed to leave the camp and attend classes in the nearest village. This helped me see beyond my own limited world and opened up opportunities beyond my wildest dreams.

For a few days a week, I was no longer a refugee confined to the camp. My online experience healed me and helped develop me humanly and spiritually. Last year, I was so happy to graduate.



There were tears in our eyes as we listened to her story. We were sitting on a wall outside a Buddhist Monastery overlooking the Mae-la camp. Her young life has been marked by war, oppression, break up of her family and the tragic story of her peoples search for freedom. Sarah has come a long way, a success story despite the overwhelming odds against her. Her journey and dream continues and Sarah prays that one day all her people will be free.

- Fr Pat Muckian SM, Irish Marist Missionary

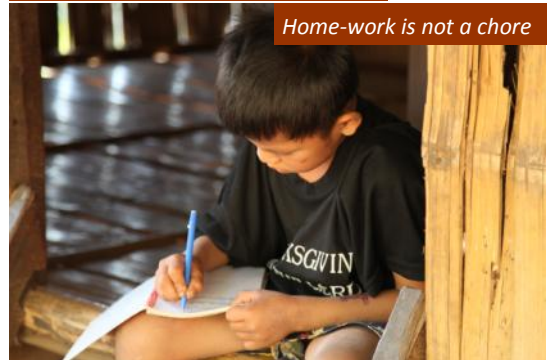
Barriers disappear as friendships form



Fr Gil Casio makes new friends



Young Marists: one plate = one meal



Home-work is not a chore

The 'best' house is kept for their 15 Marist guests!



Fr Lauro entertains with 'magic'

Idle distinctions ? Which are the Refugees and which are Marists ?



Story: Fr Pat Muckian (top right) Photos: Tim Stewart (middle right)



'A KASH KOLF KLUB'

*That's the headline now
what's the story...*

A group of senior golfers, *The Brothers*, found a fun way of enjoying golf and at the same time, raise 'venture capital' to assist Cambodians with physical disabilities to start-up small livelihood projects. (cf. www.yodiffee.org)

How does it work? *The Brothers* donate \$5 for stableford points in excess of 36. (*translated it means they played well*). 100% of funds raised by these moments of elite 'golf' provide ongoing startup capital for youth in YODIFEE programs.



The icing on this cake - a Corporate 'friend' of *The Brothers* agreed to match *The Brothers* donations on a \$ for \$ basis. This same 'friend', who may have inside information on *Brothers* standard of play, has also put up \$1,000 for *holes-in-one* scored by a Brother. Probably risk-free but with God on-side one never knows..!



If you are a golfer or play in a regular group, you might like to introduce a fun fundraiser, perhaps matching the *Brothers*' stableford points idea. For non-golfers, for a risk-free punt, same chance as in lotto, back Fr Kevin - \$10 per bonus point!



WHO REALLY WINS - THEY DO !

Fourteen young Khmer social entrepreneurs will benefit from the venture capital raised to strengthen their businesses repairing cell phones, hair-cutting, vulcanizing bike-tyres, raising pigs and chickens, fish farming etc.

\$100 is enough to help a young person own and operate a livelihood enterprise giving them independence and self-respect in a country where the value of life was undermined by a horrible genocide 30 years ago.



WINNER - No 705 !

As we go to print, our septuagenarian ironman, Br Charles Randle has, with your great support raised \$52,645 cycling to educate our Seminarians.

A wonderful effort Br Charlie and our prayerful thanks to the generous army of supporters from all younger Marists training to follow in your footsteps!

AND ANOTHER ... HELPING JAPAN

Fr Paul Glynn SM, the Japanese Catholic Community, MMC friends and the Marist Fathers raised \$80,000 to assist Tsunami-affected communities in Japan. The recovery trauma will go on for a long time.

If you wish to contribute, MMC can send 100% of your gift through our Japan Marist networks. Donations are tax-deductible. For cheques or online please write "AMCOA" and mention Japan appeal.

Renewed Hope...

Almost 200 years ago, St Marcellin Champagnat, a Marist priest-founding member of the Society of Mary, coined an expression 'Bank of Providence' to describe his resourcing of pressing social needs of his time. His bottom line was:

Trust in God and the goodness of people.

2010 shows that this 'bank' remains ever so strong. You enabled the Australian Marist Family to tap Marcellin's 'Bank of Providence' for one and a half million dollars, renewing hope to those whose well-being depends upon our Australian Marist Centre Overseas Aid Fund (AMCOA), especially those disadvantaged or marginalized by social conflict, poverty and disability in Asia and the Pacific. You made a real difference in their young lives.

As our Marist Mission Partners, I know you share our conviction about the dignity and worth of every human as a child of God. The social responsibility that arises from this awareness challenges all of us to act. Your generosity guarantees that a response is always possible.

Targeted use of talents, time and treasure enables our networks to do so much with integrity, solidarity and respect with our regional brothers and sisters in need.

My thanks to Fr Kevin and his team for their special work. Marists also remember with gratitude and prayer Mr Tony Clyne, MMC's Hon. Auditor who passed away recently.

Together let us continue this challenging quest during 2011 renewing hope and improving the lives of the young.

Paul Cooney S.M.

Fr Paul Cooney SM
MMC-AMCOA CHAIRMAN
MARIST FATHERS LEADER
AUSTRALIA

