

Living Waters International, Inc.

- Aid for African Catholic Missions -

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Advent Newsletter

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Living Waters' mission is the support of Roman Catholic missionary and international development projects in East Africa.

In This Issue:

- Executive Director Steve Zimmerman Visits Missions in Mozambique
- A Christmas Poem by Simon-Joseph Pellegrin
- Spotlight - by Eileen Hartl
- Sacraments at Ponta do Ouro
- AmazonSmile
- Students in Need
- Student Sponsorship
- Project List



Executive Director Steve Zimmerman Visits Missions in Mozambique

It was my good fortune to continue my travels in Africa to Mozambique after a 2-week Farmer-2-Farmer assignment in Ghana in November 2017. I was greeted at the airport in Maputo by the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales Delegation Superior of the Mozambique Mission, Fr Petrus Kullu, and Fr Ranjit Tirkey, Delegation Bursar in Mozambique.



Fr. Melky, Fr. Ranjit, Steve, Fr. Petrus & Bro. Desiderio

Upon their arrival in early 2000, the MSFS encountered a people torn by civil war and poverty. Faith and morals were at an all-time low due to the lack of priests and a government hostile to the Church. The missionaries began the work of rehabilitating and constructing chapels and churches, going house-to-house preaching the Gospel and helping with food and shelter for people living in abject poverty. In the intervening years, the MSFS have taken up mission apostolates in remote parishes in undeveloped areas where people are suffering from malaria, illiteracy and HIV/AIDS.

After a short stay at the Delegation House in Matola, Fr Petrus escorted me to the MSFS mission at St. Anthony Parish, Mavila in the diocese of Inhambane. It was a brief, but informative stay there visiting the parish Kindergarten and some of the village outstations.



Sr. Saroj, Steve & Sr. Elizabeth, Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians

After returning to Matola, Fr Petrus and I then set out to the extreme southern part of Mozambique bordering South Africa to the seaside village of Ponta do Ouro. There we visited Our Lady of Fatima Church, the MSFS pre-school and were hosted on Thanksgiving Day at the house of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC). It was a beautiful Thanksgiving Day with a leisurely hike along the Indian Ocean beach in the afternoon. I will return to the Sisters shortly.

(Continued on Next Page)





Executive Director Steve Zimmerman Visits Missions in Mozambique

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The following day, visiting some village chapels that we had assisted in constructing along the way, by late afternoon we arrived at St. Francis de Sales Parish Center at Bela Vista. This was the first parish entrusted to the MSFS soon after their arrival in Mozambique. It currently has seventeen communities and Mass centers and serves a population of 45,000 spread over an area of 5,043 square kilometers. Here I visited a number of our sponsored students and the parish preschool as well.

The last stop on our journey back to the Delegation House in Matola and our brief tour of the Maputo Archdiocese was at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Katembe. This is a very large parish with its ten Mass centers serving a population of 60,000 spread over 3,593 square kilometers. After an evening meal at the parish center, we traveled by ferry across Maputo Bay late at night. Not accustomed to travel at night on a ferry across unknown waters, I simply put my trust in the Providence of God.

Other stops during my stay in Mozambique were the Scholasticate in Maputo and the Junior Seminary near the Delegation House in Matola.

I was filled with awe for the devotion of all the missionaries serving the people of Mozambique, but would like to make a special appeal for the *Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians* serving at Ponta do Ouro. The congregation was founded in October 1942 as the first indigenous congregation of religious women in Northeast India. The congregation has over 1500 members belonging to 60 ethnic groups working in India, Italy,

South Africa, Hawaii, South Sudan, Germany, Swaziland, Lesotto, Myanmar, Mozambique and Ethiopia. "Go Proclaim the Good News" is the motto of the MSMHC. This explains their principal ministry as evangelization and catechetical instruction, especially of women and children in rural villages. Schools, hostels, oratories, dispensaries, mobile clinics, homes for the elderly, for orphans and street children, for the differently abled, centers for rehabilitating drug addicts and for ministering to people living with AIDS are the places where the MSMHC serve the Church and humanity.



"I was filled with awe for the devotion of all the missionaries serving the people of Mozambique"

The MSMHC congregation arrived in Mozambique in May of 2014. The Sisters soon began their work at Ponta do Ouro. Ever since their arrival, the Sisters have been engaged in apostolic, educational and pastoral ministries to provide holistic spiritual and developmental services to the people through family visitations, formation of youth, catechism, holiday programs for the school children, formation of altar servers and regular participation in Small Christian Community prayer groups.

In answer to the appeal of the local people of Ponta do Ouro, the MSMHC would like to be the channel of integral growth of the children, moreover protecting them from being exposed to human trafficking, common in southern Mozambique along the border with South Africa, by giving them day care and instruction in the Catholic faith at a Kindergarten. Construction of two classrooms with a veranda, a kitchen, a storeroom, and 3 toilets each for girls and boys is their proposed Kindergarten for the children of Ponta do Ouro. With your kind assistance, we'd like to help move this project forward!

*O Come,
Divine Messiah*

*O come, divine
Messiah!
The world in silence
waits the day
When hope shall sing
its triumph,
And sadness flee away.*

*Dear Savior haste;
Come, come to earth,
Dispel the night and
show your face,
And bid us hail the
dawn of grace.*

*O Christ, whom nations
sigh for,
Whom priest and
prophet long foretold,
Come break the captive
fetters;
Redeem the long-lost
fold.*

*You come in peace and
meekness,
And lowly will your
cradle be;
All clothed in human
weakness
Shall we your Godhead
see.*

- Simon-Joseph Pellegrin



Visit us at our website at www.livingwatersinternational.org!



SPOTLIGHT

by Eileen Hartl, LWI Board Member



My friends, today the spotlight is on YOU! Let me begin by paraphrasing a key principle of our faith that I heard during a homily by Bishop Robert Barron of the Diocese of Los Angeles: "When you are linked to the God who is nothing but gift, then you can give and give, and you will never run out." Bishop Robert gave the example of the Samaritan woman at the well in John, chapter four. Jesus was tired and thirsty, it's noonday and he tells her, "Give me a drink." We learn in this story that Jesus knows her well, her sad desperate reality. Women were treated like second class citizens. Samaritans were untouchable by Jews plus she was not accepted by the other women of the community because of her multiple marriages. A woman with no hope for the future and yet Jesus invites her to give. As I pondered this story, my mind raced to the work of Living Waters, and the sacrificial giving of its many benefactors.

One thing that is so inspiring is that many of you have been giving so graciously since the beginning. Many will pick up a new student sponsorship after their other child has finished their education. Occasionally there are circumstances beyond our control and a student drops out or moves away yet that doesn't stop understanding hearts from choosing another child to support. Then there are those who donate their time when we have our summer fundraisers, or their talents such as formatting this newsletter, creating promotional videos, computer and software program skills. Most of our members are volunteering their time and talents and we can boast of our low overhead which is three percent.

I know our members want you to know the generosity of the people you provide for. When we visit students' homes, the parents find a way to give back and they literally take from their "daily bread" by gifting us with avocados, bananas or fresh eggs, and some have even received a live chicken. Hands together as in prayer, they bow, smile, and softly say over and over, "Asante", which means thank you. They remind us of the poor widow in the temple who gave her last few cents in comparison to the others who gave from their surplus. Their joy overflows and you can't help but be humbled amid such gratitude, generosity, and poverty.

The woman at the well is more than a story about a woman with a water jug and a chance meeting at the village well. With eyes full of love, Jesus told her that her life matters to him and it counts for something. Jesus offered living water and she left a newly created being with a wealth of joy, peace, life, and a sense of purpose. Dear friends, it is the same with you.



"When you are linked to the God who is nothing but gift, then you can give and give, and you will never run out."

Sacraments at Ponta do Ouro

Glorious Moments in the Life of the Faithful at Our Lady of Fatima, Ponta do Ouro, Village Outstation of the SFS Parish, Maputo Archdiocese of Mozambique.



David & Tereza exchange solemn wedding vows with Rev. Jijo Thomas, MSFS, as celebrant.

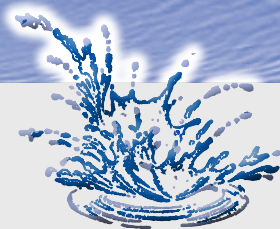


Natali's Baptism

amazonsmile

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Students In Need



My Name: Fortunata Kalogota
Birthdate: July 23, 2013
Chores: Too young
Favorite Pastime: Playing games with her peers
Other Remarks: Fortunata comes from a family of ten children; her father works only on a seasonal basis. Their approximate family monthly income is \$90/month.

Gender: Female
Country: Tanzania
Favorite Subject: ABC's



My Name: Digna Isidore
Birthdate: February 29, 2012
Chores: Too young
Favorite Subject: ABC's & Numbers
Favorite Pastime: Singing & Dancing
Other Remarks: Both of her parents are very poor and unable to pay the school fees.

Gender: Female
Country: Tanzania



My Name: Frank Masumbuko
Birthdate: February 2, 2006
Chores: Cleaning the school's hostel and classrooms
Favorite Subject: Mathematics
Favorite Pastime: Drawing
Other Remarks: Frank is the second born of his mother who is married to another man. He has never seen his father who is believed to be dead. His grandfather was using him for grazing cows and would not enroll him in school. His strong desire to study led him to run away from his grandfather and was brought to the SFS Children's Home by his aunt.

Gender: Male
Country: Tanzania



My Name: Edrine Ninsiima
Birthdate: December 19, 2008
Chores: Fetching water, dishes & cooking
Favorite Subject: English
Favorite Pastime: Football
Other Remarks: Edrine's father was paralyzed in a motorcycle accident and his mother has a small market grocery business. There are four other siblings in which the mother is struggling to support on an income of \$80/month.

Gender: Male
Country: Uganda

Student Sponsorship

\$25 a month provides help for:

- Tuition
- Books
- School Supplies
- School Uniforms
- Shelter
- Food
- Health Care

Payments can be made:

- Monthly..... \$25
- Quarterly \$75
- Semi-annually. \$150
- Annually \$300

100% of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to your child's sponsorship.



To learn more about these children and other children waiting to be sponsored, visit our website at: www.livingwatersinternational.org

Project List

- ✓ Love
- ✓ In
- ✓ Small
- ✓ Things

Project LIST looks at the little ways and the small things that can make a BIG difference in the life of a child in East Africa. In the battle against poverty, one of *Living Waters International's* goals is to help turn every contribution into big benefits. No contribution is too small!

Your support of Project LIST can supplement the donations we receive through student sponsorships. Students sometimes lose their sponsorship or fees increase when they move on to secondary schools. Project LIST can ensure continued assistance in these cases.