

6 November 2009

ID: Par09



Mary - one of Madeline's 30 orphans who has no future without your donation this Christmas.

Dear Friend

I am Brother Paul Smith. I taught at St Bedes College in Mentone Victoria from 1972 to 1981. After leaving St Bedes, I worked at Boystown in Queensland from 1982 to 2001. I established new initiatives such as Kids Helpline, Parent Line; worked with juvenile offenders and domestic violence victims; established two prisons; work initiatives for long-term unemployed youth and the ubiquitous lotteries.

After Boystown, I was asked to head up the Lasallian Foundation, the De La Salle response to the needs of the poor and disadvantaged in the Asia Pacific region. This is very challenging, very rewarding and very under resourced. As a fellow Christian witnessing to the love Jesus had for the poor, I am writing to you to ask for your support by considering making a tax deductible gift of \$75 today (or any amount you can commit).

This Christmas help us raise \$70,400 to help educate the orphaned, abandoned and runaway settlement children of Port Moresby.

The slum settlements in Port Moresby are shocking.....Far worse than you might think.



Fr John Glynn with some of the settlement children whose young lives you can help change

When I was there in April this year, I was overcome with sadness. I have seen plenty of people living rough in my time but this is something else again.

As settlers, they do not own the land and everyday risk losing their home and few worldly possessions.

No electricity and little food is bad enough. But these people also have no running water. And I very quickly discovered they have no proper toilets either.

Just imagine how bad it must be. Worms. Malaria. TB. Disease. No healthcare.

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Madeline with some of the 39 children in her care

Madeline is a resident of St Teresia, a settlement area of Port Moresby. She is a single mother with 9 children of her own. Madeline is also carer to another 30 young orphans, most under the age of 15. She struggles to provide the basic needs for her own children but she has opened her heart and her "home" to many needy orphans. She also understands the benefits of education and so has been bringing the children to her local Mobile Learning Centre.

One thing leads to another and the bottom line is without help these people have no future. We can only do what is needed if we have you supporting us.

It is so hard to believe that our nearest neighbours, only 160km away from the coast of Queensland, live in these appalling conditions. So close and yet like a century away.

Poverty has a corrosive effect on the spirit and resignation is a common attitude within these communities. Residents often don't even seek out the most basic solutions to their problems due to the acceptance of their life. Many turn to drugs and alcohol.

The average family in PNG has six or seven children. Many children are orphaned, abandoned or runaways from dysfunctional families. The fortunate ones are looked after by their 'wantok' or people from their own tribe.

There are up to 10,000 unschooled children on the streets of Port Moresby. No one has ever tried to count them or ask their stories.

"There is no future for any of these children and they are doomed to a life of crime and prostitution."

- Father John Glynn



Fr John Glynn, Lasallian partner in PNG inside the grass hut classroom at St Teresia

Many of these children end up living in the slum settlement areas. Most settlement children will never have an education. These children will have limited options for the future. There are very few education and training services or employment opportunities that cater for those without basic literacy skills. Without education, many children will become 'raskols' (urban gangs involved in theft, drugs, alcohol, carjacking, rape and murder).

The fortunate ones in St Teresia attend literacy classes in a makeshift grass hut. Unfortunately, the hut is not weatherproof or secure and therefore any teaching aids are often stolen or damaged.

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This Christmas you can be part of our vision and our success.

Please help in the establishment of the Mobile Learning Centres to conduct basic literacy and preschool skills classes for young children who live in settlements around Port Moresby.

A **Mobile Learning Centre** is a shipping container that has been converted into a secure mobile classroom. These classrooms can be placed in any available space in or around a settlement area and can be moved at any time. Two sides of the container are opened during class time to provide airflow and additional space with a normal container door for access. The Mobile Learning Centres are secured in the evening when not in use.

When not being used as a classroom, the containers can also be used for training sessions and other community group education gatherings for health and social issues such as clean water, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and most importantly women's issues.

A Mobile Learning Centre complete with education aids costs only \$8,800.

Our target is to buy 8 Mobile Learning Centres by February 2010. A total cost of \$70,400.

We all have a right to an education and a future of hope – basic human rights.

Poverty prevents these children from realising their true potential. Through the Lasallian Foundation, you can empower people through education to break the cycle of poverty and help provide a nurturing environment where children can live for a brighter tomorrow.

Help give these children the ultimate gift of education this Christmas.

Let them know they are cared for and thought about.

Yours sincerely



Brother Paul Smith fsc AM

CEO





Yes I would like to donate towards a Mobile Learning Centre for the children living in the slum settlement areas near Port Moresby in PNG.



I would like to offer my Donation of \$100 \$500 \$75 \$50 \$1000 \$5000 \$.....Other

(Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible)

Please find enclosed my cheque or money order *(made payable to Lasallian Foundation)*

Please charge my Mastercard Visa No:/...../...../.....Expiry Date:/.....

Cardholders name:.....Signature:.....



ID: Par09

Title..... Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Ph (hm).....Ph (bus).....

Mobile..... Date of Birth.....

Email.....

100% of all donations received go directly to the projects thanks to the support of the De La Salle Trustees who fund our operating costs

Please return this form with payment in the reply paid envelope provided to PO Box 668, Malvern Vic 3144 or simply fax (03) 9822 4377 or phone (03) 9832 3102 with your donation details

Email info@lasallianfoundation.org www.lasallianfoundation.org ABN 741 1323 4889

A receipt will be forwarded to you in the mail.

Thank you for your kind donation and support.

Please send me further information on the Lasallian Foundation's

Bequest Program Regular Giving Program Child Sponsorship Program