

CAGLIERO 11



Number 4

«Newsletter for Salesian Missionary Animation»

11 april 2009

Don Bosco's Missionary Dream Continues!



Dear confreres and friends of Salesian missions!

The Lord is truly risen! Happy Easter! Thanks to all missionaries, Salesian mission delegates, and all confreres who keep the missionary flame burning in their hearts as well as all those whom I have met over the first year of my new period of service.

Allow me then to give you some of my impressions after my recent visit to the missions in **Chaco Paraguay**, Chilean Patagonia and Argentina. During my visit to Chaco in Paraguay I travelled up the Rio Paraguay on a small boat for many hours. I had plenty of time to reflect on the sacrifices and enthusiasm of the confreres involved over more than 100 years in the Chaco mission, despite all the problems of climate ,politics etc. I also saw the importance of radio broadcasts to mission parishes (Chaco and Patagonia) in the local language, in order to pass on the Good News and link peoples spread throughout this broad area. I admire the elderly missionaries, the last of whom was sent to Chaco Paraguay 31 years ago. They have now been joined by two confreres in Practical Training, the first of such after 55 years! The first of these is from Chile (as a visible sign of solidarity from South Cone Region), and the other from PAR, since Chaco belongs to Paraguay Province.

During the trip I saw that the face of the missions is changing, and that the period of the lonely hero missionary is about to come to an end. I saw an enormous desire to work and to give witness to the young as a community consecrated for them. The Patagonian territories and those in Chaco are huge, with few inhabitants (though growing in numbers), while at the same time numbers of priests, religious, missionaries is decreasing. This is sad to see, but it should not make us pessimistic. The witness of our missionaries to a life dedicated joyfully for their entire life is also cause for great joy since despite the scarcity of personnel the Gospel continues to be proclaimed to the ends of the earth! Perhaps the best result of my visit to Paraguay is the mission request from a postnovice for the 140th missionary expedition in September 2009.

During the trip to **Punta Arenas** (Chile) I was able to admire the magnificent missionary museum with its documents from the first encounter of the Salesians with the indigenous population of Latin America (the first missions *ad gentes* of the Congregation) seen through the films made by Fr Alberto de Agostini.

I also wanted to visit **Patagonia** (Argentina) at the beginning of my period of service because I think it is important to learn from the experiences of the early missionaries, the deep motivation that helped them overcome so many huge difficulties as they carried out the work of evangelisation with so few means. I had the joy of spending a whole morning sharing with a missionary group in Patagonia in Zapala (ABB). The pilgrimage I made to the places of Blessed Ceferino Namuncura, especially to Sant' Ignacio, Junin de los Andes, where a memorial is almost finished set up as a kind of Mapache 'kultrun', was a very significant moment. I could see that devotion to Ceferino is very much alive throughout Argentina. There I was able to thank the Lord for all the Salesian missionaries throughout the 130 years of our mission history. Ceferino is not alone, since already many generations of youngsters in these places have been able to encounter Christ thanks to them. I dream and pray for the arrival of new, young Salesians in these lands, and for new Mapuche, Guaraí vocations... in places I visited.

Speaking with SDB and FMA missionaries In the Vicariate of Chaco Paraguay I was aware that my journey began in Seoul-Korea, then to China and Rome and on to Chile. It just so happened that in the space of 4 days I accomplished the exact opposite of Don Bosco's missionary dream which went from Valparaiso to Beijing!!! But it does not matter whether it's from Beijing to Valparaiso, or from Valparaiso to Beijing, Don Bosco's dreams are still happening, because they have not yet been fulfilled. In fact the number of those who do not know Jesus Christ continues to grow.

Through our confreres in 131 countries around the world, Salesian mission horizons keep growing! Our most recent mission territory is Guam – a North Pacific island, now with an educational presence set up from the Philippines North Province since the end of 2008. Evangelisation is a constant journey, one without pause. I thank the Lord who gives us life during this wonderful time of mission.

Servant of God John Paul II was convinced that God is preparing a new missionary Springtime: "I see a new missionary era dawning, one which will one day be radiant and fruitful, if all Christians and especially missionaries and young churches respond with generosity and holiness

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Don Bosco's missionary dream continues!**
- **New missionaries are sought for (Asia e Oceania)**
- **Salesian mission intention – April 2009**
- **Discernment criteria**

to the appeals and challenges of our time" (*Redemptoris Missio*, 92).

I was struck by a sentence in the 2009 SB Calendar in Argentina: *It is good to dream but it is better to make that dream a reality!* For sure it is good to dream with Don Bosco, however it is much better to make these dreams a reality. In fact the best pages of Salesian history have been written by the missionaries!

Fr Václav Klement, SDB

General Councillor for the Missions



Fr. Luis Bolla more than 50 years with the Ashuar in Peru

Salesian Missions are looking for new missionaries . . . ! (Asia and Oceania)

province - country	required languages	features of the setting and qualities required by missionaries
SLK Azerbajdzan	Russian or English, Azero	The Congregation has been entrusted with the <i>missio sui iuris</i> , 200 Catholics, moderate Islam; looking for non-Slovak confreres
INC Bangladesh	English, Bengali	Muslim country, work founded in 2009
THA Laos	English, Laotian	2004 Technical centre run by laity, SDB: a Brother, to begin a religious presence; Communist regime
VIE Mongolia	English (Russian) - Mongolian	Few confreres, First evangelisation, Tech Centre – looking for technician, sever climate (temperatures below zero)
FIS Pakistan	English, Urdu	Very few SDB, Muslim setting which is not easy, technical education – Brothers
PNG-SI Delegation	English, Pidgin	Pacific Islands, after 30 years very few local vocations, technical education works
AUL New Zealand	English, Maori	to begin in 2010, street children, one SDB already in Auckland
AUL Samoa	English, Samoan	Samoa – technical school
LKC Sri Lanka	English	Very few confreres, ethnic conflict Tamil – Buddhists

CRITERIA FOR DISCERNING A MISSIONARY VOCATION

(the complete text is available on www.sdb.org)

In general we remind you of three essential points for vocation discernment: **Right intention, Free decision, Suitability and necessary qualities.** It is not enough to be a 'good confrere' nor just to be enthusiastic for the missions, since such enthusiasm is unlikely to be lasting.

Criteria to consider:

☑ Good health, without problems that need constant attention; maturity; psychological balance; ability to relate; sense of responsibility; ability to adapt to a culture different from one's country of origin.

☑ Community-minded person; family spirit; ability and readiness to work together; humility and openness to dialogue with others; spirit of disinterested sacrifice.

☑ Personal and community life of prayer; practice of the evangelical counsels, availability and generosity, apostolic zeal for the mission already demonstrated where one has been working, an ability to learn more foreign languages, respect for others and other cultures and religions, commitment 'for life' to a new country, culture.

Some counter indications:

☒ Sheer adventurism, urged on by a third person; escape, avoidance personal or relational problems.

Sending a confrere to the missions who already has had problems integrating into ordinary community life in his province of origin is to be absolutely avoided. Ordinarily in the missions one finds a much more demanding situation which will not help resolve such problems.

Salesian missionary intention april 2009

«For street children in large Latin American cities and for all Salesians and lay helpers involved in this educative and pastoral mission»

There are around 150 million street children living on the streets of the large Latin American cities. More than 35 years have passed since the first confreres developed educative and social work to help street children in all the large metropolises of the continent.



Youngsters in CAM-3 in Quito, Ecuador