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Newsletter #5

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE?

Our Volunteers are Amazing!

As per usual life has been busy in the Cagliari Project Office!

New Volunteers

This week we will be running our formation program in preparation for our mid-year departures. We are really excited to be sending Bess to work at Don Bosco Children's Fund in Phnom Penh and Calvin to work with the Salesian Sisters at the City of Joy in Mazabuka, Zambia. Both volunteers show incredible promise and we excited for them as they start on this new journey.

Walk for a Bus

There is lots happening in Salelologa, Samoa as our volunteers, with Fr. Mosese, prepare to undertake a massive walk around the entire island of Savai'i. We have included an article by our volunteers in Samoa who further explains 'Walk for a Bus'.

Cambodia Immersion

The Cambodia Immersion will leave in one month. Jess writes about the wonderful weekend we had in preparation for the immersion program.

Volunteer Visitations

I had the opportunity to visit our amazing volunteers this past month so we have included some photos capturing them in classroom!

Thanks as per usual to all our supporters – we could not have this program without you!

Take care,

Lauren



Samoa

Catherine and Declan are working hard at St. John Bosco High School and Vocational Centre.



Cambodia

Amy is doing a wonderful job at teaching ESL to high school students in Cambodia.

Let the Journey Begin

by Jess Quinn

Fourteen inspiring young people prepare for the trip of a lifetime

On Friday May 3rd an inspiring group of people gathered at Don Bosco Camp for the weekend to prepare for what will be an amazing adventure on the Cambodia Immersion. The Cambodia immersion will take place from July 3rd to July 17th this year. The volunteers came from many different Salesian communities and with a range of skills and talents.

The volunteers actively spent the weekend learning about Cambodian history and culture as well as planning and sharing ideas for activities they will facilitate while in Cambodia. The group will spend ten days based at the Don Bosco technical school, Phnom Penh, where they will volunteer their time in a number of different ways. Some



of the planned activities will involve helping in the farm, running activities for the students, professional development for the teachers, painting and most of all being a positive presence among the young people. While in Cambodia the volunteers will have the opportunity to immerse themselves

into Cambodian culture when they spend 3 nights with a host family. This is an experience all the volunteers are looking forward to!

The few days spent together at Don Bosco Camp was lots of fun and all the volunteers participated in activities that allowed them to get to know one another. One of the highlights was 'My Kitchen Rules- Cambodian desserts.' The weekend concluded with a commissioning ceremony led by Fr John Papworth. Stay tuned for an update on how the trip went and the many stories that our volunteers will have to tell.

The Cagliero Immersion to Cambodia will take place during the month of July.

The Cagliero Project runs immersion programs every year.

For more information please visit:

www.cagliero.org.au



This is one of the dishes that was served up during the Cambodia 'My Kitchen Rules' challenge. All three dishes presented were delicious!!

SAMOA PHOTOS

**In the Workshop**

Declan supports the technical teachers in the classroom.

**In the Classroom**

Catherine with her Year 9 English Class.

**They are doing amazing work!**

The volunteers are all working so hard and we are so proud of them here at the Cagliero Project.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

Interested in Volunteering overseas and making a difference? Visit:

www.cagliero.org.au



Amy with some of her English students in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Inspiration all over the world!

by Lauren Hichaaba

One of the best things about my job is that I get to visit some of the volunteers during their placement. It is incredibly inspiring to witness first hand their hard work and dedication.

Amy is volunteering at Don Bosco Technical School in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. I was able to spend some time with her in the classroom during my stay. It was evident that the students were not only learning from her but also trusted and respected her. Amy has many ideas that she hopes to implement at DBTS such as an ESL room and a peer education program.

Declan and Catherine are both working at St. John Bosco High School in Salelologa, Samoa. Catherine is teaching across all year levels and Declan is assisting the teachers in the technical workshops. It was lovely to see how well both had integrated into school life. Like Amy, they are both loved and respected by the staff and students.

What is truly incredible in all this is at the start of this year, all three volunteers knew very little about where they were going and what they would be doing. Now they fit in each of their placements like they have been there forever! They are learning the language and are starting really understand some of the cultural intricacies.

We are so proud of the work being done by Amy, Catherine and Declan. They are wonderful ambassadors for the Cagliero Project and we wish them many blessings and the best of luck for the remainder of their volunteer experience.

Walk for a Bus!

by Catherine Lutvey and Declan Crowe

We have had an amazing four months volunteering at Don Bosco High School and Vocational Centre in Salelologa, Savai'i. Throughout this incredible journey we have continuously looked for ways to improve the student's education and wellbeing. We have learnt a lot about mission work and ourselves, and realised that an essential part of this 'mission' experience is to be present and make a commitment to this community of people around us and help them in whatever way is needed.

Fr Mosese, the Principal of our school, has been concerned about student attendance and the student's safety when travelling to and from school for quite some time. He came up with the idea to walk around Savai'i and raise money for a school bus. We wanted to be part of this cause, as we believe that this is one way we can fulfill our mission of helping this school community and assist them to achieve this goal. We want to give all students in Savai'i the opportunity to receive a holistic education; academically, socially, culturally and spiritually so that they can reach their full potential in life.

We believe that a bus will open up that opportunity to more young people on this island. There are four main reasons why we are walking for a school bus:

- to provide alternative safe transport for students
- to enable those who currently can't afford to pay for their bus fares to come to school
- to ensure regular and punctual attendance at school
- to provide transport to and from sporting, cultural and educational events

We have experienced first-hand the difficulties that some students face when travelling to and from school each day via public transport. Village buses are extremely overcrowded, infrequent and often drivers will take adults as passengers before students because their fares are triple the price. This leads to numerous problems, such as some students having 12-hour days to travel to and from school and others missing school as they are not being picked up from the side the road.

On Monday 19th August, Fr Mosese and both of us are setting off to walk 180km around Savai'i to raise funds for a school bus. We are planning to complete the walk in 7 days. Along the way, we will overnight in villages and take the opportunity to talk with families in the village and encourage parents to support their kids' education. We want to send the message that this could be as simple as helping them with their homework or spending some time reading at home.

We are very excited about this initiative and have started our training and preparation for this walk. If you would like to know more about how you can support this cause, please visit The Cagliero Project's website <http://www.cagliero.org.au> and follow the "Walk for a Bus" link or 'like' us on Facebook to keep updated at <http://www.facebook.com/WalkforaBus>.

If you would like more information you can also contact Catherine at catherinelutvey@gmail.com and Declan at dcrowe_93@hotmail.com.

