



Laura Vicuna Foundation



Since the last newsletter, a further **1100 pounds** has been given, some from individual donors and also fundraising activities, which is great. At Christmas they held the Parti-Han 2010 which is a party for 1200 street children from all of the salesians projects across the cities of metro manila, it was a very good time for all with a hilarious magician performing, dancing and singing competitions and each was given a bucket full of mostly food items to take with them to help their families too.

Their marvelous work goes on and one story from the LVC for girls was particularly moving, there are two new girls there now and this is their story:

They are two sisters 10 and 12 years old.

Their father, a man of tremendous courage, has looked after them since one was a newborn and the other 2 years old when their mother was killed in a road accident. They lived 'under the stars' in a park in Manila in a wooden cart which during the day doubled up as the father's business. He collects scrap metals, bottles, plastic cardboard etc, anything that can be sold and recycled. Never enough to provide a house but he was able to feed and clothe them all those years and even send them to school, although in a different part of town for fear they would be discriminated against. Many of the schools here have 2 shifts per day, and one daughter went to school 6am to midday and then the other 12 to 6pm each sharing the same pair of shoes. So for the last 10 years things went on in this way.

Sad to say that the father has become sick, years living on the streets takes its toll, and his daughters were sexually abused one night while they slept in the park. At their fathers request, they are at the Laura Vicuna Centre now in safe hands, receiving counseling, eating well and back in school while he (hopefully) recovers and is able to take care of them again.

The Salesians sisters here are really bringing hope into these broken lives and giving them a future. **Please keep up the support for the many needy children that they care for.**



SIR's Backpack Appeal

About 100 backpacks were made and sent to SIR for their project in Malawi and **200 pounds** towards the transport costs and Mary's Meals program. Donors included parishioners from St Alphonse and pupils from Sacred Heart School, Westhoughton (pictured left)

Sudan Update



The torture that blinded 14-year-old Ker Aleu Deng failed to kill his optimism and craving to learn. Enslaved by jihadi militiamen during Sudan's North-South civil war (1983-2005), Ker was hung upside down from a tree by his master, Zacharia Salih, who then rubbed chili peppers into his eyes. The master's motive was to prevent Ker from helping his abused mother – Zacharia's sex slave – escape from captivity. With the assistance of CSI, Ker has now started to memorize English words and is eager to receive a formal education. Ker was one of 312 recently liberated slaves interviewed by CSI last week in Sudan. The overwhelming majority of slaves had been subjected to physical and psychological abuse, including rape, death threats, female genital mutilation, forced labor, beatings, death threats and forced conversion to Islam. Another example:-



Akuot Anei Wol: 25-years-old: I lost my sight in my eye soon after I was captured. I was still just a girl then. My master's wife was called Howah. She made me grind grain and clean the house.

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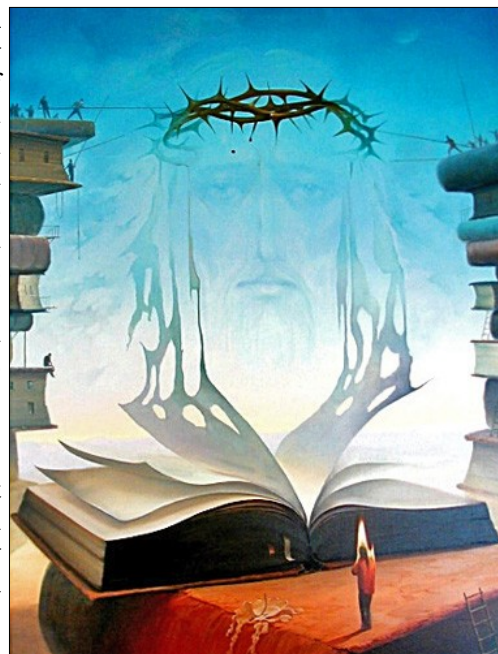
India

Thanks to all who continue collecting aluminium cans/foil and printer cartridges and old mobile phones as this has now funded another **4 people (240 pounds)** for their college courses through the SVP Student twinnage scheme.

Sudan ctd....

One day she was angry and accused me of failing to wash the dishes and sweep the floor properly. Howah grabbed a horse whip and struck me in the face. It hit me in the eye. I lost sight immediately. Howah said: "I'll blind your other eye if you don't work. **500 pounds was given which has set 10 more slaves FREE** .. Please keep all those waiting to be released in your prayers..**and keep helping**

Bread for China ? About 30+ years ago, in Henan province in China a teenage boy, later to become a mighty evangelist, knelt by his bedside praying for a bible. He had seen his father healed of cancer a few days before when his mother prayed for his healing in the name of Jesus, and he wanted to know who this Jesus was. In those days in China there were no bibles, during the cultural revolution they had all been burnt and all the missionaries expelled, executed or imprisoned. In his small village no one had ever seen one, although some had seen handwritten passages many years before. He began what was to become a 100 day fast as part of his prayer for a bible. He neither ate nor drank all day and just had a bit of rice in the evening. By the end, almost delirious with hunger he had a vision during his prayers where he saw his bible being delivered to him. As he woke from this vision, there was a knock at the door and two men entered and handed him a red bag with a bible inside. Some months previously an old evangelist from another part of China, who had suffered terribly for his faith during the cultural revolution, but had managed to successfully hide his bible by burying it in the ground in a can, also had a dream. He had seen the boy's house, the village he lived in and the province and the Lord told him to send his bible to this boy. He asked two Christian friends to deliver it to him, the ones who knocked on the door 100 days later.



China is so hungry for God, so many conversions to Christianity are taking place, but still there is difficulty in getting God's word to the many who want it, A group called Asia Harvest are mass producing Chinese bibles and translations in local dialects for ethnic minorities in other parts of Asia, so we would like to invite you to help in this project too, it only costs about **2 pounds per bible, a small price for such a valuable gift.**