



May 2013 Newsletter



This February marked our 20th anniversary. Time flies, and sadly we had to bid farewell to a couple of long standing supporters who have died. First is John Greening, who was with us right from the start collecting food for the convoys to Bosnia (with his wife Ann) and has helped tremendously over the years since then. I am sure he is receiving his reward now for a great life. The other is Mary Heffernan who has helped over many years as well. People wondered how she won at Bingo every week, or indeed any other kind of gambling. I can now reveal her secret..she had a system. By arrangement with a favourite saint, she promised to give the appeal half (50%) of

everything she ever won, and she did this for years, helped many of the children's charities we support. I wanted to send her to Las Vegas but she wouldn't have it !

This year the summary is : 250 to the Missionaries of Charity in Gambia, 200 to Mary's Meals in Malawi, 425 to CSI in the Sudan for slave redemption, 450 to Salesian sisters in the Philippines for the street children, 120 to SVP twinnage for student education sponsorship in India, 175 to Asia Harvest for Bibles for China, and 175 to the Good Counsel Network in London for their prolife outreach to pregnant women , rescuing babies from abortion.

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Asia harvest continue their great work in producing Bibles in Chinese and getting them to those who have never had access to it. (175 pounds sent)

"Words cannot express the gratitude our family feels for the bible you provided for us. We treasure it and read it every day. Reading the words of our lord makes our hearts overflow with joy. For so many years we longed to know the truth, and now we understand more every day and our faith is becoming stronger. God bless you for your sacrificing and giving so that we can know the truth."

Good Counsel Network (UK)

"Dear children, tonight I invite you to pray in a special way for the unborn children. Pray especially for the mothers who kill their children. Dear children, I am sad because so many children are killed. Pray that there are no more such mothers in the world." *(Message of Our Lady in Medjugorje to the Medjugorje Prayer group, 3/03/90)*

*Good Counsel Network help mothers-to-be with roadside counselling outside abortion clinics, prayer, and material assistance to help them keep their babies. This is really 'front-line' work in the defense of the unborn. **Please support them.** (175 pounds sent)*



A few weeks ago I was walking into Malate Church car park (in Manila) and just in front of me was a young street girl, barefoot and a bit messy. Just then from inside the church another young girl came out, in her father's arms dressed like a princess. There was a wedding on, maybe she was a flower girl. I wondered just how different their lives were likely to be. For one there would be school, college and perhaps her own wedding one day; for the other a less certain future, no school, and as Malate is a notorious red light area, the best scenario was that she might become a vendor or beggar. And at worst fall victim to the pimps or pedophiles. Whilst there is suffering in every life, it did seem that the dice were loaded from the beginning.

Later as I came out I saw her again, standing by the outside wall of the church weeping, her hands cupped over her eyes. Somehow even without any religious instruction, everybody knows where to go to cry don't they? I could imagine her guardian angel collecting those tears and whisking them up to the throne of God.

Later, in the car park as the wedding crowds dispersed she was begging for coins from the wealthy guests as they got into their cars to go to the reception and eat but she received nothing at all from them. Whatever celebration of love took place inside the church, compassion didn't quite make it as far as the car park.

Laura Vicuna Foundation (the Salesian sisters) help many vulnerable girls, only a small proportion of those in need, and they really need your help, thanks for your donations of **450 pounds** this year.

CSI Slave Redemption in Sudan



Deng Mawein Mawein (17 years old) – Enslaved as an infant. Regularly beaten. Stabbed. Scalp burned. Racially and religiously insulted. Witnessed the execution of four other slaves.



Akec Akec Wol (18 years old) – Captured in childhood. Circumcised. Raped. Witnessed the execution of slaves. Threatened with death. Separated from her baby.

Recent Rescue Stories

425 pounds sent

INDIA:- Thanks to all who collect aluminium cans/foil, printer cartridges and old mobile phones as this has now funded 26 students in India for one year college courses. Two more students have been sponsored (**120 pounds**) during this period.

SIR's Backpack Appeal

The last batch of **160** backpacks were sent out earlier this year with SIR and a total of **200 pounds sent** for their Mary's Meals programme in Malawi. This is our annual appeal around **Christmas time** so please help to promote it or organize it in your parish or school. For a list of items to include in the backpack see our website for the appeal letter and list. (see download section of the website)

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