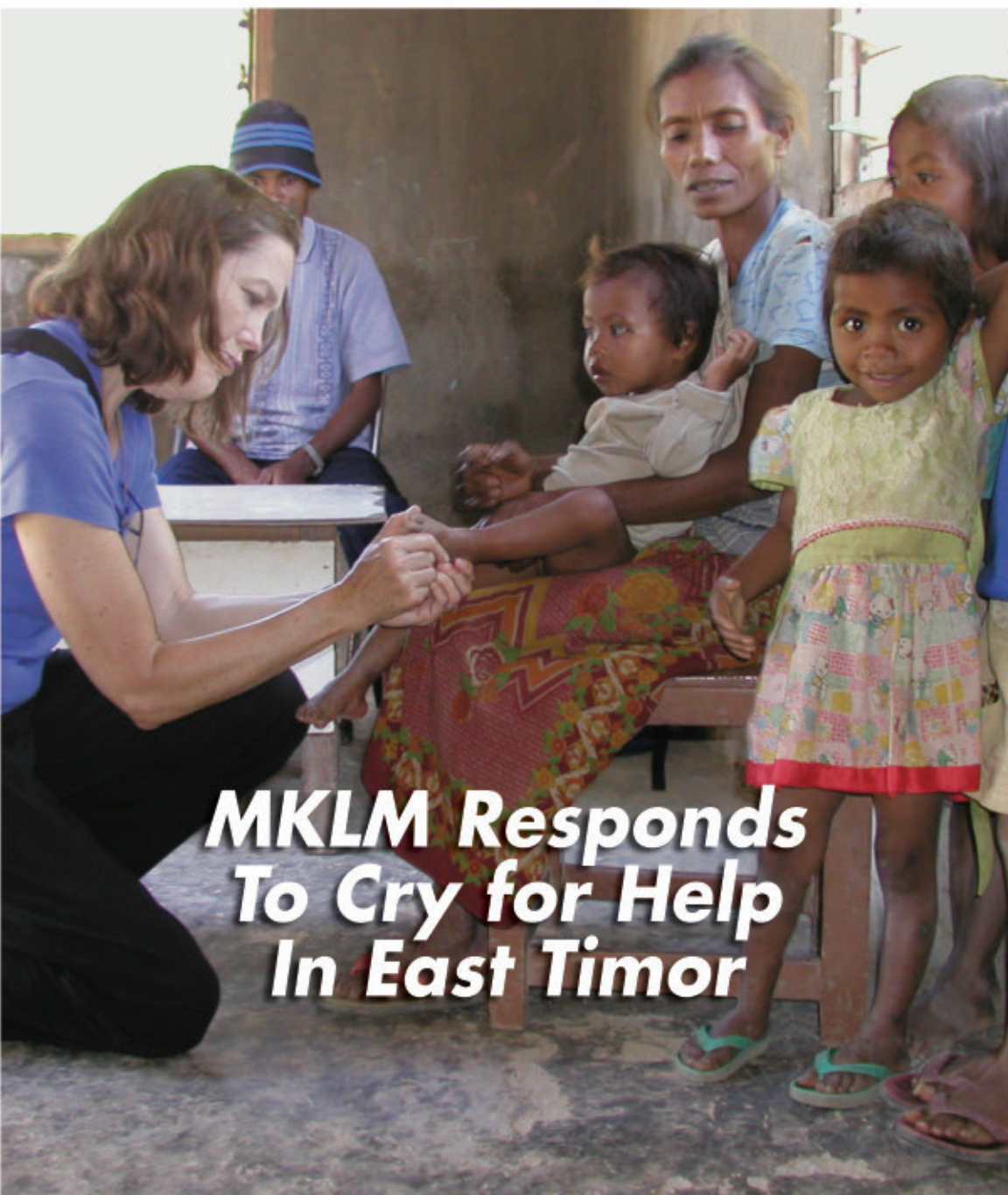


VOICES *of* COMPASSION



NEWSLETTER OF MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONERS

WINTER 2007



**MKLM Responds
To Cry for Help
In East Timor**

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Late this summer, Maryknoll Lay Missioners' class of 1982 gathered here "at the Knoll" for their 25 Year Reunion. Everyone in attendance was thrilled to visit with old friends, some of whom hadn't seen each other since they scattered to the corners of the earth in early 1983. There was no question that their bonds had endured and that service in mission had been life-changing for each and every one.

Among those who entered mission service 25 years ago are Ann Grieg and Alicia Butkiewicz, who now is MKLM's Director of Missions and my valued partner on our Leadership Team. Ann continues to serve the poor in El Salvador, where her soy-based nutrition program has been replicated in 15 separate communities.

Of course, as lay persons who do not take life-long vows, most members of the class returned to their home parishes and communities once they had concluded their time abroad following three or more years at work in the field. But serving others has remained a constant for nearly all of the class, both in their choices of profession and in their volunteer activities.

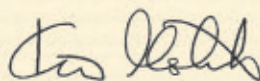
The class of 1982 includes teachers, nurses, a physician's assistant, the deputy director of a program advocating nursing home reform, a senior advisor on justice and peace building at Catholic Relief Services, a mental health counselor, the executive director of a community development loan fund and a senior health policy analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Whew!

Their volunteer activities include service to women prisoners and migrant farm workers, service at a medical clinic, and woodland conservation... to name just a few. One member of the class, Angela Donnelly, serves on MKLM's Board of Directors!

Here at MKLM, one can often hear the phrase, "Once a missionary, always a missionary"... and it certainly seems to be true. More than 500 of our alumni are once again here in the United States, helping to build better lives and stronger communities. The re-entry of our returning missionaries is part of what distinguishes them as members of the laity and one of the ways that MKLM makes lasting contributions overseas and here at home.

So, when you offer your financial support to help the world's poor through Maryknoll Lay Missioners, you are indirectly strengthening the fabric of the U.S. Catholic Church in numerous communities across our great land. Thank you very much for your ongoing support of our efforts.

Yours in Christ,



Kevin Mestrich
Executive Director, Maryknoll Lay Missioners



A Cry for Help

This issue of *Voices of Compassion* focuses on MKLM ministries in East Timor. People of this country have known what it is like to suffer under harsh government rule, political conflict, and tremendous socio-economic strife. Additionally, an estimated 1.5 to 2.5% of the population is physically disabled (not counting the hearing- or sight- impaired).

In East Timor, four MKLM missionaries apply their skills and knowledge to respond to basic needs of the poor, raise the quality of life, and restore hope, by helping to improve healthcare and education, advocating for civil and human rights, working for sustainable development, and offering pastoral care.



Also in this issue, you will read about two MKLM alumni that previously served in East Timor. And, on the page to the left, MKLM Executive Director, Kevin Mestrich, offers his reflection on the 25 Year Reunion of the Class of 1982 and the 25th Anniversary of two MKLM missionaries still in service.

If you wish to learn more about our organization, the work we do, the missionaries you help us to send and support in mission, or those whom we serve, please call us at **1.800.867.2980**, visit us at **www.mkmlm.org**, or write us:

Maryknoll Lay Missioners, P.O. Box 307, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0307

Spotlight: East Timor

*Imbedded in the islands of Indonesia lies the island of Timor. The eastern-most half of that island is the nation of **East Timor**. Though it spans an area of only 6,120 square miles (roughly the size of Connecticut), East Timor's inhabitants have much to be proud of.*

From late in the 16th century until 1975, East Timor was a colony of Portugal. In 1975, during the process of decolonization, Indonesian troops invaded the country and East Timor became a part of Indonesia. On May 20, 2002, after a 25 year struggle, the Timorese gained their independence, and East Timor became the world's newest nation, the first established in the 21st century.

This long-awaited independence came at a great price. An estimated 200,000 people died in East Timor between the time of the Indonesian invasion and East Timor's vote for independence in 1999. Additionally, most of the country's villages and buildings were destroyed by militia groups.

Now the Timorese people are rebuilding their country. The economic and political struggles of this newly forming nation have created challenges for healthcare and education. Its large population of disabled people lack access to, or the economic resources for, proper healthcare. Many children do not have the opportunity to attend school.



MKLM missionaries in East Timor find the people's faith and courage in the face of adversity a source of hope and inspiration.

Their Light Shines On... In East Timor

Patty and Kim LaMothe joined MKLM in 1994. For their first five years in Cambodia, they served people with disabilities, especially those who had been impacted by polio and landmines. Patty also assisted in a program to train blind people to become massage therapists, thereby providing them with employment opportunities.

Kim and Patty helped to start the MKLM presence in East Timor in 2003 and immediately began efforts to rebuild the war-torn nation. Patty served as a teacher running a mobile library reaching out to 20 schools in the district of Aileu. Kim used his carpentry and



Patty LaMothe, left, was one of the first MKLM missionaries to serve in the war-torn nation of East Timor. Her mobile library reached more than 20 schools in Aileu.



Kim LaMothe, (shown here, right) working with a native East Timor resident to build a Catholic high school for the youth of Aileu.

administrative skills to coordinate a team to build the new Catholic high school in the district as well as repair many of the schools that were damaged during the 2002 uprising.

The LaMoths returned to the United States in August, 2006 and have settled in Burlington, Vermont. Kim works in a cabinet making shop and Patty teaches fourth grade in a Catholic school in Burlington.

"Paz, Domin, Kristu"

MKLM missionary Steve Chinnavaso arrived in East Timor in January, 2005 – just three years after the country won its independence from

Indonesia. He worked as a middle school and high school science teacher before pursuing a second bachelor's degree in Music with a focus on Music

Education. He directed choirs for three years both at the middle and high school levels.

As an MKLM missionary arriving in East Timor, where 66% of the population is under the age of 18, his ministry seemed clear.

Steve has continued to share his gift and skills in teaching music and English at the local Catholic and



Despite the lack of classroom materials, this MKLM missionary engages more than 500 East Timorese students in Music and English classes, providing the students with a sense of joy and purpose.



course and introduces new songs and melodies to the group. During the country's recent civil strife that reached its height in May 2006, Steve, in collaboration with Maryknoll Sister Eileen

public high schools in Aileu, East Timor. Although basic classroom materials such as chalk, desks, chairs, and textbooks remain inadequate, and class sizes number between 35 and 50 students, Steve is blessed with students that are eager to learn.

His work provides more than 500 children of this new, struggling nation with much more than a creative outlet or basic academic skill. It provides a sense of joy and purpose, as well as a much-needed daily consistency in the lives of the young students.

Steve has also been working with the local parish youth group in Aileu, where he teaches an afternoon English

Brady, introduced a song of peace, "Paz, Domin, Kristu" ("Peace, Love, Christ") to the youth, a song whose lyrics cut to the heart of the conflict that has and continues to plague the fledgling nation.

Steve, originally from Livermore, CA, joined MKLM in 2005. Although East Timor was his first mission site as an MKLM missionary, he had been active in community-based and volunteer efforts prior to his involvement with MKLM, serving as a volunteer in a Catholic parish in San Lucas Tolimán, Guatemala. To learn more about Steve and other MKLM missionaries, or to learn more about becoming an MKLM missionary, please visit: www.mklm.org.



Celebrating the Disabled of East Timor

Economically, the newly established nation of East Timor is not equipped to provide the prostheses and mobility units that so many of its disabled inhabitants need.

In 2003, MKLM missionary Bill Velicky brought his talent and experience to serve as supervisor of the St. Francis of Assisi Workshop, which creates special footwear, wheelchairs and hand-powered tricycles for disabled people in the Aileu community. The rocky and mountainous terrain of East

Timor often makes simple travel impossible for those with disabilities; those who do attempt mobility are often injured by falls. Equipment from the workshop eases the pain and burden for adults and children with clubfoot, polio, and leprosy.

Bill's ministry currently serves



LEFT AND BELOW: Bill Velicky, officially recognized by the East Timorese government for his work with the disabled, is pictured here fitting some of his young patients for the prosthetics they need for mobility.

RIGHT: Bill's workshop teaches these men how to build prosthetics and mobility devices, a skill that they will pass on to future generations.



approximately 100 people, and provides the equipment necessary to help ensure that people with disabilities are able to become fully functioning members of the community. In addition, local people with disabilities are trained and employed in equipment production. Bill works with five local men, four of whom are disabled, to design and build the equipment. So, the project provides not only tangible tools, but also a legacy of skills

training and education. The men working with Bill are eager to share their newly acquired skills with future generations.

The St. Francis of Assisi Workshop is part of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) at the parish's clinic. The workshop also collaborates with other nonprofit and governmental organizations including the Ministry of Labor and Solidarity and the Ministry of Health, and a national CBR working group.





On December 3, 2006, during the first International Day of the Disabled Persons, Prime Minister Jose Ramos Horta and several government officials visited the workshop. As a result, the government of East Timor has allocated the project a new parcel of land that will provide space for the establishment of a larger workshop and expanded services.

ABOVE AND LEFT: Eileen Velicky makes home visits to more than 300 children to provide nutritional and developmental therapy. More than 100 children and adults also benefit from the rehabilitation therapy she provides.

MKLM missionary Eileen Velicky, Bill's wife, is also serving in mission with the CBR. Working in collaboration with a Timorese rehabilitation worker, Eileen visits patients in their homes as well as at the St. Francis of Assisi Clinic to provide nutritional and developmental therapy. The nutrition clinic weighs children and provides counseling, health education, food, and a nutritional supplement made at the clinic. All the children are screened for developmental problems. Those with developmental delays receive physical therapy. Parents are taught activities to stimulate development.

Eileen's ministry in the nutrition and development program serves more than 300 children. In addition, she provides physical therapy for more than 100 children and adults with disabilities and adaptive equipment such as special chairs and devices to assist walking.

As a member of the national CBR working group holding a bachelor of science degree in Physical Therapy, Eileen was instrumental in planning and implementing a 4-year training program for community-based rehabilitation workers. The course began in 2006 and Eileen team-teaches the course. The program is recognized by the Ministry of Labor and Solidarity as well as the Ministry of Health.



Eileen and Bill have served as MKLM missionaries in Tanzania from 1992-1996 and in East Timor from 2003 to the present. They have also served in Cambodia with the American Friends Service Committee. Eileen developed a pediatric rehabilitation program in Tanzania and worked as a physical therapist instructor and trainer in Cambodia, eventually becoming the Director of Rehabilitation and Co-Country Director of the Cambodia Trust. She also worked as a physical therapist in Maine, New Hampshire, and New Jersey.

Bill has used his certificates, degrees, and training as a prosthetist and orthotist in locations from Tanzania and Cambodia, to Maine, and was a lecturer in the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics. He, too, served as Co-Country Director of the Cambodia Trust.

To learn more about Bill, Eileen, and other MKLM missionaries, or to learn more about becoming an MKLM missionary, please visit: www.mkmlm.org.

The following Q & A interview was conducted with MKLM's Joe Loney, an MKLM missionary since 1995. In January 2006, Joe became Director of MKLM's Mission Services Department (MSD). The MSD staff is responsible for the recruitment, selection and formation of new lay missionaries.

In addition, MSD provides services to lay missionaries in the field as well as those returning to the United States in order to help them integrate their mission experience into the broader context of their lives.



MKLM has been recognized as the leader in overseas volunteer service training. What is it that makes the program a model for other service groups?

Experience! The Maryknoll Fathers started sending Lay Missioners. Now, MKLM has more than 30 years experience. We've trained and sent more than 550 women and men to overseas service — more than any of our fellow service groups.

Plus, we have a comprehensive 13-week training program that other organizations refer to as a model. It is followed by a 5-month overseas language study. We prepare people specifically for the many challenges they will face in long-term overseas work.

Tell us a bit more about your training program.

When one feels that they are being called to mission, they need some time to really think about the commitment they are making. During Orientation, our team is dedicated to assisting candidates through that very sensitive process of awareness and decision.

Besides discerning mission, candidates learn about the theology of mission, ministry planning, community life, economic and social analysis, racism, and much more.

MKLM missionaries come from diverse backgrounds. What are some of the common characteristics of the missionaries you send overseas?

Well, aside from the fact that they all meet our requirements — Catholic, U.S. citizen or permanent resident, fewer than two children younger than 8 years old, etc... The most common trait is that they feel a call to dedicate their lives to the mission of Jesus by providing service to the poor.

Some have a high-school diploma, some are PhDs. It varies. Dedication is what matters.

Is there any minimum or maximum length of service at MKLM?

Well the minimum is 3½ years, with 3-year contracts after that. There's no set retirement age. As long as someone's healthy, he or she might serve 25 years or more. In fact, we have 5 missionaries in service right now with more than 25 years of service.

Although MKLM has a high renewal rate for missionaries that sign on to serve more than one contract period, some missionaries do return to the United States to pursue a life post-mission. How does MKLM help them transition back?

Re-entry is a very high priority for us. And, the process we use is very similar to that of our Orientation session. This is part of what makes us a model for our fellow organizations.

If one of our readers or someone they know is interested in becoming an MKLM missionary, who should they contact?

We'd love to hear from them! Anyone interested should call Joe Regotti at **800-818-5276 ext 122**. Or they can email him at jregotti@mklm.org. Or they can visit www.mklm.org to get more information or fill-out a preliminary application — no strings attached!

Welcome to East Timor!



Equipped with an Associate Degree in Business Administration, a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, a Postgraduate Diploma in Third World Development Studies, and years of experience in business and accounting, John O'Donoghue began serving the poor of developing nations in 1982.



And now, John, a Norwood, Massachusetts resident, joins MKLM as its newest missionary in East Timor. John received his mission cross and formal assignment to East Timor during MKLM's mission sending ceremony on December 9, 2006 in Ossining, New York. John was among seven new MKLM missionaries that departed for developing nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America in January. Although John's departure for East Timor is his first as a lay missionary, he is certainly no stranger to life and service abroad.

John has applied his talents, skills, and business know-how to development projects with B.M.B. Management Consulting for Development, the International Rescue Committee's Emergency Medical Program, Mother Theresa and the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, the Peace Corps, Save the Children, and the UN World Food Program. His 25 years of service to the poor and marginalized has taken him around the world to places such as Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and Sudan, to name a few.

MKLM is proud to support John as its newest missionary in East Timor.

Maryknoll...the tradition continues.



For nearly 100 years the name Maryknoll has been synonymous with overseas mission. As we approach a new century of service, members of the laity are being called to assume an even greater role. As a leader in overseas mission, it's a challenge **MKLM** embraces.

The tradition continues with Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

did you know?

The 3 branches of Maryknoll – Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers, Maryknoll Sisters, and us, Maryknoll Lay Missioners – are each separately funded and operated. Each depends on its unique donors for support.



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INSIDE
Read the stories of
MKLM missionaries
in East Timor!

****Please remember, although we are one of the three entities composing Maryknoll Missioners, we, Maryknoll Lay Missioners, are separately funded from the Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers, and from the Maryknoll Sisters.**

We welcome your call for further information at (800) 867-2980.