

VOICES *of* COMPASSION



Winter 2009



AIDS Orphans –
Missioners to Us

Dear Friend,

“Christ is in there somewhere...”

I once knew an old missionary who used to talk about “the missionary eye.” It’s an eye that can “see a pile of garbage” (actually, the word he used for “garbage” was rather more colorful) and discern Christ within. That’s the scandal of the Incarnation – a Savior who is born to us, over and over, in the most unexpected of places.



MKLM's Executive Director
Sam Stanton

The Christian symbol for this holy scandal is a manger – built to hold fodder for livestock. The manger was in a stable, and the stable was in an outpost of a despised and subjugated territory of the Roman Empire where a local, crazed tyrant could nonetheless unleash his armies to slaughter newborn baby boys. What a place for the birth of Emmanuel!

Today, for Maryknoll Lay Missioners serving in Africa, Christ once again takes flesh in places where the world fails to recognize him – in stinking slums and squalid hovels, in AIDS-ravaged human bodies, in the grimy, outstretched hands of AIDS orphans begging on the streets, and most of all, in the trauma betrayed in their young eyes. Maryknoll Lay Missioners look into those eyes and see the face of Christ.

To see what they see, turn the pages of this issue of *Voices of Compassion*, where you will read about the ministries of MKLM missionaries in Tanzania

and Kenya among very poor people whose lives have been impacted directly or indirectly, but always catastrophically, by HIV/AIDS.

Christ is in there. Have we not all experienced this at some moment in our own lives – in the darkest corners and in the least sublime circumstances? These are precisely where God waits to meet us, to touch us with love that transforms.

Having experienced this love, you share it abundantly with Christ's poor by supporting the ministries of Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Thank you for being a life-giving presence to those in need! May 2010 be filled abundantly with the ever-surprising, ever-renewing presence of Christ.

Yours in mission,



Sam Stanton
Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

Maryknoll Lay Missioners is a Catholic organization inspired by the mission of Jesus to live and work in poor communities in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, responding to basic needs and helping to create a more just and compassionate world.

THE FACTS:

HIV/AIDS and Health Care Crisis in Developing Countries



Since the first cases of HIV/AIDS were diagnosed in the early 1980s, the pandemic has spread rapidly worldwide, especially in developing countries.

Efforts to fight this pandemic in developing nations are hampered by a number of factors, including a shortage of health care workers, inadequate capacity (trained caregivers and infrastructure), underfunded health care systems, and insufficient medical supplies.

In some countries, HIV/AIDS has caused average life expectancy to drop by more than 25 years.

In developing countries, shortage of health care workers is an acute problem. The most notable causes of this problem are emigration of doctors and nurses to industrialized countries in search of better salaries and working conditions, deaths of health personnel from HIV/AIDS-related illnesses, and lack of capacity and funds to adequately train health care workers. The pervasiveness of HIV/AIDS-related diseases, as well

as of malaria and tuberculosis, has also exacerbated the problem.

The shortage of health care workers is seen primarily in Africa and rural parts of Asia, where many of them are migrating to wealthy nations to seek jobs. A 2004 CNN report examined the trend of increasing numbers of certified

Families of people living with HIV/AIDS are often left in abject poverty, discriminated against, and unable to find work or shelter.



According to the UNAIDS 2008 Executive Summary Report on the Global AIDS Pandemic:

- Globally, in 2007, there were an estimated 33 million people living with HIV.
- Sub-Saharan Africa remains most heavily affected by HIV. In 2007, the region accounted for 67% of all people living with HIV and for 72% of AIDS-related deaths in 2007.
- The number of children younger than 15 years old who are living with HIV increased from 1.6 million in 2001 to 2 million in 2007. Almost 90% live in sub-Saharan Africa.

nurses from former British colonies such as Ghana, Malawi, Kenya, Botswana, and South Africa in the British register of nurses. About 60% of the nursing positions that had been occupied by those nurses are unfilled in the African nations. In 2007, the *New York Times* also reported on the acute shortage of health care workers in Africa, stating that Rwanda has only 500 doctors that serve 10 million people, resulting in a doctor-to-patient ratio of one to 20,000. The article also alluded to the fact that in Rwanda, the majority of people will not see a physician in their lifetime.

In many countries, lack of access to essential drugs and life-prolonging medicines (available in wealthy nations) means that many children will be orphans, and many grandparents will raise grandchildren.

Developing nations that have been hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic are also facing shortages of healthcare facilities. Most developing nations have poor health infrastructures, insufficient medical equipment, and shortages of drugs and supplies. These challenges are exacerbated by

The financial drain of HIV/AIDS leads to debt burdens that negatively affect a country's ability to feed and educate its people.

the rampant corruption in some countries' health care systems. As a result, drugs and medical equipment made available to public hospitals and clinics tend to vanish and find their way into private hospitals and pharmacies. Poor people who cannot afford to pay at private hospitals and clinics, or to purchase drugs from pharmacies, are the ones who suffer from such corruption. The poor in developing countries do not have health insurance with which to access quality health care from private health care providers.

In sub-Saharan Africa, according to a NextAid report, an African child loses a parent to AIDS every 14 seconds, and out of 15 million orphans in Africa, only 10 percent are receiving some kind of support.

In Africa, Maryknoll Lay Missioners are answering their baptismal call to mission by serving people who live with and are affected by AIDS.

MKLM RESPONDS TO AIDS PANDEMIC IN AFRICA



Fifteen thousand Africans die each day of diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS. The AIDS pandemic has left 11 million children orphaned; recent ethnic conflicts have claimed millions of lives; one half of Africans live in extreme poverty, making Africa the poorest region in the world; nations struggle to recognize basic human rights and are burdened with widespread corruption. Jeffrey Sachs, in *The End of Poverty*, describes Africa as “the world’s most distressed region.”

MKLM missionaries serving the people of Africa bear witness to Christ’s healing love through our mission service to God’s poor.

*What you have received as a gift,
give as a gift.*

- Matthew 10:8

President Obama Applauds Missioner's 25 Year Comitment



Ask Maryknoll Lay Missioner ***Susan Nagele*** why she has spent the past 25 years as a missionary doctor in Africa, and you'll get a simple answer: "This is where God wants me to be."

That's it. No complex reasoning. No flowery sentiments. Susan has chosen to be wherever God wants her to be. Her radical openness to God's will has landed her in operating rooms with lights flickering and walls shaking as bombs exploded outside. It has landed her on dusty roads choked with refugees fleeing their burning villages. It has landed her by the agonized bedsides of children dying of AIDS.

**"I've had a lot given to me
and I want to be able to give
some of it back."**

In Tanzania, Sudan, and Kenya, Susan has treated and comforted women who have been battered and raped. She has delivered babies who would not have survived had she not been there to monitor their sick mothers. Last year, as post-election violence swept through Kenya, she worked tirelessly with other Maryknoll Lay Missioners to care for countless victims who had been shot, stabbed, beaten, and burned. After 25 years of living through all the



above, you might think that Susan would be ready to call it quits. Instead, in August 2009 she returned to our Bethany headquarters to renew her commitment as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner serving in Africa.

Reflecting on her work in mission, Susan says, modestly, "I've had a lot given to me and I want to be able to give some of it back."

In September 2009, President Obama applauded Susan for her commitment to service. His letter is included on the following page.

Your generous contributions help keep Dr. Susan Nagele in mission so that she can offer medical treatment to thousands of people in need. Visit mklm.org to learn more about the work that your donations make possible.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 16, 2009

Dr. Susan Nagele
Maryknoll Lay Missioners
Maryknoll, New York

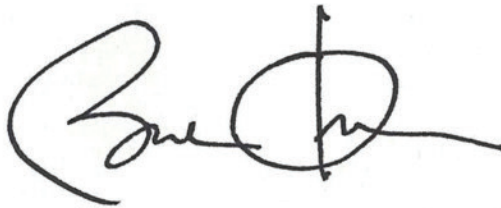
Dear Dr. Nagele:

I am pleased to congratulate you on 25 years of service as a Maryknoll lay missionary.

Those who are moved by faith and a commitment to service remind us that we all have the power to create and maintain a better world for ourselves and our children if only we do God's work here on earth. By caring for the sick, comforting the afflicted, and supporting the poor, missionaries have taken up the difficult work of building a brighter future for people in need around the world. Through their selflessness, they have touched countless lives and inspired us all.

Congratulations again on this important milestone. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

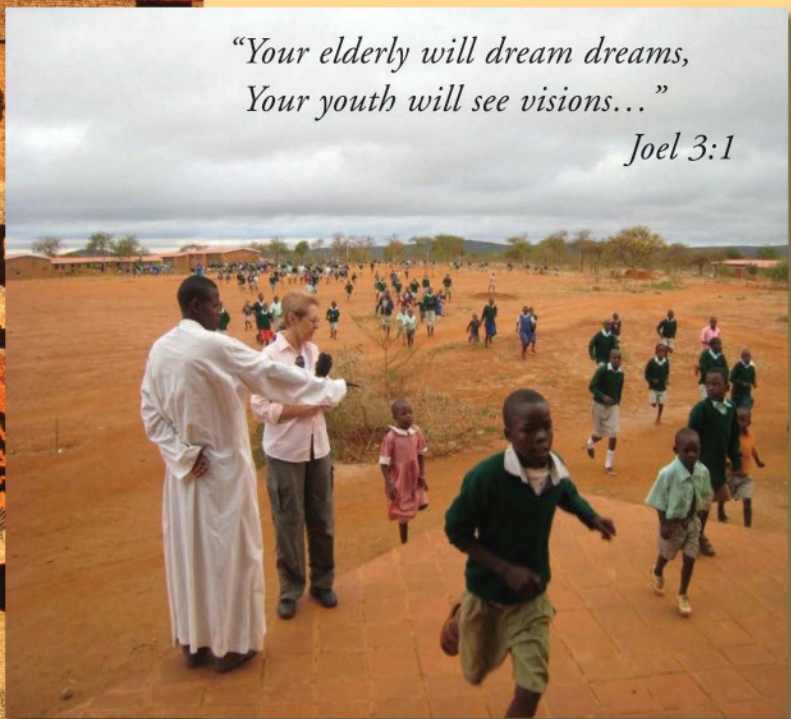
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.

Dreams Come True

MISSIONERS CREATE
SELF-SUSTAINING VILLAGE
FOR AIDS ORPHANS

*"Your elderly will dream dreams,
Your youth will see visions..."*

Joel 3:1



Ilona and Nyumbani Village's pastor, Fr. Julius Maingi, watch as hundreds of AIDS orphans run from school to church for mid-week morning services.

Since their arrival in Kenya in January 2009, MKLM missionaries **Patrick and Ilona Helmholtz** have participated in the founding of Tsavo Children's Village. Pat is the village's Project Manager and Ilona is the Assistant Project Manager. As envisioned by the Archbishop of

Mombasa, the Most Reverend Boniface Lele, the village is located in Mwanda Parish and is being established to provide all of the essential educational, health, and economic support capabilities required for a self-sustaining community of AIDS orphans and caretakers. One thousand acres of land have been allocated by the government.

homes and community institutions, the village will harness the energy of youth and the maturity of elders to create newly blended families that foster healing, hope and opportunity. The goal is to provide compassion and service to all affected by AIDS, so that they will be enabled to lead productive, safe and comfortable lives.

Nyumbani Village provides schooling and housing for nearly 400 AIDS orphans, and aims to provide services for an additional 500. The village has been a model for Pat and Ilona in their creation of Tsavo Children's Village.

The village will serve orphans and elders who have been affected by the AIDS pandemic. The current village design plan includes provisions for up to 900 orphans ranging from birth to 22 years of age, with 150 adult and elderly caregivers in separate single-family homes. The number of staff members, including teachers through secondary school, will approach 65. Through group

Patrick and Ilona Helmholtz came to MKLM from Saint Dominic's Parish in the Diocese of Sacramento, CA. Prior to joining MKLM, Ilona was a Special Education Teacher's Aide and had worked as an administrative assistant in the banking industry. Pat was a professional in Commercial and Investment Banking.



MKLM is a BBB Accredited Charity and a proud member of the BBB Charity Seal Program, which indicates a commitment to the 20 Standards for Charity Accountability. MKLM meets all the Standards, which assess our organization's finances, governance and oversight, effectiveness measures, and fundraising and informational materials.

Dear Family and Friends,

Upon our arrival in Africa, we spent ten days in Nyumbani Village near Nairobi. Nyumbani means "home" in Kiswahili and this village currently holds nearly 400 orphans living with or affected by the AIDS pandemic. Eventually this village will be a home for 900 orphans and their grandmother/caretakers.

We were asked by Archbishop Lele of Mombasa to coordinate the creation of a similar village in the Mombasa Archdiocese, and Nyumbani has been a model for us.

Tsavo Children's Village (TCV) has been picked as the name for the AIDS orphans project we are coordinating. Since the 1,000 acre plot is virtually surrounded by Tsavo National Wildlife Park, its name recognition has the potential to attract the attention of Tsavo safari visitors from around the world.

In these uncertain economic times, we want to be sure that TCV will have a self-sustaining financial component so that the project will not have to be perpetually and solely



funded by donors
to stay in
existence.

Therefore, we
are designing an
agro-forestry
business that will
help ensure self-
sustainability for
TCV. The
business is

currently referred to as
"Trees for Children".

Pictured is an officer
from the Kenya Forestry
Research Institute (KEFRI)

expounding on the economic
potential of a high value indigenous hardwood tree that
grows well in the semi-arid conditions and the geographic
locale of TCV. The Latin name for this species is *Melia
volkensii*. With a ten-year harvest cycle, planting 75 acres of
Melia per year has the potential to generate sufficient
income to ensure TCV's long-term sustainability.

Since Kenya's independence in 1962, almost 90% of the
country's forest resources have been plundered. This is



Here, an officer from the Kenya
Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)
provides us valuable information
that will help us in our
establishment of an agro-forestry
business. Profits from that business
will help sustain the Tsavo
Children's Village.

because 1) 80% of the population burn fuel wood for household cooking, 2) illegal squatting results in clearing of forests for agriculture, 3) government officials allow illegal exports, and 4) there is no real government afforestation program.

The failure of government to effectively manage its forest resources has exacerbated abnormal drought conditions throughout the country. Most of the natural forest based water catchment areas no longer exist. As a result, many of Kenya's rivers and lakes are drying up. In a very small way, TCV's agro-forestry plan will help to stem this trend.

Please consider supporting Maryknoll Lay Missioners. Our work would be impossible without your prayers and financial support. With this in mind, we ask that you consider making a gift to Maryknoll Lay Missioners, the organization that sustains us in this project, or even becoming a *Companion In Mission* sponsor, by which you can schedule a donation in the amount and frequency you determine. To donate, visit www.mklm.org or call Donor Care at 1-800-867-2980.

Love,

Pat and Ilona

To learn more about Pat, Ilona, and all MKLM missionaries please visit mklm.org. Your generosity makes our work possible. Visit us to see the change you make in the world.

New Home, School

**350+ ORPHANS RESCUED FROM STREET
WILL RECEIVE DESPERATELY NEEDED SERVICES**

In Kenya, MKLM missionary **Coralis Salvador** is Coordinator of the AIDS Orphans Project. In collaboration with the Community Based Health Care (CBHC) & AIDS Relief Project of the Catholic Archdiocese of Mombasa, the Orphans Project serves children and

caretakers who have been affected by HIV and AIDs.

The project operates in eight parishes and provides school tuition, books, and uniforms, as well as transportation, meals and medical help to more than 350 children who have been orphaned by AIDS. Four



Built For Orphans

hundred health workers serve in the parish areas to rescue the orphans who are often found begging for change on dangerous streets. The workers bring the children to the project facility for a needs assessment, then monitor their progress after they have begun receiving services.

The program also meets the social and spiritual development needs of the children by providing workshops and skills training to guardians and extended family members who are struggling to care for the children.

Coralis is originally from the Philippines and graduated from Maryknoll College there. Before joining MKLM in 2000, she lived in San Francisco, California where she raised five children, worked as an administrator, and was active in St. Cecilia Parish.



This community center in Changamwe is home to the AIDS Orphans Project, administered by MKLM missionary Coralis Salvador. Your generosity has kept Coralis in mission since 2000. Because of you, she has been able to serve the needs of thousands of AIDS orphans. From Coralis, from MKLM, and from the Mombasa AIDS Orphans – thank you!

Your generosity keeps Coralis in mission, where these orphans desperately need her. Thank you for joining MKLM in serving the world's poor. To learn more about Coralis and the work that your generosity makes possible, visit mklm.org.

Dear Friends of MKLM,

"Fear not . . . My love shall never leave you." [Is 54:4,10]



→ **Highlights:** After three years of waiting, we are happy to be back in our remodeled office in the parish of Changamwe. The parish built a 3-level, functional community center. It houses CBHC/AIDS Orphans*, computer and tailoring classes, a conference hall and dormitories.

My dream is to add a library to the center because of the many benefits having one would afford the children. Many of them come to our program from environments in which reading is not a priority; a library may open new windows for them. They would be exposed to (and discover the adventures in) books. Practically speaking, the kids would have a quiet place to study and one that has the very rich luxury of electricity – something that is not available in each of their homes.

→ **Orphans:** This year, we are partnering with others to support a promising orphan (Maurice) who was listed as one of the top of thousands of candidates of KCSE** in Mombasa, as he pursues a civil engineering degree at Nairobi University. The AIDS Orphans Project has supported him and his three siblings starting from

*Community Based Health Care & AIDS Relief Project

**Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examination

when they were primary school students. In November 2009, 32 AIDS Orphans finished their primary studies and they want to continue to secondary school in 2010. With your financial support, we can make their dreams come true.

→ **Poverty:** Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours [Lk 6:20] . . . What is the blessing of being poor; how can one be happy being poor? One orphan's response was "being poor is a self-challenge, what you make of it is the blessing."

A priest responded that the poor's helplessness is a tool in God's kingdom: They are empowered precisely because of our solidarity with them, and through our being servants to them. Through solidarity and through our servitude, they are empowered because we have shared Christ's divinity. Truly, one can see that there could be nothing happy about being poor. The beauty of this message is that when someone feels detached from everything worldly, as those who live in poverty often do, only then can they find happiness and self-fulfillment through those things that keep them attached: love, care, compassion, respect and gratitude for being.



The marginalized poor and orphans whom we serve bear witness to this rare opportunity; unbeknownst to them they are missionaries to those of us who serve them.

The marginalized poor and orphans whom we serve...are missionaries to us, who serve them.

The poor/rich, bad/good, healthy/sick, etc. are no longer opposites, but part of a continuum in one's evolving to true self.

→ **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, when I am tempted to put the expectations of others above your will in my life, give me enough courage to trust that pleasing you will ultimately be the best I can do for them.

→ **Reflection:** "We do what we can always out of love."

In the midst of global recession, we appreciate your continued outreach to the AIDS Orphans and we can't thank you enough.

Be blessed,

Coralis Salvador

(and the Aids Orphans of Mombasa)



Our Prayer for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS

God of all compassion,
Comfort your sons and daughters
Who live with HIV.
Spread over us all your quilt
of Mercy,
Love and Peace.

Open our eyes to your presence
Reflected in their faces.
Open our ears to your truth
Echoing in their hearts.

Give us the strength
To weep with the grieving,
To walk with the lonely,
To stand with the depressed.

May our love mirror your love
For those who live in fear,
Who live under stress and
Who suffer rejection.

Mothering, fathering God
Grant rest to those who have died
And hope to all who live with HIV.

God of life, help us to find the
cure now
And help us to build a world
in which
No one dies alone and where
Everyone lives accepted
Wanted and loved.



One “Berry” Unique Donor

How far would you go to help raise support for MKLM? Dorothy Kraft Hill goes about waist deep.

Dorothy, a hairdresser from Pine City, Minnesota, has combined her love of cranberries with her love of mission to produce a most interesting way of raising support for MKLM.

Each fall, Dorothy wades waist deep into the cranberry bog on her family farm in central Minnesota. After spending hours collecting the berries, she transports them to her garage for a tedious process of cleaning, sorting, and packaging for sale.



Dorothy has engaged the aid of fellow parishioners of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church to join her for the garage portion of work. The “cleaning crew” make a social event of the hours of work – sharing stories, food, and laughter. They are uplifted by the thought that their work will go to support the mission of MKLM. Dorothy sells the berries after Sunday Mass.

Gerrie Mach, mother of Maryknoll Lay Missioner **Liz Mach**, is happy to be a cleaning crewmember. Liz’s ministry in Tanzania is a health care project for children living with HIV.

The profit from the cranberries goes to support Liz’s work as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner.

Dorothy, on behalf of MKLM, thank you for joining us in mission. We hope you weren’t too “bogged” down by your cranberry chores!

~Sam Stanton, MKLM Executive Director

If you wish to learn more about MKLM, please call us at 1.800.867.2980, visit us at www.mkmlm.org or write us at: Maryknoll Lay Missioners
P.O. Box 307
Maryknoll, NY
10545-0307

Did You Know?



The three branches of Maryknoll – Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers, Maryknoll Sisters, and us, Maryknoll Lay Missioners – are **each separately funded and operated**.

Although we often join together to serve in mission, each entity depends on its unique donors for support.

Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers

Through contributions to Maryknoll Lay Missioners, you can make a difference in the lives of the poor in thirteen countries worldwide. To make your gift, please complete the form below and return it today.

Maryknoll Sisters

On behalf of all those that we are privileged to serve, we thank you very much.

Maryknoll Lay Missioners

To learn more, visit **mklm.org**.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Check: Enclosed is my gift to Maryknoll Lay Missioners of:

☐ \$260 ☐ \$110 ☐ \$55 ☐ \$30 ☐ Other _____

Credit Card: Following is my information for my credit card gift to Maryknoll Lay Missioners:

☐ AMEX ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover Expiration Date: / /

Cardholder's Name: _____ Credit Card #: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Please mail to: Maryknoll Lay Missioners ■ PO Box 307 ■ Maryknoll, NY 10545
1.800.867.2980 ■ www.mklm.org