



VOICES of COMPASSION



SPRING 2006

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONERS

Mombasa's History

The city was founded as Manbasa by Arab traders in the 11th century and it quickly became the most important trading center of East Africa, mostly exporting ivory and slaves. In 1502, as Mvita (in Kiswahili) or Manbasa (in Arabic) the Sultanate became independent from Kilwa Kisiwani.

Vasco da Gama was the first known European to visit Mombasa, receiving a chilly reception in 1498. Two years later, the town was sacked by the Portuguese who built Fort Jesus. With the 1593 Portuguese occupation, it was governed by a captain-major. In 1638, it formally became a Portuguese colony, subordinated to Goa, as a stronghold on the route to Portuguese India.

Next it returned under Portuguese rule by Captains-major Álvaro Caetano de Melo Castro during 1728 through 1729. Then, it was ruled by four new Omani Liwali till 1746, when the last of them made it independent again.

From 1824 to 1826, there was a British protectorate over Mombasa, represented by governors. Omani rule

(More...page 2)

The Kitale AIDS Program

Kitale, a rural town of more than 50,000 people located in Northwestern Kenya, is a densely populated area. Thousands of subsistence farmers were forced from their land when violence erupted in 1992 and 1997. Sadly, most of these families have not been allowed back home.

At present, the majority of the population struggles to grow enough food to sustain their families. On top of this

crisis, Kitale has an absolute poverty level of 55%. The AIDS pandemic has hard hit the area with nearly 20% of the population now HIV positive. The combination of poverty and AIDS has resulted in a significant health crisis in the area.

(More...page 2)



Marj Humphrey (right)

Kitty and Roger Schiltz...

joined the Maryknoll Lay Missioners in 2003, working to educate the children and caregivers of Musoma, Tanzania.

Originally from Lacey, Washington, Kitty and Roger Schiltz, parents of two grown daughters, bring a wealth of educational experience with them as Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

Kitty and Roger live and work in Musoma, Tanzania, where they serve AIDS orphans and their caregivers by providing them the opportunity

(More...page 3)



Mombasa's History

(Cont'd. from Cover)

was restored in 1826. In June 1837 it was nominally annexed by Zanzibar. In 1840, Mombasa was effectively taken by the sultan of Zanzibar.

On May 25, 1887, its administration was relinquished to the British East Africa Association. The sultan formally presented the town in 1898 to the British. It soon became the capital of the British East Africa Protectorate and the sea terminal of the Uganda Railway, which was started in 1896. Many workers were brought in from British India to build the railway. In July 1895, it became part of Britain's Kenya coastal strip — nominally under Zanzibari sovereignty.

Mombasa was part of the state of Zanzibar until December 1963 when it was ceded to be incorporated into the newly independent state of Kenya.

On November 28, 2002, a suicide car bomb exploded at the Israeli-owned beachfront Paradise Hotel killing three Israelis and ten Kenyans. About 20 minutes earlier, an unsuccessful attempt was made to shoot down an Arkia Israel Airlines Boeing 757 chartered tourist plane taking off from nearby Moi International Airport using surface-to-air missiles. Nobody was hurt on the plane, which landed safely in Tel Aviv. ♥



The Kitale AIDS Program

(Cont'd. from Cover)

The Kitale AIDS Program started in 1992 to combat the AIDS epidemic sweeping the nation. Marj Humphrey, a Maryknoll Lay Missioner, sees the face of AIDS everyday as a physician assistant for the Kitale AIDS Program. Inspired by a Maryknoll Sister, Marj devotes her life to caring for the poor and sick in Africa.

"I feel that I have been given a most remarkable gift...that being able to share life with people of other cultures. I cannot imagine what life would have been like for me if the people of Africa had not accepted me to be a part of their everyday lives. I have been challenged and changed in ways I never would have imagined...I hope it has brought me closer to God..."

Since Marj started working in partnership with the Medical Missioners of Mary, the sponsors of the Kitale AIDS Program, she has seen a marked increase in the number of people counseled, diagnosed and tested for HIV-AIDS in the Transzoia

District of Kenya. In addition, the medical clinic is now caring for 900 adults and 120 children with AIDS.

In March 2005, the Kitale AIDS program expanded to include a comprehensive component for children with AIDS. These efforts have



Marj Humphrey

allowed for community education and encouragement of HIV positive parents to bring all of their children in for testing — thereby saving many young lives.

The Kitale AIDS Program also assists caregivers (especially grandparents) of AIDS orphans. Everyday, lay missioners serve several hundred orphans, helping to meet their basic needs for education and nutrition.

In 2005, the Kitale AIDS

Program received the award for Best Comprehensive Care in Kenya from a major pharmaceutical company for providing outstanding care for AIDS Patients.

To learn more about the Kitale AIDS Program or how you can help our Maryknoll Lay Missioners, please call (800) 867-2980. ♥

*HIV will kill at least one-third
of the young men and women in the countries
where it has its firmest hold. No other epidemic,
war, or famine in history has caused such a high
death rate among young adults.*

Kitty and Roger Schiltz

(Cont'd from Cover)

to increase and improve their reading and math skills. Like many regions in Africa, AIDS has devastated this area. Anti-retroviral drugs are not yet available, resulting in thousands of very young children without parents.

Roger and Kitty have lead the charge to identify orphans who have never had the opportunity to read and write. Through their "back-pack" library, they often visit homes to make books available for the AIDS orphans and their caregivers. They also offer their home as a place where children can read as well. The Library program helps to enhance the reading skills of, and heightens the imagination and experience of, the children.

Beyond their backpack program, the Schiltzs' have facilitated opportunities for students to continue their studies past elementary school. This year there are 10 students from the town who

are continuing at the high school level.

As you can see, Kitty and Roger have established an extraordinary presence in Musoma! ♥

.....
Kitty (top left) and Roger (top right and bottom left) with AIDS orphans and their caregivers.



AIDS FACTS

People infected with HIV/AIDS

Worldwide: 40 million
In sub-Saharan Africa: 26 million

HIV-positive people

age 15-49 Worldwide: 1.1%
In sub-Saharan Africa: 8%

People dying of HIV/AIDS

Worldwide: 15 million
In sub-Saharan Africa: 12.3 million

Children under 18 orphaned by HIV/AIDS

Worldwide: 15 million
In sub-Saharan Africa: 12.3 million

People in sub-Saharan Africa contracting HIV daily:

8,500

People dying of AIDS in

sub-Saharan Africa daily: 6,300

South Africa Statistics:

HIV-positive: 5.3 million (more than any other country in the world)

Pregnant women who tested positive for HIV/AIDS in 2004:

27%

People needing drugs to prevent

progression of HIV/AIDS: 983,000

People receiving medication: 117,000

Annual cost of three-drug ARV regimen in Lusikisiki

per patient: \$650

Annual cost in the U.S.

per patient: \$10,000-15,000

In the 6 countries of Angola, Namibia, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe 10% or more of the population live with HIV/AIDS.

After sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean is the next hardest hit region followed by Eastern Europe, Asia, and the Pacific.

The vast majority of people living with HIV/AIDS in the developing world do not have access to treatment.

Sources:

UNAIDS, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and The Global Fund

Maryknoll AIDS Task Force

Changing thousands of lives each year

In 1994, the Maryknoll AIDS Task Force (MATF) was formed in response to the AIDS epidemic affecting the people served by Maryknoll ministries.

Currently, 34 lay missionaries are working full-time in direct AIDS ministries. Their kindness reaches thousands of AIDS orphans who are in desperate need of food, clothing and shelter. They also provide medical treatment to ailing AIDS patients and proactively educate children about the epidemic.

Begun as a collaborative effort between the Maryknoll Fathers, the Maryknoll Sisters, and the Maryknoll Lay Missioners, MATF focuses on providing culturally appropriate AIDS education material, integrating it with regional and local reflection on human sexuality. It also maintains an AIDS resource center at Maryknoll. MATF also collaborates with U.S. and international AIDS networks and promotes regional cooperation among churches, government and professional networks.

Susan Weissert, MATF Coordinator, regularly visits, and monitors the progress of AIDS in, Cambodia and Thailand, Namibia, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. A Maryknoll Lay Missioner for 19 years, she is a frequent speaker on Global AIDS, collects and distributes HIV/AIDS resources and participates in the planning and presentation of the international National Catholic AIDS Ministry Conference. The Task Force also works closely with the Center on Corporate Responsibility, which helps patients reach out to pharmaceutical companies to access lifesaving medications.

Maryknoll Lay Missioners, along with Maryknoll AIDS Task Force, are making a real difference to those suffering from HIV/AIDS. The lay missionaries strongly believe there is hope for the next generations to be spared the AIDS epidemic.

For more information about the Maryknoll Lay Missioners who are working directly in AIDS ministries, please call Melody Walker at (800) 867-2980.

Walk hand and hand with us...

Become our Companion in Mission

A helping hand reaches across the world to feed a child in Kenya.

A prayer is offered up each evening for the poor and powerless...

...These kind gestures help to strengthen your journey of faith and make a lasting difference in the lives of the struggling, poor and oppressed. Although you may not have the opportunity to go overseas, our lay missionaries are working on your behalf and in Christ's name.

Join our missionary family by becoming our Companion in Mission today.

The Companion in Mission program enables you to make a commitment to the Maryknoll Lay Missioners on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. Your kind gifts and prayers will help to sus-

tain our 137 missionaries in 17 countries around the world.

Our lay missionaries, both men and women, along with couples and families, live their lives by the same mission — being a witness to God's love.

They work in a variety of projects, from feeding programs to education, from care for AIDS orphans to building libraries,

from prison

ministry programs to peace and justice reform. As our Companion, you will live in spirit with the missionaries as they work among the world's poorest of the poor — doing God's work everyday.

Please join us as we grow together in our faith and experience the joy that helping our neighbors can provide. Become our Companion in Mission and walk hand in hand with our missionaries!

Simply complete the accompanying form, or sign up at: <http://laymissioners.maryknoll.org/cim>.

**Questions about becoming
our Companion in Mission?**

**Please call Libby DiSisto at
(800) 867-2980.**

BECOME A COMPANION IN MISSION TODAY!



☐ I would like to be a committed sponsor of the Companion in Mission gift-giving program.

I wish to send: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$_____

☐ each Month ☐ each Quarter ☐ each Year

☐ I am unable to join at this time, but I'd like to donate a gift for today in the amount of \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

To pay electronically by credit card or checking account, please see the reverse side of this form.

NOTE: Thank you for making your tax-deductible gift payable to Maryknoll Lay Missioners and returning it to the address on back.

Coralis Salvador...

joined the Maryknoll Lay Missioners in 2000, working with Mombasa AIDS orphans in Kenya.

Coralis, who is originally from the Philippines, joined the Maryknoll Lay Missioners after raising her five children in San Francisco, CA.

With her children grown, she felt God calling her to help other children. Today, Coralis has dedicated herself to the people of Mombasa, Kenya. With her health, she hopes that no child who is orphaned by AIDS will be deprived of a basic education.

Mombasa's reality has been deeply impacted by the AIDS pandemic resulting in many children who have been orphaned and badly exploited. Coralis leads the charge to identify AIDS orphans and

dedicates her days to assist them by providing school fees, books and uniforms as well as transportation, meals, medical help, along with social and spiritual development for these children. Education and support is also provided for their family and guardians through workshops and skills training sessions.

Her ministry in Mombasa serves 350 children and 120 families each year and has shown remarkable results.

Coralis is changing a generation of children who might otherwise not have the opportunity for an education. ♥



Coralis Salvador

Join Us at A Nearby Parish!

Do you love listening to stories and learning new things? If so, did you know that Maryknoll Lay Missioners will be speaking in nearly 100 parishes throughout the US between May and September 2006?! Check out the calendar at Maryknoll.org to find out when a Maryknoll Lay Missioner will be speaking at a church in your area!

For Credit Card donations: ☐ AMEX ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Cardholder's Name _____ Credit Card # _____

Expiration date ____/____/____ Cardholder's Signature _____

To make an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) of your offering from your checking account directly to the Maryknoll Lay Missioners, please provide your information below. You will pay no bank fees.

☐ I authorize my bank to pay the order of Maryknoll Lay Missioners \$_____ on the 10th of the month.

Signature _____

NOTE: Please enclose an UNSIGNED check marked VOID.

Maryknoll Lay Missioners
P.O. Box 307, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0307
Tel: 800-867-2980 • <http://laymissioners.maryknoll.org>



MARYKNOLL LAY MISSIONERS FRIENDS ACROSS BORDERS

Maryknoll Lay Missioners has a dynamic mission awareness program called Friends Across Borders. This program invites you and all people of faith to deepen and enrich your understanding of mission. At Friends Across Borders, people come to experience for a short time what one can never discover in the travel brochures, film or book. Specifically, they experience what life is truly like in a community where Maryknoll Lay Missioners are living out their faith and working for, and with, the local community to better lives. It's a kind of vacation to learn about vocation. This year we have trips scheduled to Chile, Bolivia and El Salvador, and we are planning our 2007 trips to Cambodia, Brazil and Tanzania. We also have mission awareness trips to the US/Mexico border at El Paso, TX/Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. To the right is a brief description of each of these trips.

We look forward to hearing from you and accompanying you on an experience that will change and enrich your life.



**Contact: Cecilia Espinoza, Manager
Friends Across Borders
414.461.1810
friendsacrossborders@mklm.org
<http://www.friendsacrossborders.org>**



Mission Awareness Trips Schedule 2006 - 2007

CHILE: Sept. 9 - 23, 2006

Enjoy a pilgrimage to Chile's land and people, and learn about how Maryknoll Lay Missioners respond to the social and economic issues facing the indigenous communities.

BOLIVIA: Oct. 28 - Nov. 11, 2006

Encounter the people of Bolivia and their ancient cultures of Quechua and Aymara. Explore the political and social realities of modern Andean life and the life ministries of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

EL SALVADOR: Nov. 27 - Dec. 5, 2006

Commemorate the lives of four churchwomen and see the lives of our Maryknoll Lay Missioners who are an integral part of the Salvadoran people and history.

CAMBODIA: March 3 - 17, 2007

Come and experience the deep spirituality and the sacred land of the people of Cambodia, the beauty of the temples, centuries of wisdom and the life and works of our Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

AFRICA: (TBA) 2007

Visit Africa and we will introduce you to the dance of life and the picturesque scenery and abundance of wildlife... as well as the lives and works of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners.

BRAZIL: (TBA) 2007

Come to dance and know the lives and works of the Maryknoll Lay Missioners.