



# Report

Medjugorje International Relief - Sept 2009

## New Projects in the Philippines

We would like to invite you to help with a couple of new projects in the Philippines, one is to help support a group of 5 young Franciscan seminarians and the other an outreach to Manila's homeless families and street children; so both ends of the spectrum, the most and least loved in Filipino society.

A few months ago I was in Luneta Park in the centre of Manila where people gather on a Sunday afternoon. There were a group of street children there begging for water, asking people to give them what remained from their water bottles or cups of soft drinks and I thought how hard it must be for them to get something as simple as a glass of water. As I was thinking about this, an African chap, (a tourist perhaps) who had noticed their plight wandered over to them with a big bottle of mineral water, placed it next to them and left. It occurred to



me that perhaps that's the best any of us can do, to do what we can in the moment the opportunity arises. This anonymous chap satisfied their immediate need for water and that made the difference for them and

how easy it would have been for him not to bother or leave it to someone else. And it's the same when we read a charity appeal like this one, easily forgotten five minutes after putting it down, quite easy to respond to immediately as well should we choose. The chap I mentioned above made the right

choice, it cost him a quid and a few minutes to buy the water and deliver it, but his act of kindness will accompany him into eternity, perhaps he will meet those kids again there some day.

£240 has been sent to start the ball rolling, half for the seminarians and half for the homeless. Please give what you can.

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## India

We were able to sponsor another 2 students in the SVP Twinnage student sponsorship scheme, so another 120 pounds from your recycling efforts has made it possible for them to continue their education and will help their families break out of the poverty trap. This is a really good scheme slowly but surely making a difference to the lives of many. Thanks to all who collect the printer cartridges and aluminium cans and foil and scrap metals which can be measured in tons now as its been

sustained and still growing after about 10 years I think. Please keep it up and get others involved if you can.

## Mary Strand Trust

A couple of donors sent 200 pounds via the appeal to the Mary Strand trust for one of their projects during this period also.

# CSI Slave Redemption in Sudan



During the last slave redemption mission in May, CSI rescued a further 232 people from slavery and helped them return home and supplied food, medicines and survival kits. One of the girls rescued was Mary Atak

Geng Baak (pictured). This is her story.

"My home village is Wathok. I lived there with my parents. I remember going to church (Mary recited part of the Lord's prayer,) I was enslaved when I was little. The murahaleen (Arab militiamen) attacked Wathok. They came while I was at the market buying sugar for my mother. Mohammed Ibrahim caught me. He tied my hands with a rope and then tied me to a horse. Many slaves were captured then. On the way to the North, I fell down and was dragged by the horse many times. My knees, legs and elbows are still scarred. Mohammed Ibrahim and other men also raped me, even though I was not yet physically mature. When we reached Daein (Darfur) Mohammed Ibrahim kept me. He is a bad man. He took me from my parents, raped

me, called me names like 'jenjei' (nigger), 'mahafin' (dirty) and 'belit' (stupid). Once he beat me when I said it wasn't right to call him 'father'. Many other men and boys raped me the whole time I lived with the arabs. I think Mohammed Ibrahim is the father of my baby but I can't be sure it was him.

I don't know whether my parents are dead or alive, but I will look for them. I will not forget God. He helped me get away from Mohammed Ibrahim and He will continue to help me. In my heart I never gave up my name Mary and I'll not do so now. (Enslaved Christians like Mary and forced to convert to Islam, given new names and made to pray in the Muslim way.)

How about setting some one like Mary free from slavery? It costs 50 pounds. A wonderful Christmas gift, a life changing/saving one. (500 pounds was sent during this period which will rescue 10 more people) See our new blog for a video testimony of a redeemed slave called Francis Bokat:

<http://medjugorjeinternationalreliefblog.blogspot.com>

## Icon of Our Lady of Peace

New prayer cards of the Icon of Our Lady Queen of Peace are now available thanks to a kind donor who sponsored a print run recently. The Icon is back in Manchester so if any church in the area would like to have it for a month or special day of prayer contact Charles on 0161 881 5664.

### Manchester

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### Philippines

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## Scottish International Relief

**500 pounds was sent by a couple of donors to SIR for their Mary's meals project in Malawi.**

The backpack appeal is coming up now so if anyone would like to make one up or if any schools would like to startup or continue with this project download the form/instructions from the download section of the website. (labeled backpack appeal 2007).

