



Report

Medjugorje International Relief - July 2010

Philippines Projects

Thanks to one supporter we were able to make a substantial donation to a splendid project in the Philippines run by the Salesian sisters called the Laura Vicuna Foundation.

It has a number of different projects for the Street Children and child workers. This includes two drop-in centres in metro manila for street children, one home for sexually abused and trafficked young girls, livelihood and training schools and much more.

Here are a couple of stories to give an idea of who and how they help: Agatha , an 18 year old trafficked survivor told how her mother wanted to be rid of her at a tender age. She wrapped her in Styrofoam and placed her in the sea off the coast of Samar. She was rescued by local fishermen, who were also relatives as it turned out and she was taken in by them. When she 14 years old, her aunt sent her to Manila to work as a domestic helper for her uncle. Her uncle had children and his wife was working abroad at the time. She begged her aunt not to let her go but was helpless, as with all trafficked girls, to do anything about it, her things already being packed up and bound for Manila. Aside from being a domestic helper her uncle also sexually abused her at nights..

When her aunt came for a vacation from her job in the middle east, she enrolled her in school. This enabled



Agatha to get help, she asked the schools principal to rescue her and was brought to the Laura Vicuna Centre. As part of the centre's recovery and healing program she was helped through individual counselling, group sessions and psychological treatments.

She is now doing well in high school and serves as a voice to many trafficked children as she participates in various forums and activities of LVF and other agencies who combat human trafficking.

Ana, a 20 year old child trafficked survivor is presently working at a five star hotel in Manila. She recounts how at 14 years old, after the death of her father, she had to be a child laborer at a sardines factory in Victorious city in Negros Occidental, and how one night on her way home, she was

dragged into the sugar cane fields, was raped and bore a child at 15 years old. LVF got involved and she was able to go back to her studies and the family were supportive too in helping with the baby but at 16 she was trafficked to Cebu to work in a restaurant as a means of supporting her baby. Thanks to the LVF social workers she was able to return to Negros, finish her studies and pass the high school exams. This led to being selected for a 5-month course as part of the Youth Career Development Program which she also passed and was able to secure a job at a top Manila hotel.

We invite you to join us in supporting this splendid Project...

Recycling for India Student Sponsorship

The recycling goes from strength to strength with lots of new collectors of printer cartridges and aluminum and scrap; so this period we have sponsored another 3 students in India through the SVP scheme. Students have been sponsored over the years in a wide variety of courses and skills that have/will lift them and their wider families out of the poverty trap,

it's a great scheme and one that can continue to grow the more people get involved and start collecting in their area . Through your efforts you have trained, nurses, teachers, mechanics, computer operators etc which would have been an impossible dream to many of these youngsters without your hard work.

Keep Collecting !

More stories on: www.mirmedjugorje.org

CSI Slave Redemption in Sudan



Extracts of an interview with Nyibol ,a redeemed slave

This is Nyibol's Story...She was abducted 10 years ago by Baggara arabs who invaded

her peaceful local market place.The invaders killed,

looted and abducted a number of other children and several women on a journey to a living hell. Niyobol was 10 years old then and along with others gang raped day after day. We communicated in silence, as well as words, about her memories.

After some time I asked about the two executions she had witnessed, "Are you able to tell me about what you saw ?" I immediately saw trauma etched in her face as she recalled the horrific images. Holding her infant son in her arms and speaking in a low voice she recounted what she had witnessed. "yes, two people were executed. It was done by the brother of Sadiq Hamet. Sadiq was my master. It was a lady and a boy. She knew them but could not remember their names. "Sadiq's brother cut off their heads in front of my eyes and hung their heads onto a tree. They made us look at the heads and bodies.

Pointing to the heads Sadiq's brother said that "this will



happen to you if you ever try to escape" As she spoke I just held her for a while and offered some words of comfort. It was then that she told me more. What could possibly add to this twenty year olds despair over a past that no young woman should ever have to experience.

"I have a son" she said. "Yes" I answered , looking at her adorable toddler who had made eye contact with me allowing me to hold him and fuss over him lovingly. "I have another son," she added "he is 6 years old, I couldn't bring him with me-he is left behind" She said it with such a deep despairing sorrow as if her heart would never mend over the loss of her firstborn,

still in captivity.

If one could hear a human heart break, then I certainly heard it then. Her human loss was as tragic as the savagery she had experience those 10 years of slavery, witnessing murders, receiving torture rape and beatings. Though she is now free, she is forever bound to her son who couldn't make the journey home and to freedom with her.

A further 600 pounds has been sent to CSI to continue setting slaves free and reuniting them with families and giving them a fresh start

Scottish International Relief

About **200 pounds** has been given to SIR for their Mary's meals project in Malawi which feeds school children who would otherwise not attend school.

Also a further **204 backpacks** over the last couple of years has been sent for the school children to supply the basic needs for example pens and pencils, notebooks and a selection of toiletries like toothpaste, brush etc. These have been given by schools and churches across the diocese.



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