

Jesuit Mission NEWS

#617 Spring 2016



Above: Students at the after-school program at Xavier Jesuit School in Sisophon, Cambodia – see p. 2.

Bottom right: Students at a school of 400 students run by the Jesuits in Churadahor, India. This is a school for tribal Oraons, one of India's most vulnerable communities.

Spring: a time of hope

The history of the early Jesuits is often described as the first spring, for this was a time of tremendous growth. The Society of Jesus was officially founded in 1540 by a group of 10 men headed by Ignatius de Loyola.



Almost immediately, men were sent to various parts of the world at the request of kings and emperors, and the Pope - to India, Asia, Canada, America and other countries. By the time of Ignatius' death in 1556, the Society of Jesus numbered 1,000 men and was already operating a network of 76 colleges in three continents. Within 40 years the number of Jesuit schools reached 245.

What was so attractive about Ignatius and the Society of Jesus then, and is still so attractive now, is the spiritual uniqueness of "seeing God in all things", and the endeavour to develop the human person in all aspects, especially through education. This is essentially the "greater glory of God."

Is it not delightful when we see poor people given new hope and life, and wondrous when community flourishes?

- Fr Trung Nguyen SJ, Rector, Jesuit Mission

Looking back, looking ahead

Greetings to our Jesuit Mission community! Spring is a time for growth and new life. This is a fitting time for us to look forward to our new plans and directions for Jesuit Mission (see p. 3).



However, we couldn't plan new futures now if we didn't have such strong roots. Sixty-five years ago, the seed of Jesuit Mission's support for vulnerable communities was planted when a group of missionaries set out for India.

Their work in Hazaribag (see p. 2) gave rise to widespread community support, which enabled Jesuit Mission to broaden its reach, so that we now empower people in more than 10 countries to build better futures.

The programs we support focus on human social development in Asia and Africa. These programs have common themes: education; empowering young people to break out of intergenerational poverty; healthcare; services and support for displaced people; and efforts to improve the livelihoods of communities in a sustainable way (see pp. 2-3 for examples).

We are able to offer this support because of the combined efforts and ongoing generosity of the Jesuit Mission community - the Jesuits, our parishes, our schools, our students, our supporters, our volunteers and our families (see p. 4).

Thank you for making a significant difference, and helping us to build on our legacy of work across vulnerable communities. Together we share in one mission, the mission of Jesus Christ to proclaim the greater glory of God.

- Helen Forde, Chief Executive Officer, Jesuit Mission



Helping communities grow

Working in India

Over 60 years ago, our first Australian Jesuit Missionaries were invited by the Jesuit Superior-General in Rome to undertake their first mission to India to help the most marginalised communities. The mission to the Hazaribag district established the Jesuits' community work, centred on service, compassion and empowerment. Their work has the same focus today.

Since 1951, Jesuit Mission and our community of supporters have assisted our Jesuit priests and companions in Hazaribag to give hundreds of thousands of India's most marginalised people access to education and learning opportunities.

"The Jesuits in Hazaribag are committed to giving priority to the poor and marginalized, both by giving them quality education and by instilling in our better-off students a genuine love and concern for the poor."

- Fr Bob Slattery SJ

After 65 years in Hazaribag the Jesuits have established and manage a university college, a primary teachers' education college, 13 high schools, 7 central middle schools and 27 primary schools, and more than 18 non-formal schools. They also run 17 hostels for Indigenous and Dalit families, so that children can attend school – 'Dalit' is the generic name for several 'outcast' communities, the poorest groups economically and educationally. Two teachers at St



Above left: Fr Bob Slattery at the construction site of a new hostel for girls in Hazaribag, constructed to enable girls to attend school.



Above right: Hostel boys at lunch at St. Xavier's School in Pakripath.

Josephs High School Tarwa began at the school as young Dalit students - one of many examples of the Jesuits' work in India that strengthens individuals and communities.

Today, through your generosity, Jesuit Mission is empowering the most vulnerable communities in three Indian States. We support projects that:

- improve access to education at all levels
- help students with school fees and scholarships
- train teachers
- fund, build and run schools
- provide residential care for the most marginalised people - women and girls, children living with HIV and AIDS, people living with disabilities, and families from tribal, Indigenous and Dalit communities

Hope for a better future

Supporting education programs

In Cambodia, the Jesuits and their partners have been supporting the education of Khmer youth for 30 years. Today Jesuit Service in Cambodia (JSC) runs a wide range of education projects, and Jesuit Mission is honoured to support their works.

Xavier Jesuit School in Sisophon is one of JSC's projects, offering education to people of all ages. Among other programs, the Xavier Jesuit School Team runs workshops for teachers, and summer schools to help primary school students transition into high school.

"I like to come to this school. Because I can learn new things and meet friends. And I like the teachers here. I want to be a teacher like them. If I see the students who learn from me in the future, I think it feels very rewarding!"

- Da Samnong, 12

Xavier Jesuit School opened a Community Learning Centre in 2015, with offices, classrooms for students and adults, a computer lab, a library, and facilities for the community. The centre offers remedial teaching for students, vocational training for young adults, and literacy and healthcare training for working adults.

A school is planned for kindergarten and primary students; two kindergarten classrooms have been built, accommodating 65 students. Next, four classrooms for grade 1 and grade 4 classes will be constructed. There are also plans to build a Teacher Resource Centre, which will provide in-service training to qualified teachers, and pre-service training to unqualified teachers.



Da Samnong, Xavier Jesuit School student

Jesuit Mission supports education programs in more than six countries, covering all stages of learning: early learning, primary and secondary education, teacher training, and tertiary education.

We also support hostel accommodation and scholarship funds, to enable all students to have access to education.

Walking together to a safer life

Supporting refugees

Jesuit Mission supports our partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), which accompanies refugees on the difficult path to a safer life. JRS is an international organisation with the mission to “accompany, serve, and advocate on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced people”.

We support JRS in many countries as it extends a hand to refugees with both short- and long-term support: a listening ear, supplies, counselling, and skills and income generation training.

We support our partner JRS Asia Pacific in these programs:

- Urban Refugee Program in Bangkok
- Manado Immigration Detention Center in Indonesia
- Sewon Refugee Project in Indonesia



Offering hope to refugees in Thailand

JRS in Bangkok recently piloted a skill-building income-generating activity for asylum seekers and refugees. These are the words of a Somali woman who participated:

“I will never forget about this training project, because I improved something that will help me in future. I can say I achieved a good goal through this training Thank you so much.”

In Thailand, asylum seekers and refugees have extremely limited access to healthcare, education, employment, and

social services. At the end of last year, around 2,000 refugees and 8,000 asylum seekers were registered in the country's urban areas. Most asylum seekers can wait eight years or more in limbo before a long-term solution is found to their search for refuge and livelihood possibilities.

JRS is recognised as one of the few humanitarian organisations assisting urban refugees and asylum seekers in the country, and works in areas where other NGOs are not present or able to assist.

Inspired by refugees in Indonesia

“JRS accompaniment of asylum seekers and refugees in Immigration Detention Centers includes befriending them by listening to their concerns, needs, and hopes,” says Dion, left, a worker at Manado Immigration Detention Center in Indonesia.

Dion was originally a volunteer for urban refugees living in community housing. “I find the refugees’ perseverance despite being in a very difficult situation hugely inspiring,” he says.

Today Jesuit Mission is supporting projects that focus on refugees and people seeking asylum. These projects are helping people find a more secure future through programs in Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

Looking ahead

Companions in planning

Over the past few months, Jesuit Mission has embarked on a strategic planning journey to shape our directions and priorities for the next five to 10 years.

As part of this journey, we invited many of our companions here and overseas into conversation about their experience with Jesuit Mission, in particular the strengths, challenges and opportunities they see for its future.

Thank you

We are grateful to the many Jesuits, partners, parish priests, rectors, principals, volunteers, supporters, heads of other Jesuit ministries, staff and Board members who have shared so authentically in these conversations. There is great richness in the feedback, and many seeds of wisdom and ideas that can be nourished in the future.



All heads together! Jesuit Mission Board and staff members met on Saturday 27 August for strategic planning in the Ignatian tradition.

Setting priorities

In a world where one billion people face struggles of injustice, poverty and oppression every day, we recognise that Jesuit Mission must be discerning in setting priorities. In 1540, when St Ignatius established the Society of Jesus, he faced a similar struggle. There were many calls for help from the Society's finite resources. When writing the *Constitutions*, he therefore defined a set of criteria for discerning the works to establish or support.

Ignatius' criteria inspire us when determining our strategic directions. We support works where:

- the need is greatest and most urgent
- spiritual and material benefits may be expected
- those who benefit will help others
- the most positive results are likely
- no one else is available to give help

Our commitment

We are committed to honouring and building on Jesuit Mission's rich 65-year history of walking alongside our brothers and sisters in developing countries. It is only through the generosity and prayers of our companions in Australia and our partnerships with local Jesuits serving on the ground that we can sustain and grow our social ministry of bringing hope, love and opportunity for a full life to communities overseas experiencing poverty.

A community of hope and justice

COME TO THE

Indian Bazaar and Carnival at Riverview College

ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th
IN AID OF THE 2 p.m. — 10.30 p.m.

Australian Jesuit Mission in India

See the Quadrangle at Riverview set out as an Indian Bazaar with Indian Stalls, Wheels, Indian Exhibition, Sale of Indian lace and handicrafts made by Indian Sisters, Afternoon Tea, Barbecue, Dancing, Films, also a Children's Carnival with Merry-go-round, Punch & Judy, Performing Dog, Slide, Hoop-La, Aunt Sally, Rickshaws, Side Shows, etc.



TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS:

SPECIAL BUSES — DIRECT TO RIVERVIEW: (Fare 1/-)
Leaving North Sydney Station and St. Mary's Church, Ridge Street, at these times only:
1.30 p.m., 2 p.m., 2.30 p.m., 7 p.m., 7.30 p.m.

TRAMS:

Leave Wynyard for Lane Cove Terminus: 1.14 p.m., 1.29 p.m. and every 15 minutes thereafter.
Leave Taronga Park for Lane Cove Terminus at 18 minutes and 48 minutes past the hour.

BUSES:

Leave Wynyard (Epping Bus: alight one stop before Lane Cove Terminus) at 1.1 p.m., 1.31 p.m. and every half-hour.
Leave Chatswood Station (to Riverview via Lane Cove Terminus) at 12.14 p.m., 1.7 p.m., 2.00 p.m., 3.00 p.m., 4.00 p.m., 5.10 p.m., 6.10 p.m., 7.32 p.m.
Leave Lane Cove Terminus (right into Riverview grounds) at 1.20 p.m., 1.40 p.m., 2 p.m. and every 20 minutes thereafter.

Indian Bazaar - past and present

PAST For 65 years, the Australian community has generously contributed in many ways to the work of Jesuit Mission, enabling us to support the most vulnerable communities.

The inaugural Jesuit Mission Indian Bazaar was held in 1952, and originally raised funds for work carried out by the first Australian Jesuit missionaries who sailed to India in 1951. The image on the left shows the very first Indian Bazaar poster.

PRESENT Jesuit Mission's 65th Indian Bazaar, held on 17 September 2016, raised funds and awareness again this year for the work of Jesuit Mission. With well over 5,000 people attending the Bazaar each year, the event relies heavily on a strong contingent of dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers come from many groups in our community: schools, parishes, teachers, students, parents of students, and parish families.

BEHIND THE SCENES As well as fundraising, the Bazaar strengthens bonds across the Jesuit community. Anne Nesbitt, Chair of the Jesuit Mission Indian Bazaar Committee, has volunteered since 2002. Anne has an enduring connection with the Jesuit community globally. She was originally from Chicago, but is now living in Sydney. Her childhood was shaped by Jesuit tradition.

"The Bazaar is a fun event and a feel-good day," Anne says, "with a purpose: to eradicate poverty. There's a wide variety of rides, food, a wine auction, some fabulous entertainment with bands and even a Rugby 7s competition this year with some well-known footballers. Plus we made a huge effort this year with an area for young children."

"The Jesuit Mission Indian Bazaar fits under that Jesuit 'social justice' umbrella. It supports people who haven't had an opportunity. All monies raised are donated to Jesuit Mission. The generosity of vendors and stall holders is quite breathtaking." Anne Nesbitt



Anne Nesbitt, centre, at the 2015 Indian Bazaar, with (left) Jesuit Mission's Meg Morrison, and volunteer Mary Feely.

Join our community events

Jesuit Mission Card Day

Wednesday 5 October 2016 at St Ignatius' Riverview, Sydney.

Contact: events@jesuitmission.org.au or phone (02) 8918 4109

Jesuit Mission Golf Day

Thursday 27 October 2016 at Manly Golf Course in Sydney.

Golf games, lunch, dinner, drinks and prizes, and the chance to sponsor a hole.

Contact: golfday@jesuitmission.org.au or (02) 8918 4109

Jesuit Mission Parish appeals

The next appeal will be at Sevenhill Parish in South Australia, on 26 November. Many thanks to all parishes across five states who have already supported the work of Jesuit Mission so generously this year.

We welcome your support

Interested in sharing your story, volunteering, or learning more about us?

Please contact Jesuit Mission on engagement@jesuitmission.org.au or phone (02) 8918 4109.

To make a donation to support our work, please complete the form that accompanies this newsletter.

For more about us, see www.jesuitmission.org.au



"There is that strong personal connection with Jesuit Mission that is harder to have with larger, better-known charities, worthy though they are."

Michael O'Dea, Indian Bazaar volunteer for 60 years

Connect with us!

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More about us: www.jesuitmission.org.au f www.facebook.com/jesuitmission