



Tel: 416.418.0314 Email: silentchildrenca@yahoo.com

DR. SIMONE'S LETTER TO BENEFACTORS

Dear benefactors,

This is our mission statement that was passed at the annual board meeting on December 17, 2012:

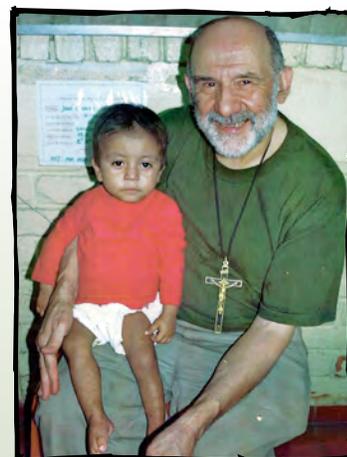
- Silent Children's Mission is to relieve the suffering and neglect of those who do not have a voice – especially women, children and their families.
- The goal is to let the poorest of the poor know someone cares - that God has not forgotten them but loves them.
- Through various means we provide basic needs, education, healthcare, spiritual care and counselling so they can live a life of dignity and have the opportunity to develop their soul.

In Pope Benedict's encyclical letter Caritas in Veritate (2009) he speaks about the Church's message of charity and truth:

...integral human development is primarily a vocation, and therefore it involves a free assumption of responsibility in solidarity on the part of everyone. Moreover, such development requires a transcendent vision of the person, it needs God: without him, development is either denied, or entrusted exclusively to man.... Only through an encounter with God are we able to see in the other something more than just another creature, to recognize the divine image in the other, thus truly coming to discover him or her and to mature in a love that 'becomes concern and care for the other.'

Thank you for your support and prayers for the silent children we help throughout the world.

God bless,
Andrew A. Simone MD



Dr. Andrew Simone
Co-founder with his wife
Joan of two charities:
Canadian Food for Children
and Silent Children's
Mission. Inspired by Blessed
Mother Teresa they continue
to help the poor in many
developing countries.

"I alone cannot change the
world, but I can cast a stone
across the waters to create
many ripples."

Blessed Mother Teresa

SILENT CHILDREN'S MISSION

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear SCM benefactors,

"The stone which the builders have rejected has become the cornerstone" Psalm 118:22

In Haiti the problem of "restavek" children is staggering – in a population of 8 million – it is estimated that there are about 300,000 restavecs or slave children – or up to 10% of the total number of children in Haiti. The parents sell or give their children away to people who they think will provide for them by giving them a job. To have a child domestic worker is common practice and is considered acceptable in Haitian society. The sad reality however is that most often these children are abused – physically, sexually, or psychologically. They rarely receive medical care and are not allowed to go to school. Haitian law states that children over 15 years must be paid for their work and therefore - many of these children are thrown out of the owner's homes at this age. They end up living on the street; girls often become prostitutes and the boys are often jailed for stealing. Many children return to their abusers because there is no other option.

In December during our trip to Haiti, Frankie and I met a special boy named Dustin. He was very quiet, polite and respectful. We are not sure how old Dustin is – he does not know when his birthday is but he looks to be about 11 years old. His story is typical of slave children in Haiti. His mother sold him when he was 4 or 5 years old to be a "worker". He has had no education and was not allowed to live in the house – he slept outside with a blanket and his only belongings were his old clothes to wear. Gerry, a friend from Canada does missionary work in Haiti and wanted to help him so he asked permission to give Dustin five dollars – he recounted this story for us:

Gerry brought Dustin to the market and told him he could purchase whatever he wanted with the five dollars he was given. The first thing Dustin wanted to buy was a belt – because he has never had pants that fit and “if he had a belt then every pair of pants would fit”. He then asked Gerry if he could take him to a church. Dustin wanted to give one dollar – to God "who has been good to me". Finally Gerry asked him what he wanted to do with the rest of his money. Did he want to buy an ice cream or a toy or something for himself with the remaining two dollars? Dustin said that he wanted to save it for his mother. He explained his logic: "she gave me away as a slave because she couldn't afford to keep me – one day when I see her again – I want to give this to her because she is going to need it."



I can't recall a more heroic example of unselfishness, forgiveness and generosity. Dustin reminds us of the child Joseph who was sold into slavery but forgave his family. He truly is a hidden treasure, a pearl of great price in a needy country. I felt Haiti had a spirit of desperation - which seemed to weigh heavily upon the faces of the many people who lined the filthy streets. They all seemed to be carrying this burden. Broken walls, rubble, and garbage littered the streets, as you could see the devastation of poverty everywhere; it looked more like a war zone than a city. And yet amidst this chaos was Dustin, like the stone which the builders have rejected and became a cornerstone, he is a great light and example to inspire us to a deeper faith. His heroic love is a challenge to us all to live the Gospel with renewed faith and agapic love, which makes present the pure, unconditional, unselfish, and true love of God.

Peace,
Fr. Michael Della Penna ofm

SILENT CHILDREN'S MISSION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear SCM benefactors,

Silent Children's Mission has had a very fruitful year in 2012 – thanks to you!

At the heart of the human family and of the Church the work of assistance to the poor, the sick, the elderly, the disabled, the marginalized, the alienated, is as fruitful as the love that inspires it. It is a living force of Christ's disciples that cause today's observers to repeat, "See how they love one another."

Blessed Pope John Paul II

This past year we have had a continued presence in ten different countries – Ghana, Thailand, Jamaica, Zambia, Guatemala, Tanzania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Kenya and Haiti. We visited three countries – Zambia, Malawi, and Haiti – we met with many missionaries and corresponded with many more! Hundreds of children and families have been helped with food, school fees, health care, housing and counselling. We have assisted missionaries with feeding programs and most often in areas that cannot receive a container from Canadian Food for Children. In Malawi, I met Sr. Florence who told me stories of caring for mothers in her small rural hospital and how the electricity is so unreliable that they often deliver babies by candlelight! She now has a generator in her labour and delivery room – because of SCM's generous benefactors. I want to thank you so much for your continued love for the poorest of the poor – your generosity inspires us here at SCM and we are grateful for your important part in this work! Below is a story of a single mother and her children – the letter she wrote (translated from Spanish) was written for all of you.

The following is the request we received from Guatemala one year ago:

"Jakeline is on her own with five children to take care of. She has practically no income because of lack of education. She is a good mother and likes to take care of her children, so it's hard to get a job where she doesn't have to leave her children all day. She has a newborn. This is why she contacted us when she was pregnant with her fifth child, because she didn't have any means to take care of a new baby. Our organization, "Sí a la Vida", has helped her with providing food, medical needs and temporary means of income, but she is now living in an abandoned house with 4 of her children because she wasn't able to pay the rent of her last home. She has given one of her children



away to an aunt because she couldn't take care of him. We are still helping her, but her situation is desperate. Her income selling bread is \$2.00 daily and she gets paid \$6.00 weekly for taking care of another baby. She needs a place of her own to live because any day she will be thrown out of the house she's living in right now. Jakeline is supposed to be receiving psychiatric treatment because of the difficult life she has had, but due to her situation right now, she doesn't have the time or even the money to pay a bus for transportation."

Silent Children's Mission responded by assisting Jakeline with funds to support her education and housing. We recently received the following update (January 2013):

SILENT CHILDREN'S MISSION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER, CONTINUED

"I have some news on Jakeline, whom you have been helping for the past year. She has done very good progress. She finished her first year of beauty courses in the institute, Centro de Integración Familiar. She has been able to do so thanks to the help you sent her. She even got a temporary job in a beauty salon. We are trying to find a more permanent job for her. I have attached some pictures of her graduation day for her first year where she got a diploma. She was recognized to be in the top 5 of her class! You can't imagine how happy she is. She is a completely new person, with a new confidence in herself. I asked her to write a letter for you to say what she feels, and I will translate what she wrote."

"I don't know how to thank you. If it wasn't for you and Alexandra, I don't know what would have become of me and my children. No one has ever really cared about me in my life or believed in me. Now I know that I am important to my children and that you trust in me to be a better person. I will not let you down. I am studying hard and I am really trying to do my best even though I never had an education. I had really hard times and had a deep depression. I never thought that such good people existed. I thank God for you and for Alexandra and I will always be grateful to you."

May God bless you all.
Peace and all good,

Frankie Burg-Feret

Please note the change in the mailing address and telephone number – if anyone has any questions about this work – do not hesitate to contact me. Expect a website in the near future!

HAITIAN CREOLE PRAYERS FROM MOUNTAIN VILLAGES

Papa,
Yo di m'se malere.
Mesi, Papa.
Fe m'pov an espri tou,
pou m'sa erite wayom Bondye a.
Creole prayer from the mountain
people in Haiti

"Father,
They say that I am poor.
Thank you, Father.
May I also be poor in spirit,
that I may inherit the Kingdom of
God.



From Dr. Andrew
Simone

Jesus, Mary and Joseph
protect us, St. Maria
Goretti pray for us,
Blessed Eustochio protect
us from the devil and his
fallen angels, St. Mathias
Mulumba pray for us.

Executive Director
The Executive Director is
available for speaking
engagements!