

SILENT CHILDREN'S MISSION

NEWSLETTER

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DR. SIMONE'S LETTER TO BENEFACTORS

Dear SCM Benefactors,

Thank you for your continued support for the poorest of the poor! The following is the vision of Silent Children's Mission:

1. The priority of SCM is to communicate the love of God to the poorest of the poor.
2. Working predominantly through the local Catholic dioceses in conjunction with Catholic priests, religious and laity – we will assist neglected and abused children and their families – especially women.
3. We will provide the means to assist predominantly Catholic priests, religious and laity to develop individualized programs that meet the specific needs of children, their families and women at risk.
4. We will advocate for basic needs, counseling, education, health care and spiritual care to meet the psychosocial, spiritual and physical needs of the person. We will assist any person regardless of cultural background, religion or race.
5. We strive to be Christ-like in affirming their human dignity by helping them develop their faith.
6. We affirm the human dignity of every individual made in the image and likeness of God – therefore we will support programs that promote Catholic social teaching.
7. We will promote culturally sensitive programs that teach the Catholic position on life issues.

May the peace of Christ be with you and your families,
 Dr. Andrew Simone
 Chair, SCM



SILENT CHILDREN'S MISSION

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S LETTER

“Every child, every person needs to know that they are a source of joy; every child, every person, needs to be celebrated.”

— Jean Vanier

Chisomo Phiri especially needs to know he is a source of joy and needs to be celebrated because his story is a tragic one. His mother was born developmentally delayed with epilepsy and as a result of being raped, she gave birth to two sons. While they were still very young, she had a seizure as she was washing clothes in the river and drowned. The boys were left orphaned and wandered in the village.

Jean Vanier once wrote: “I once visited a psychiatric hospital that was a kind of warehouse of human misery. Hundreds of children with severe disabilities were lying, neglected, on their cots. There was a deadly silence. Not one of them was crying. When they realize that nobody cares, that nobody will answer them, children no longer cry. It takes too much energy. We cry out only when there is hope that someone may hear us.”



Fr. Michael with Estere and Chisomo in Malawi

When I met Chisomo, there was a deep silence within him that spoke to me of his broken self image and a paralysis of the heart. He struck me as a boy whose heart had dried up and was thirsty for and in desperate need of love. Although he was not crying out with his voice, his eyes conveyed a longing for affection.

“To love someone is to show to them their beauty, their worth and their importance.” — Jean Vanier

The Sisters of Charity have reached out to these brothers as much as they could and have shown them genuine love. SCM has further taken up the challenge to affirm their worth and human dignity, supporting them for many years with school fees. Thanks to these efforts, Chisomo is presently attending boarding school. He is about 16 years old and as you can see from his picture malnutrition has left him growth stunted. Dr. Simone and his wife Joan envisioned SCM as a blessed instrument to relieve suffering and neglect, especially to those who do not have a voice. The goal is to let these 'poorest of the poor' know someone cares and that God has not forgotten them but LOVES them tenderly.

Thanks to your help, children like Chisomo can feel their importance and be awakened to their own inherent beauty and goodness; their souls can be refreshed. Help us spread hope and show children like Chisomo that they are made in the image and likeness of God, and that their lives have an inestimable value.

Peace,
Fr. Michael Della Penna ofm

SILENT CHILDREN'S MISSION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear SCM benefactors,

“God didn't wait for us to come to him – He came to us. His mission is to open the doors to God for all, to be the presence of God's love.”

- Pope Francis



When I first visited Malawi in 2004 the child in this photo was brought to St. Michael's Hospital in rural Guilleme; she was suffering from malaria and malnutrition. The child's clothing was dirty, torn and smelled of feces and urine – the blanket consisted of old torn cloths – perhaps something we would use to wash the floor. This child represents the many children who are suffering in developing countries in our world today.

When I returned home everyone I shared this with was moved to do something – and so with the blessing of Joan and Andrew Simone we started to send baby gifts to the hospital for mothers after delivery of their babies. Silent Children's Mission has taken over this project and presently we send 3000 gifts to three rural hospitals in Ludzi, Guilleme and Kapiri.

The Sisters of Charity and the Carmelite Sisters that direct these hospitals are so grateful for our love! Not only do we provide a gift but also incentive for the mothers who traditionally deliver in the village without a trained health care provider – (according to UN statistics - only 46% of mothers have a skilled attendant at delivery in Sub-Saharan Africa). The mothers in these three rural hospitals now receive valuable health teaching on nutrition, immunization and natural family planning from the sisters. Studies indicate that incentives contribute to a decrease in maternal mortality and morbidity rates.



SILENT CHILDREN'S MISSION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER, CONTINUED

The following is a letter I recently received from Sr. Bernadette Densani.

"I am Sister Bernadette Densani of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa. I am a nurse and midwife by profession and have worked at St Joseph's Ludzi Community Hospital for almost 10 years. During my time at this hospital, I have experienced pain and at times a beauty of rendering services to people who live in poverty. I have mentioned pain because to work with people who are poor and who have limited resources is not easy. It is a beauty because even if it demands a lot of your initiative to see to it that things work well, you still experience a great joy when patients are treated and are discharged after improving.

Faith can move the mountains (1 Corinthians 13:2) and indeed God is LOVE! Nine years ago, Frankie visited St. Joseph's hospital here in Ludzi, she was sent by Dr Andrew Simone, founder of CFFC and SCM. She was shocked to see that most of the women and their newborn babies were being discharged from the maternity unit poorly dressed with their newborn babies merely wrapped in rag wrappers that their mothers had been using before and were by then torn. This is because many families cannot afford to buy things in preparation for their babies due to the poverty that surrounds them. Sometimes it had been a pain even to midwives to often witness mothers coming for delivery with one Chitenje (wrap) for herself, no soap and nothing for the preparation of their unborn babies.

Ludzi Hospital used to have very low attendance of mothers delivered by skilled midwives in the hospital. The hospital used to have 350 deliveries per year. Poverty made them feel comfortable to deliver at home where they would not need much for preparation for themselves and their babies. Because of this, there were many complications of both mothers and neonates like post partum hemorrhage, ophthalmia neonatorum, puerperal infection and neonatal sepsis due unsafe deliveries.

Thank the Providence of God to His poor! Things have greatly changed and improved in the lives of mothers, their newborn babies and even toddlers. Every baby is dressed and well wrapped right away before they go home with baby gifts that are donated to the hospital by Silent Children Mission. Many complications that used to be high due to unsafe deliveries have reduced greatly. Many mothers are having their deliveries in hospital and this is shown by a tremendous increase of babies born at this hospital, the numbers have increased to almost 1,500 per year.

I would like to thank all of you who have shared your love, your time and donations to countries experiencing the pain of being poor. Sharing from your heart has not been for nothing, but for the Glory of our loving God!"
- Sister Bernadette Densani

Thank you so much to all who have contributed to this work and to the many other projects that SCM supports in collaboration with Catholic missionaries in developing countries. May God bless you for your love for the poorest of the poor!

Peace,
Frankie Burg-Feret
Executive Director, SCM

PS. We are now able to accept donations via Canada Helps! Both SCM and Canadian Food For Children have made this decision after encouragement from our benefactors. Please note the change in address for SCM.