



Please pray for SCM as we travel to Zambia and Malawi at the end of June

SILENT CHILDREN'S MISSION

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2014

ISSUE NO. 6

Dr. Simone's Letter

Dear SCM benefactors,

In 2013, Silent Children's Mission was able to assist many missionaries with their work for the poorest of the poor and you will find in this newsletter information about where your gifts of love have helped.

Joan and I are doing well and continue to serve the poor as God has called us to do. In the past year we travelled to Zambia together and I visited the poor in Peru and El Salvador. We ask you to continue to help Silent Children's Mission to support the missionaries who work tirelessly with great sacrificial love.

"We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only one for loneliness, despair and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread, but there are many more dying for a little love."

- *Blessed Mother Teresa*

God bless, Andrew A. Simone MD

We would like to dedicate this newsletter to Fr. Susaimanickam and to all the dedicated missionaries who work with the poorest of the poor throughout the world.



"...I couldn't take my gaze from her tiny feet, deformed by arthritis and squeezed into an old pair of leather sandals. She refused new sandals – instead having the old ones repaired over and over again."

- Photo and quote by Linda Schaefer – "Come And See", 2003

Spiritual Director's Letter



SCM helps feed children in India

Dear benefactors,

June is the month in which we celebrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We are called to imitate their loving hearts every day by overcoming our own selfishness and ego. Conversion consists in nothing other than responding to God's invitation to open our own hearts, to discover the truth of His love and so to live a new life in Christ; setting us free from sin, inner emptiness and loneliness. The question of the new evangelization is thus: How do we allow God to change and renew our hearts?

Pope Francis is charting the course by putting the poor, who he says have a special openness to the faith, at the centre of the Church's pilgrim way. In this way, we can rediscover that it is the poor above all who help us encounter Christ, and enable us to be liberated from our narrowness and self absorption and call us out of ourselves. Pope Francis therefore exhorts everyone in *Gaudium Evangelium* "to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the "peripheries" in need of the light of the Gospel." He even goes further in challenging us to have a missionary heart which "makes itself "weak with the weak... everything for everyone" (1 Cor 9:22). *It never closes itself off, never retreats into its own security, never opts for rigidity and defensiveness. It realizes that it has to grow in its own understanding of the Gospel and in discerning the paths of the Spirit, and so it always does what good it can, even if in the process, its shoes get soiled by the mud of the street.*"

Pope Francis' dream is for the whole Church to embrace the "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything empowering "...each individual Christian

and every community....to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society. This demands that we be docile and attentive to the cry of the poor and to come to their aid." He boldly asks: "Can we continue to stand by when food is thrown away while people are starving?" and reminds us "Not to share one's wealth with the poor is to steal from them and to take away their livelihood. It is not our own goods which we hold, but theirs" (.55)

We are called therefore to have hearts like Jesus and Mary and work and pray to bring about this new evangelization. To help us in this journey, we would like to invite you to pray the following prayer written for Silent Children's Mission.

Peace,

Fr. Michael

Prayer for Silent Children

Father in heaven, open our hearts to hear the distressing cry of your silent children in the world. Let us be lovingly attentive to their needs so that we might care for their souls.

In the name of your son Jesus we offer all we are for your sake, everything we do is for you. Jesus, you embraced poverty; show us how to satiate the thirst of your suffering ones.

Send Your Holy Spirit to fill us with your sanctifying grace that we may be united as one family.

O loving Mary our Mother, watch over your most vulnerable children and guide us. We ask a special blessing on those who share this work.

Amen



Tarapur, India



Executive Director's Letter

Dear SCM benefactors,

I've never met Fr. Susaimanickam but we corresponded via email. A priest in Toronto introduced him to us and we recently had the good fortune to meet with his Bishop from the diocese of Ahmedabad in Gujarat India – the place where Mahatma Gandhi was born and raised. This area continues to experience anti-Christian violence and the Bishop spoke about a church in his diocese that was burned because of this hatred. Catholic mission schools are dedicated to the education of the poor and marginalized. In this area the poor are labelled “untouchables” and are denied equal opportunities for education and jobs. Reaching out to the many small, poor villages has been difficult for the Bishop because of a lack of money.

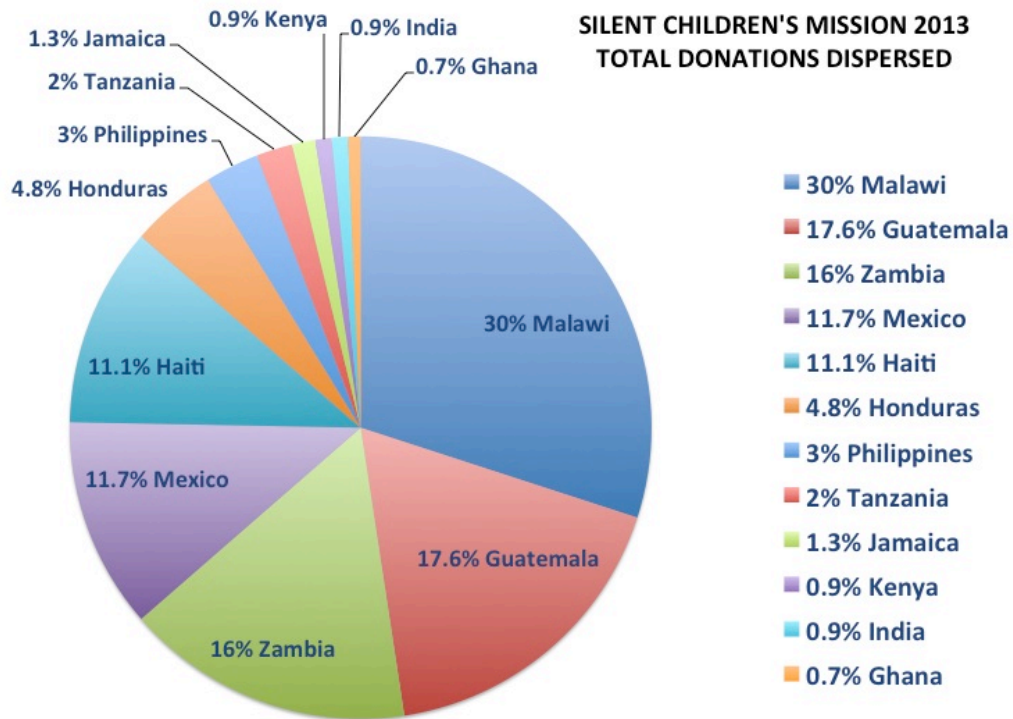
Tarapur is a small town in the state of Gujarat. Silent Children's Mission has been helping Fr. Susaimanickam and his little school since May 2013. In this town, poor families live in rented huts without toilets, water or electricity. They are uneducated and are hired to work in the fields – they depend on rich landlords for meagre wages. In the government schools lower caste students are not given much attention from the teachers and the diocese has decided to focus on educating these children especially the girls. Sr. Mary Dabhi in her report states: *“India is a male dominated society. To be born as female is still a curse. There is no dignified life for them.”*

While visiting with the Bishop – he told us of the dedication and love that Fr. Susaimanickam had for the poor. One day his latrine was blocked and he called someone to help him who wanted to charge him \$100. Fr. Susaimanickam decided to cover his arms with plastic and do the job himself because the money was to be used to help feed the children in his care. In one of his emails to me he described a recent visit home: *“Greetings of peace to you! I had been to my hometown for seven days, which is 2500 kms away from the place where I serve. For travelling I took four days and I could be with my dear and near ones for three days. Within three days I could bless my eldest brother's son's marriage and spent one full day with my father and mother who gave me birth. It was a beautiful experience. I could learn a lot, which I did not learn for last 27 years. It was first time I attended a marriage in my family after leaving my home to join priesthood. My family people were very happy to see me and we all could bless each other. I thank God.”*

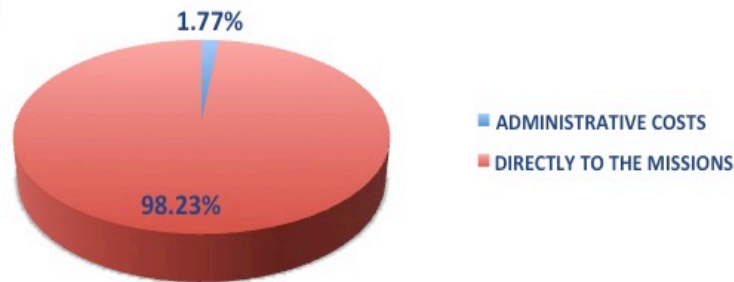
I share this excerpt with you because it describes the level of commitment our Catholic priests, sisters and laypeople have in living a gospel life and serving others. It is with sadness that I inform you, that at 47 years old, Fr. Susaimanickam died in his sleep on March 16, 2014. We at SCM are committed to helping Bishop Macwan continue the beautiful work that Fr. Susaimanickam has started. Two sisters from the Little Daughters of St. Francis Xavier are presently in Tarapur. They need our assistance and prayers – will you help?

God bless you, Frankie

"Poverty is punishment for a crime the innocent did not commit." - Eli Khamarov



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How You Can Help

- You can make a donation by sending a cheque written to: **Silent Children's Mission** and mailed to: RR#1 16060 Concession 8, Schomberg, ON L0G 1T0 (Make sure to include your mailing address for a tax receipt.)
- You can also donate online through **Canada Helps**.
- Question? Write to us at silentchildrenca@yahoo.com
- Look for us online at www.silentchildrensmmission.com
- If you would like Frankie to speak at your school/function about the poor and the work of SCM, call 416-418-0314.