

— Autumn Appeal 2025 —

Innocents Relief



Autumn Appeal

English textbooks for a rural high school in PNG

The PNG Government has implemented a new curriculum for secondary education but has not provided funds for textbooks and teachers guides. **St Ignatius Secondary School (PNG 02)** has 850 students who come from rural areas where they speak Pidgin. Students need English skills not only to succeed at secondary school but also to prepare them for higher education and the workplace where English is essential. For this rural school, the cost to purchase textbooks and teachers guides is enormous. \$62,000 is needed to equip each student and teacher. The books have been developed, in collaboration with the PNG Department of Education, by two Australians and a New Zealander who taught in PNG for many years. Once bought, the authors will provide in-service training for the staff. The books will remain in the school to ensure multiyear use.

Your support will improve the quality of education at this school for years to come.

How to Donate

BSB: 084-034 Account No: 851082278

Account Name: Innocents Relief Ltd

Reference: Your name

Email innocentsrelief@outlook.com with detail of your gift so a receipt can be issued.

Cheques: PO Box 4096, St Lucia South, 4067

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible





From the President

Gregory J Seymour AM

Welcome to IR's Autumn Newsletter.

Our mission is to break the cycle of poverty by supporting the education of impoverished children in developing countries. To achieve this mission IR supports the specific educational needs of individual schools so that children receive an education which they might not otherwise get.

While education is our principal aim, IR also funds the construction of classrooms, libraries, building repairs and the provision of desks and chairs. In some cases we have provided the salaries for teachers. Clearly, if there are no teachers the children cannot receive an education.

Children's needs are supported directly by funding school fees and uniforms, as well as text and workbooks, computers and other essential items. In some instances, we have provided clean drinking and hand washing water and food. Children will not learn if they are hungry or sick from drinking contaminated water.

We have only been able to achieve these aims through the extraordinary generosity of you our donors and supporters and I would sincerely like to thank you on behalf of all the children we have helped over the past 63 years.

Gregory J Seymour AM
President, Innocents Relief Ltd.

A big thank you for the Malawi textbook appeal

The appeal target of \$10,000 was exceeded. Congratulations to all! Textbooks and workbooks for 300+ children and laptops for the teachers at **St Martin Primary School (MAL01)**, a great gift! And, in response to a request from the school, IR will fund the construction of a water tank and stand to provide improved drinking and hand washing water for the children.

Board member Clare Carter on a visit to the school.



Timor Leste - *Together we achieve more*



IR board members' visits to Timor Leste have delivered gratifying outcomes in particular the opportunity to establish relationships with other Brisbane based organisations working in Timor Leste.

Partnerships on the ground in Timor Leste are critical to the effectiveness of our work. IR has a very good relationship with the **Maliana Diocese, Education Department** which oversees IR supported schools and has worked with us on building projects. Our Centre Manager stays in regular contact with school administrators to identify need to get updates on the progress of projects. **Alianca Ribeiro** has been engaged as our onsite translator. She does an outstanding job on behalf of IR and her community in Lliquica.

The **Queensland Chapter of the Order of St Lazarus, Jerusalem** has been a valuable partner in Timor Leste. IR covered the yearly expenses of the **Dom Gabriel Manek Orphanage (TLE09)** last year while **OLJ** funded a security wall which included a shop space which now provides a valuable income source for the orphanage.



Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment (RARE) sends containers of second hand educational and medical equipment to our island neighbours. IR's schools have received desks and chairs, shelving, books, stationery, computers and a health clinic has received medical supplies. Collaboration makes a difference. The **Carter Foundation** has covered shipping costs for the Rotary containers.



The **Ubuntu Foundation** has partnered on two projects, most recently to build a library at the **St John de Brito Primary School (TLE05)** at Lliquica. This support makes large projects possible in a short period of time. The **Mary MacKillop Today Foundation** will provide Tetum reading books, resources, shelving and seating for the library and professional development workshops for the teachers.

Days for Girls reusable menstruation kits, sewn by women in Brisbane, have made their way via Rotary to a secondary school, an orphanage and a boarding hostel supported by IR in Lliquica. These kits are game changers for adolescent girls.

Have you got time on your hands?

IR is managed by a small group of dedicated volunteers. Some of our most longstanding Board members have indicated that they will move on at the end of the year. Since the pandemic we have worked remotely, at home using our own computers but we do gather for a Board meeting about every six weeks. Excellent cake is a feature of these meetings! If you are interested and can help please contact us on 0457317352 or 0439843156 for further information.

A long-awaited library is now finished and ready for the students at **St John de Brito Primary School (TLE 04)** in Bazartete, Timor Leste. Repurposed desks and chairs, courtesy of Rotary, will replace old and damaged furniture.



A grant of \$2,000 helped to provide school lunches at the **Bakhita Primary School (MAL02)** at Balaka in Malawi.

Little Flower Higher Secondary School for the Deaf (IND41) Uniforms were provided for hearing impaired students.



New school bags and shoes for 60 children at the **Holy Family Care Centre (SAF03)** in South Africa.



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