



# innocents relief

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS 1962-2022!

## From the President—February 2022

Innocents Relief was founded in 1962 and this year is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee. The generosity of our members and supporters over these past 60 years has been truly amazing. There is no doubt that many children, families, and communities have benefited immensely and have been able to escape the cycle of poverty as a result. On behalf of Innocents Relief, I would like to thank the founders and early members whose foresight and dedication made this possible. Sir Isaac Newton, in a letter to Robert Hooke in 1675 wrote “If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” Sixty years ago a group of “giants” got together and formed Innocents Relief and it is on their shoulders that we now stand.

Over the past two years our Schools and Centres have had to face a myriad of unprecedented issues, ranging from the very basic lack of food and no Government support to the unfortunate death of staff as a result of COVID-19. With your outstanding support over this time our Schools and Centres have not only met this challenge but have adapted to the so-called ‘new normal’.

All Centres report inspirational tales of how families and whole communities have been supported and how the children have used digital devices, provided by Innocents Relief, to keep learning.

I would like to thank those who generously made an additional donation over the Christmas period. These very welcome donations mean that we are well on the way to building the new kindergarten, with brick walls and aluminium sheet roofing, in the village of Atupele, Malawi. But as you will see below more funds are still needed to cover the full cost of construction.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continuing support and may you all have a happy and safe 2022 and help us celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Innocents Relief.

Gregory J Seymour AM



### Atupele Kindergarten Appeal

The Atupele kindergarten is in high demand. It is in desperate need of a new building. The mud brick, grass roof building is not ideal in the wet season. AUD 17,000 will deliver a bigger, weatherproof building. With a larger facility, literacy and sewing classes can also be provided for the mothers which will improve their earning capacity and greatly benefit their families.



## Colin Apelt talks about founding Innocents Relief

Colin Apelt was a Rhodes Scholar, a professor of engineering at the University of Queensland and father of eight children. In the last 60 years there have been huge demands on his time but he is a man with vision, determination and generosity. Hundreds of donors and sponsors have heard his message to help children escape poverty through education. IR has distributed more than \$10m since 1962. We asked him a few questions....

### ***What motivated you to start Innocents Relief?***

As a teenager during the 1939-45 war and later, at university, I was 'sensitised' to the worldwide extent of severe poverty, malnutrition and lack of education. When the first Freedom from Hunger Campaign launched in 1960-61, I joined and fundraised enthusiastically, thinking one big effort would solve these problems for good. It was a rude shock to realise that needs were so great that fundraising was needed year after year. Disheartened, I questioned what difference would it make whether I gave or not? Married and with our first child, I began contrasting our circumstances with those of families with children in third world countries. About then I met the saying - 'It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness'.

So, with ten others of like mind we founded Innocents Relief in May 1962, to provide relief to children in third world countries by arranging sponsorships to support and educate individual children.



### ***Has IR achieved what you set out to do?***

Our objective was to provide funds to help educate poor children in third world countries. We know that many of those children have broken out of poverty to become successful teachers, nurses, owners of small businesses, etc. The benefits have extended to their families and communities.

### ***What were the highlights over these 60 years?***

Coming to know the many wonderful people who have been Committee members and volunteers. Positive reports from members' visits to Centres are very encouraging. Large donations especially the first \$100,000 have been a 'buzz'. Relocation of the office from Nundah to St Lucia in 1988 eliminated a long drive each Thursday evening.

### ***What are your views for the future of IR? Do you see it lasting another 60 years?***

IR has two great strengths – the dedicated volunteers generously giving their time and low overheads. While these strengths continue, I believe IR will thrive while there is need for its work. Will that need disappear in less than 60 years? I hope so but, sadly, the signs for that happening are not encouraging.



## IR supports 31 schools in 11 countries

### Batase School and Hostel, Nepal NEP 01

IR's first project has been completed! Now that water is available, the school can start building classrooms for Year 11 and 12 students who previously had to board in Kathmandu to attend school. This will make a significant difference to their families who struggled to pay for board and tuition plus being so far away from their children. Labour for the 3km trench and laying of polypipe was provided voluntarily by the Batase school community. Bravo Batase and thank you to all who contributed funds so generously to make this possible.



### Container for Timor Leste Project

The Timor Leste Companions Group, St Williams Parish, Grovely organised a shipping container and donations of stationery, sporting goods, clothing, shelving and printers for four schools including TLE 01 and TLE 02. In addition, the Commandery of the Order of St Lazarus purchased 40 recycled PCs. The Associated Schools also donated sporting goods. IR contributed \$2000 towards shipping costs, and sourced books from the UQ Alumni Book Sale. On 15 January, the goods were distributed to very grateful schools in Liquica and Maubara.



**Mary Immaculate High School, Tamil Nadu, India. IND02** IR provided funds for computer equipment, classroom repairs, and purchase of 150 chairs. The repair work was very urgent as government officials were checking the stability of buildings due to an accident in the area which killed two children. Further renovations will be required.

***Education is the greatest gift of all (and donations are tax deductible!)***

**BSB No:** 124001. **Account No:** 10110882. **Account Name:** Innocents Relief. **Reference:** Your name.

Donate via **PayPal Giving Fund:** [www.paypal.com/au/fundraiser/hub](http://www.paypal.com/au/fundraiser/hub)

Please send an email to [innocentsrelief@outlook.com](mailto:innocentsrelief@outlook.com) advising your payment so that a receipt can be sent to you.

Make cheques out to Innocents Relief and post to PO Box 4096, St Lucia South, Qld, 4067.

## Celebrating education

### Chera Mission School, Kenya KEN 02

The Kenyan government is transitioning schools to a new model whereby lower secondary students will be taught in primary schools. Transition is difficult as adequate funds to house more students have not been provided. A major donation from an IR supporter is funding five new classrooms! Building has commenced.



### Bishop George Schools, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

IND 62 IR has provided a grant of \$11,000 to purchase textbooks, uniforms, etc. for 200 poor, marginalised Mongolian tribal children to enable them to attend schools administered by Bishop George.



### Society of Daughters of the Cross, Shradha Niketan, Gujarat IND16

Sr Sushila, Director of the boarding school, thanks IR for enabling them to outreach to the poor and marginalised tribal children during the pandemic, particularly with many schools closed for long periods and no internet facilities for online teaching in remote areas. She says 'We are very grateful for your valuable services to the poor and needy. Your support gives us lots of strength and courage to carry out our activities well.'

## Contact Us



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When the office is closed your call will be forwarded to a Committee member's mobile phone



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