



SURVIVE-MIVA
MISSIONARY VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

UK Registered Charity No. 268745

VEHICLE UPDATE 2020-2021



Franciscan Sisters of St Aloysius Gonzaga, Pondicherry

www.survive-miva.org *Getting others back on the road to self-help*

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PREFACE

Welcome, readers, to the annual review of all the people and places who together benefited from the generosity of our donors during the years 2020 and 2021.

We produce just two publications a year, in the form of our magazine 'Awareness', which currently reaches well over fourteen thousand of our supporters, many of whom write back and include a donation to our cause. This is, of course, very welcome indeed - to a large extent, we can only do what we do thanks to such generosity - but it is in no way a pre-requisite to finding out what we have been up to between issues!

In terms of fundraising itself, and 'making ourselves known', we never contact people by sending unsolicited letters through the post, nor do we pester people with out-of-the-blue phone calls, and we know from what they tell us, that those who support us appreciate our discretion in this regard. Nonetheless, we have always valued the importance of reporting back to those who give, and illustrating the highly practical impact their support has on vulnerable communities in so many in isolated places. For this, we rely on the magazine.

'Awareness' in itself, however, is by no means exhaustive - nor, for reasons of space, time (and money!) is it meant to be - but, as is stated in each issue, a booklet detailing all grants made in any given year is made available to those who ask, and this is it.

Just as it gives a complete picture of the year in terms of our accountability to donors, so too the annual update is a way of being faithful to our aim of giving a voice to our beneficiaries. It's our way of giving them some space to describe their needs and the challenges which face them, along with the plans they have to tackle them, once they have a form of transport at their disposal thanks to the 'kick-start' grants we make.

Some of the profiles in the following pages are comparatively short, others longer, and I have done my best to edit the many varieties of World English they contain, so that what goes to print is adapted to our common understanding here in the UK. It's not a case of 'right' or 'wrong' ways of saying things - for many, English could be their third, fourth, or even fifth language - it's more of a change in word order here and there, or some minor alteration that makes things more readily comprehensible to us. I spend a long time trying to get this right, but with as light a touch as possible, so if you do read the odd sentence which sounds somehow 'stilted', this is because I decided I didn't want to interfere. I don't want my way of saying things to override theirs. In the end, my role is simply to 'do the needful', as the Anglo-Indian expression puts it. Like so many things, however, this is sometimes more easily said than done...

The aim of this booklet, then, is to present a fuller picture of the breadth and variety of the work our beneficiaries carry out each day, and to give the reader an idea of the circumstances in which this takes place.

We think that it is our beneficiaries who are best placed to do this. After all, it is their voices which are important (not to say fundamental) to all that we do, and it is they who constitute our '*raison d'être*'.

Happy reading!

Simon Patrick Foran, Director.

AT A GLANCE -

VEHICLES FUNDED DURING THE YEAR 2020-2021:

During 2020 and 2021*, a total of four hundred and fifty-four modes of transport were provided thanks to donations received, despite parish closures and the consequent sudden lack of income from several hundred cancelled parish appeals.

This total was comprised of the following mix:

7 Ambulance/community health outreach vehicles

32 motorbikes

3 mopeds

2 boats

410 bicycles

*Due to the pandemic, only one grant was able to be made safely in 2020, completed just two days before the first lockdown began.

Distribution by country:

A total of 50 grants were made to Diocesan accounts overseas, for in-country purchase of the above vehicles in a total of eight countries:

Health/outreach vehicles: 1 to India, 2 to Uganda, 2 to Cameroon, and 2 to Ghana

Motorbike grants: 13 to India, 7 to Tanzania, 6 to Uganda, 1 to Bangladesh, and 5 to Ghana

Scooters/mopeds: 3 to India

Bicycles: 46 to Malawi, 168 to Uganda, and 196 to Tanzania

Boats with outboard motors: 2 to Papua New Guinea

Total funds transferred amounted to some £276,700.

Audited figures are, of course, published in our annual accounts, copies of which are available on request.

INDIVIDUAL PROFILES OF GRANTS MADE IN 2020-2021

Please note that the numbers shown consecutively for each grant - for example 'SM 1250', indicate that this is the 'one-thousand two-hundred-and-fiftieth' mode of transport for which we have provided funding since our founding in 1974. In addition, village names are included where relevant throughout this update, as we know that many (though not all) of you will have internet access, in some form or other. A good number of these locations are easy to look up - and even 'tour' - on the maps and applications available online, so perhaps some readers may wish to do so - 'a picture paints a thousand words', as the saying goes...

SM 6309 Toyota Rav 4 for Losilang Health Centre, Diocese of Kotido, Uganda

Built in 1986, Losilang is one of five health centres which are run by the diocesan administration office, and consists of seven small consulting rooms serving a population of some ten thousand. Sr Theopista Nanzizi, who is in charge of the Centre, says: *"Our region is characterised by poor and irregular rains which hinder subsistence farming, causing food shortages nearly every year, and there is a high level of illiteracy amongst the locals, which makes the high prevalence of avoidable diseases, malnutrition, and cases of malaria hard to combat."*

Nevertheless, the daily work of providing primary healthcare goes on, and the Centre has an outpatient department, and provides services such as ante- and post-natal care, immunisation jabs, TB screening, and HIV testing and counselling, as well as the provision of antiretroviral therapy for those who are HIV+.

"Although we engage in outreach work, this is only on a very local basis, as we lack transport facilities, and it is often left to the sick and ill to make their own way to us for treatment, if they are able. It is a situation we are anxious to change, and this could happen if we were more mobile. We have no means of dealing with medical emergencies or complications, and the government has said we will be upgraded, which will attract even more patients. In the year 2018-2019 [the last for which figures are available] we had over five thousand outpatient visits and two hundred and seventy babies were born here. The nearest hospital able to deal with emergencies is in Kanawat, 120km [75miles] away from us."

Bishop Giuseppe Filippi of Kotido recommended Sr Theopista's request for a grant to acquire a suitable vehicle, and told us *"The Centre has few resources of its own, and sometimes struggles to provide what it does, so I would be very grateful for any support SURVIVE-MIVA can offer."*

As you can see from the sales receipt, the purchase of the four-by-four our grant made possible, from the aptly named 'anointed' dealers (?), happened just two days after we here in the UK went into our first lockdown, when so much was uncertain. As Bishop Giuseppe wrote at the time, things were little different at Losilang:

"The emergency caused by covid 19 came suddenly about and we thought it wise to move and get the vehicle before restrictions were imposed. Thanks to the understanding of SURVIVE-MIVA we could move quickly and buy the car in Kampala, but we were not able to take it to Kotido until some weeks after. What worked in our favour was that the dealer was in hurry to sell the car, not knowing what the future was holding, and so he offered us a small discount of UGX 500,000." [approx £100]

I thank SURVIVE-MIVA for the great help granted to Losilang Health Centre II and to the Diocese of Kotido.

Yours sincerely,



Giuseppe Filippi



Grant: £10,519



SM 6310 Honda XL 125cc motorbike for Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Karenga, Diocese of Kotido, Uganda

One of two Dioceses of the Karamoja Region, Kotido has just ten parishes, and Our Lady of Good Counsel, erected in 1983, has eleven outstations catering to some 7,000 Catholics from a total population of 12,000. Karamoja occupies the north-eastern corner of Uganda, bordered to the north by Sudan and to the east by Kenya. It is semi-arid and more prone to drought than any other part of Uganda. Most Karamojong are cattle herders, although crop cultivation is important within the household economy. The men live for extended periods in cattle camps which move according to the availability of water and pasture, whilst the women and their families tend to remain in a permanent settlement or village.

“The nature of the roads within Karamoja is very poor, and has made pastoral work very demanding,” Fr Hilary Ikechukwu tells us, “and even in the dry season, travel is a challenge, not least because of government inattention to the development of the region and its communications.”

Fr’s request for a motorcycle is one which is suitable for the local conditions either in the dry or rainy season. *“Currently, activities like baptism, the anointing of the sick, and burials are often not carried out because the parish has no means of reaching the people; sometimes I traverse many kilometres to get to the outstations on foot to celebrate the Sacraments. The availability of a motorcycle would increase contact and help deepen the Faith and commitments of the local people. Our campaign for grassroots evangelisation would be greatly more effective. The little I have managed to achieve is yielding positive results so far, and many Christians come for prayers and to help others in need in the community, but so much more is needed”*

Grant: £3,519

SM 6311, 6312, and 6313 Three TVS motorcycles for the Diocese of Ootacamund, Tamil Nadu, South India

In response to a request from Bishop Amalraj, we were able to provide a block grant for three of the busiest yet most remote parishes in his Diocese:

St Joseph’s, Wellington:

From here, Fr Grandly Francis tells us “We are based in the Nilgiris [‘ Blue Mountains’] district, which is an area of hills and valleys which are thickly forested, and where many people work in the tea plantations. Travel from one place to another is difficult as the area has not been developed in terms of infrastructure. Our parish consists of fifteen villages in the forest, and we have 1,700 Catholic families whose needs I attend to as best I can. I take Holy Communion every first week of the month to about 80 sick people, and every Friday, in the evening when people return from work, I go to conduct prayer meetings in the 58 ‘anbiam’s’ or small Christian communities we have established. I manage to celebrate Mass on Sundays in three villages at most.”

Fr Francis adds that (in common with so many other requests) the parish income is barely sufficient to cover basic running costs and could never raise the capital necessary to purchase a bike. He says “Hailing from a rural area myself, God has already been so favourable to me to ascend to the altar to serve Him and His people in this local area. We now are in need of your generosity to effectively execute my pastoral ministry so together we can build our parish and make it stronger.”

Grant: £1,535

Sacred Heart Parish, Bandishola:

Fr Manz Franklin is assistant PP here, and was ordained in April of 2019, so Bandishola is his first appointment. With 1,200 families spread over 23 villages, he goes on foot to make sick calls and house visits, as well as taking the Sacraments to the 30 anbiams he covers. Says Bishop Amalraj: *“Fr Franklin is dedicated and fresh from the Seminary. He has lots of ideas to implement, works tirelessly for the Reign of God, and with your support he can reach the villages quickly and will be able to do the Lord’s ministry more effectively and efficiently.”*

Grant: £1,335

St Joseph’s Parish, Alwarpet:

In his request, Fr Arockia Shantha tells us that he was ordained the year before Fr Franklin, and is also from a small village in a the nearby district of Erode. He gives more information about the Diocese in general: *“Our Diocese is carved out of three States, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka. As a result, inter-linguistic marriages are common and people from these different States meet together for a variety of purposes. There are six deaneries in the Diocese, and in each people differ because of language, culture, and societal customs, so we can say proudly that Ootacamund is an icon for national integration and respect for colour, creed and ethnicity.”*

Grant: £1,185

SM 6314, 6315, 6316, and 6317 - Four motorbikes for the Diocese of Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, South India

A further block grant made in response to a request from Bishop Stephen Pillai. Tuticorin Diocese was founded ninety-seven years ago, and is the biggest in Tamil Nadu, with half a million Catholics and 117 parishes in all. It is the third biggest in India.

St Xavier’s Parish, Punnaikayal:

With almost 3,000 Catholic families, St Xavier’s is named after St Francis Xavier (‘new house’ in Basque), who first introduced the Faith there in the 1540s. Fr Fernando Panimayam is assistant to the Parish priest, and writes: *“This is the biggest parish in Tuticorin, and is to be found in a coastal village visited by St Francis, who baptised many and taught catechism here, and so is regarded as a historical parish.”*

St Thomas Parish, Virapandiampatnam:

Fr Valan Sundar expresses his gratitude: *“I am now regularly visiting the families and sick people in their homes as well as celebrating Mass more often. In a special way, on every first Friday I can distribute Communion to more than one hundred aged and sick, both near and further away. I assure you that your help is felt in so many different ways.”*

Our Lady of the Snows Shrine, Kallikulam:

Fr Paulraj Roman also has an update: *“With 2,000 families, we are amongst the larger parishes here, and we have four substations, all of which I can keep in touch with now I can reach them. I am also sometimes invited to help a neighbouring parish priest because I can go to further places and hear confessions and celebrate Mass where he can’t, so this really is a community bonus.”*

St Andrew’s Parish, Uvari:

Fr Vinith Raja tells us: *“The majority of the Catholic families are new to the Faith, following on from those originally converted by St Francis Xavier. We are of course a minority faith group, but our people live in harmony with the other. In most of our schools the students are from Hindu and Moslem communities, but mingle with the Christians in a cordial manner. My parishioners are agriculturalists and fishermen. Only a very few own their land and the rest earn a daily wage. Though poor they are very strong in their faith and are the foundation of the growth of the Diocese.”*

Grants: £1,269 each = £5,076

SM 6318 Mahindra Bolero for St Louis Dispensary, Maddelamadugu, Diocese of Nellore. Andhra Pradesh, South India

Here is the original request we received via e-mail, which gives a very succinct description of both the work and the challenges community health outreach work brings: *“Greetings from Sr. Annamma Savarimuthu FSAG, We the Franciscan Sisters of St. Aloysius Gonzaga of Michael Ansaldo of Andhra Province were invited by the then Bishop of Nellore Most Rev P.C.Balaswamy to work mainly for the people affected by leprosy at Maddelamadugu in Rapur in Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh.*

As per our charism of the Congregation, we immediately accepted the invitation of the then bishop and commenced our activities for the upliftment of the people affected by leprosy. We noticed the plight of the lepers and their children in this area. We visited the colonies where lepers were given shelter. Our Sisters cleaned the wounds of the lepers and applied medicines and comforted them. We also teach the children of lepers through non formal education centers and admitted hundreds of such children in the regular school. We provide skill trainings such as tailoring, embroidery, typewriting to the young girls and created lot of job opportunities. Women are organized in to women groups and inculcated the habit of savings among these poor women.

We also started St. Louis Dispensary to provide treatment to the poor of this locality. We extended our healing ministry in the neighbouring villages through organizing health clinics and awareness programmes. We now cover 27 villages which are in the radius of 22 kilometers. Our healing ministry is severely hindered due to lack of our own vehicle. People in these villages need our services as they are not able to come to the dispensary due to lack of transportation facilities and also because of the distance. Hence it is an urgent need to have our own vehicle for the dispensary to continue our healing ministry effectively in the remote villages in Nellore district.”

Grant: £12,045



SM 6319, 6320, 6321 Three Hero Honda motorbikes for Diocese of Khunti, Jharkhand, India

Here we present you with an idea of the 'nitty-gritty' of the administration side of the grants we make. Below you can see different parts of the application form we get back from potential beneficiaries overseas, in which they make their case for funding. These were part of another 'three-in-one' grant, and illustrate the realities many priests face in carrying out their work, and come to you straight from the 'horse's mouth' via Frs Amit Barla at Bandgaon, Amrit Toppo at St Aloysius Kudda, and Ravi Paul Ekka at Sacred Heart Torpa:

SECTION D - Background information about your Diocese/region...

1. LOCATION:

Sacred Heart Church, Torpa is located in the district of Khunti, in Jharkhand State, India, whose State Capital is Ranchi. This is one of the oldest diocesan Parishes which had its humble beginning in 1885 as the sub-station of Ranchi Archdiocese by a Belgian Jesuit Priest Fr. Constant Lievens. That time it was under the Archdiocese of Ranchi. There are 150 villages and 22 unit churches having the catholic population with 25000 and the other churches population is around 6500. There are non-Christians too. To reach the village churches one has to go through forest, winding roads, hills and valleys.

2. SHORT HISTORY OF THIS MISSION:

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Torpa, had been one of the oldest mission stations of the 145 young Catholic Church of Chotanagpur (Jharkhand); which now comes under Khunti Catholic Diocese. This was pioneered and opened by a great Belgium Missionary Fr. Constant Lievens in the 1885. At his arrival to this forest and hilly area, he firstly stayed in the Police Station, Torpa and started his missionary work. This area was inhabited by the tribal people called Munda. So, he gradually got acquainted with their culture, language, religious background, economic situation, political affair of the Munda tribe and geographical environment of the place, for which he was helped by the police In-charge of the place.

Munda people in that period of time were facing unbearable injustices and oppressions by the Landlords and moneylenders. As a result, they were losing their landed property and were forced to migrate to the tea gardens of Assam. The economic situation was worse and their existence was threatened. Fr. Constant Lievens was God's messenger to the tribes. He immediately plunged into the affair and restored the lands of the Munda's through court cases, motivated them and guided them to live a better and dignified life. The Mundas, having received the help and guidance from Fr. Constant Lievens willingly embraced Christianity in big numbers as their own religion.

Today, Christianity continues to grow and flourish in this parish. There are 23 village chapels under this parish spread over 15-20 K.M far from parish. The number of Catholics in this parish presently is 20,000. In the Parish, there are four priests assigned, but we find it difficult to render proper pastoral care to the faithful since three of us are also assigned to the educational ministry.

3. SOCIAL STATUS OF THE PEOPLE:

Torpa is one of the civil administrative blocks of Khunti district, which is basically inhabited by Munda tribal communities. Only about 30% populations belong to other non-Munda communities. The Munda people are known for their simplicity, honesty and hard work. Their basic structure of social life is communitarian and unity. They live in village clusters and have their own social system of administration under the institution called "panchayat". The basic human values such as brotherhood, compassion and unity are the significant aspects of this tribe.

They have been exploited and cheated in the past by the cruel landlords, business-men, selfish local and outside authorities. They still suffer injustices today by the government officers, who do not allow reaching to them development schemes. Therefore, it is our prime duty to give them proper guidance, support, awareness and encouragement by frequent visits.

4. ECONOMIC SITUATION:

The state of Jharkhand in India is rich in minerals but people are poor, some are very poor. This is because they are uneducated and jobless. 75% of people depend on monsoon based agriculture for their livelihood. But today we see because of global warming the monsoon time has changed and no proper rain because of which there is late cultivation of the crops or no cultivation. They also suffer injustices from government officials who still cheat them in many ways; most of these officers come from other States and are non-tribal and non-Christian.



SECTION D - Background information about your Diocese/region...

1. LOCATION:

St. Aloysius' Catholic Church, Kudda is situated in the border of Khunti, Simdega and Gumla district on the way to Ranchi- Simdega main road, at the distance of 90 km. far from Ranchi, 90km from Simdega and 78 km from Gumla. The mountains, hills, jungles, all the wild and domestic animals, geographical set up and the people of the place enhance the beauty of creation.

2. HISTORY OF THE MISSION:

Kudda is in the Roman Catholic diocese of Khunti and in the district of Gumla. It is one of the apostolate units blessed with many Catholics, other denomination and various religions. The number of Catholic Christians is around ten thousand. Mission of Kudda was established in 1964; till then this was part of Torpa parish. Priests from here were visiting kudda for holy Mass. Fr. Marcus Topno was the founder of Kudda mission and later Fr. Defrign S.J. Belgium priest, a spiritual personality was the first parish priest. It is situated about 90 K.M. away from Ranchi on Ranchi-Simdega Road. It is one of the biggest parishes that comprises of more than 30 Catholic villages with 6550 above Catholic population. Majority of people are tribe of Munda with their unique culture and way of life. Within the period of 1965-2019, there have been 10 parish priests. We are four priests in Kudda at present. There are 25 units where we visit alternatively and occasionally.

3. SOCIAL STATUS OF THE PEOPLE

The Munda, one of scheduled tribes of the Jharkhand, occupy third position in the numerical strength. They are one of the strongest Kolarian tribes inhabiting in the region of Chotanagpur. They are very poor economically but rich heart. They are known for simplicity, generosity, hard-working, honesty, communitarian life, nature lovers etc... People; from outside have made use of their simplicity to cheat, to oppress and to suppress them. They are often looked down in the society. Their social status is not as good as expected even though they were the first settlers of the place. Thanks be to God! And to the pioneer missionaries from Belgium who became as saviors of the people of the place. Now it my duty to continue their task to bring them up.

4. ECONOMIC SITUATION

The state of Jharkhand is one of the backward regions in India. People depend on jungle and agriculture. There are different tribes in the place who are below poverty. The Mundas are very poor. There are many Government schemes to lift them up but somehow, they are deprived of their share because they are not aware. At present, they feel more insecure because of undesirable incidents. The source of their livelihood is land but it seems dangerous in the present context and it could be snatched away from them in future for many reasons. Priests and religious try to make them aware of their right and thus organize many programmes for social awareness.

5. EDUCATIONAL SITUATION

Kudda is blessed with at least three schools to acquire basic knowledge. It has schools up to tenth standard both Hindi medium and English medium. Then the students head towards the capital and other cities for further studies. There are around fifteen hundred students including the students of all schools. Majority of students are tribe of Munda. They cannot afford for higher studies due to the poverty. The students drop out half of the way. Since it is in rural area, they lack the attitude of



SECTION D - Background information about your Diocese/region...

1. LOCATION:

Bandgaon is the biggest parish in the diocese of Khunti. It is situated in the national Highway 75 from Ranchi to Chaibasa. It is twenty six kilometers away from Khunti and sixty four kilometers south of Ranchi. The nearest village church is sixteen kilometers and the furthest one is eighty four kilometers away from the parish. There are twenty four village church units having 12286 Catholics and 5720 non- Catholics. Among the non- Christian there are 5345 Tribals and 480 non-Tribals (in the year 2019, January). To reach the village churches one has to go through the dense forest, hills and valleys. Almost 90% of the faithful belong to the Munda tribe.

2. SHORT HISTORY OF THIS MISSION:

The American missionaries came to Bandgaon in the second half of the eighteenth century. According to a stone erected in the church premise Fr. Firence S.J. came in 1882 to establish a mission station at Nichetpur, a village which is in the west of Bandgaon, but because of the problem regarding the land it was shifted to Bandgaon. Fr. Dolacrova S.J. (1886), Fr. Mulender S.J. (1890), Fr. Hoffman S.J. (1893), Fr. Mottet S.J. (1894) were the pioneers who contributed valuably to the mission work in Bandgaon which was under the jurisdiction of Sarwada Parish. The faithful were then looked by the diocese of Jamshedpur. Fr. Haffman S.J. started to stay at Bandgaon in 1908. He made a hut for the Eucharistic Celebration at the place of the old building. The first church building was built during the time of Fr. Blandin S.J. in 1956.

The hard work of these missionaries we can see that today there are twenty four village church units having 12286 Catholics and 5720 non- Catholics. Among the non- Christian there are 5345 Tribals and 480 non-Tribals (in the year 2019, January). Today, Christianity continues to grow and flourish in this parish. There are four priests assigned to this parish; but we find it difficult to render proper pastoral care to the faithful because many village churches don't have proper roads and it is fully forest and hilly area.

3. SOCIAL STATUS OF THE PEOPLE:

Bandgaon is one of the civil administrative blocks of west Sighbhum district, which is basically inhabited by Munda tribal communities. Only about 20% populations belong to other non-Munda communities. The Mundapeople are known for their simplicity, honesty and hard work. Their basic structure of social life is communitarian and unity. They live in village clusters and have their own social system of administration under the institution called "panchayat". The basic human values such as brotherhood, compassion and unity are the significant aspects of this tribe.

Most of the people's ancestors have been migrated from their original places. Since it is fully forest and hilly area so many of them have land problem. And most of them depended in agriculture for their livelihood. Since it is remote area so many government schemes don't reach to them. They still suffer injustices today by the government officers, who do not allow reaching to them development schemes. Therefore, it is our prime duty to give them proper guidance, support, awareness and encouragement by frequent visits.

4. ECONOMIC SITUATION:

Jharkhand state of India is rich in minerals but people are poor. This is because they are uneducated and jobless. 85% of people depend on monsoon based agriculture for their livelihood. Often they also suffer injustices from government officers who still cheat them in many ways; most of these officers come from other States and are non-tribal and non-Christian.

They are striving to come up and live a respectable life, for which they look at the Church for directions and help. This is possible only by frequent visits, guidance and through various agricultural awareness activities.

Grant: £995 x 3 = £2,985

SM 6322 Honda Glamour motorbike for Arogyamatha (Our Lady of Health) Parish, Balepally, Diocese of Khammam, Telangana State, India

For this profile, we include the introductory letter sent to us by the priest concerned, in which he outlines his situation. It was on the basis of what was said in this initial request that an application form was issued, which later led to a grant being approved:

Sub: Financial Assistance for the purchase of a Motorcycle for the Pastoral WORK IN Balepally Parish khamam diocese.

Dear Director,

Greetings of peace and love of Christ to you From Fr.Ramesh Babu MSFS Parish Priest of Balepally Parish belongs to missionaries of St. Francis de sales congregation.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself I am Rr.Ramesh MSFS, the Parish priest of BALEPALLY parish, Khamam Diocese, Telangana. INDIA.

BALEPALLY is a parish(MISSION) . I am newly appointed as the parish priest I have taken the charge in the month of June 2019. The parish is situated in the eastern part of Telangana state. Balepally belongs to the district of Khammam, which is one of the most backward mandals in the district. The parish is surrounded by Forest and the area is drought prone. More than three-fourths of the people are daily workers and the cultivable land is very little. The parish is almost 27 years old.

The people belong to a tribal race known as Lambadis, Yerukulas and SC AND ST. There are 316 families in the villages. These people are deprived of health, education and other basic facilities. It has a catholic population of 1200 families spread out in 9 mission centers. The Catholics are all Sc , ST tribal's and very faithful to the catholic faith. The catholic faith in this area is making a good progress in religious living.

The parish has 9 substations namely Ragunadhapalem (12 km) Khanapur 15 km Balepally Pandurangapuram 9 km Chinthagurthy 29 km Regulchalaka 35 km Koyachilaka 17 km Kaikuntaigudem 15 km Jayanagar colony and 6 catechumenate villages are about 40-50 kilometers away from the main station. Some are so interior that they do not have even bus facilities. It is my special duty to take care of the faithful and meet their pastoral and spiritual needs. Sometimes, due to the traveling inconveniences I am not able to make regular visits. People of this area are very much in need of regular instructions to deepen and strengthen their faith. Hence I am trying my level best and putting all my efforts to reach them as regularly as possible. But the main hurdle I face in dispensing my duties regularly is the means of conveyance, due to which I am not able to attend my duties regularly and meet their spiritual needs. Hence, to solve this problem, a two wheeler motor cycle will be of great help to my mission work.

Therefore, I earnestly and humbly request you to assist me to purchase a Motor cycle by which I may be able to do the God's work in the midst of the poor people and your benevolence will definitely help me to carry on the apostolate more effectively and successfully. Your assistance in this regard will be highly appreciated and your help will be counted for the greater glory of God.

I do hope and pray that you will kindly consider my request and give me a positive reply. I shall ever be grateful to you for the service of yours in this regard. I am sure, you will become the source and strength for the growth of the Catholics in this poor and tribal area specially in the work for the God's Kingdom. If you need any other information please call me, I am ready to do it necessary and relevant information to the best of my knowledge.

I assure you of my humble prayers that God may bless you abundantly and give you enough of strength to continue to serve for the spread of the Gospel message and His values. Looking forward to hear from you and thanking you in anticipation.

Rev. Fr. RAMESH BABU

Grant: £1,045

SM 6323 Yamaha 125cc motorbike for Mwanga Parish, Diocese of Singida, Tanzania

Next up, we present a series of grants made to the Diocese of Singida, which shows a mixture of the pastoral and vital primary healthcare work the Church carries out, day in day out, taking on all sorts of challenges, quietly and efficiently, thanks to the support we are able to provide because of your generosity:

Here is what Diocesan Priest Fr Hijinius Daghoo tells us:

Section D - Background information about your Diocese/region:

The Catholic Diocese of Singida was officially opened in 1972 and Bishop Bernald Mabula was the first Bishop for the time being the Diocese is under the leadership of Bishop Edward Mabula. The Diocese has 29 parishes and Mwanga Parish is one of them. The Diocese has more than 73 diocesan priests working in and outside the Diocese. There are about 27 religious congregations serving in the Diocese of Singida. Most of the people are still pagans, Protestants, Muslims and few are Catholics. This is a big challenge. The Diocese is located in central plateaus of Tanzania and it is a semi-arid area with agricultural activities as a main activity.

Most of the population is under poverty with inadequate education, water supply, health and housing. All these make a diocese to depend on others for support in evangelization.

Section E - Your aims and objectives:

The aims and objectives of the project is to provide services to the outstation services in the outstation of Mwanga Parish, schools, and other places which will be in need to be reached. These outreach programmes have been planned by the Diocese and the Parish in the Strategic Plan. The Parish is characterized by rough roads and mountains as the physical features which are common in our area. The Parish of Mwanga has 28 outstations and which are scattered in distance areas. The average radial distance for each outstation from the Parish headquarters is 25 kilometers. The motorcycle will be used to go to the homes of the sick people for the sacraments of the anointing of the sick, Eucharist and Confession.

The motorcycle will be used also to go to



and Secondary schools where religion is taught as a subject

The objectives of this project is to have a good motorcycle which can penetrate easily in our rough roads and sandy roads to go to serve the people.

The second objective is to serve coast because motorcycle can use less fuel compared to the car. This is manageable in its operational costs. Our parish doesn't have enough source of income to run a car.

To have our own motorcycle in the Parish will save money because we normally hire motorcycle from others who make business. In short this motorcycle will be helpful.

~ Continue this section on ONE separate sheet if necessary ~

Section F - Details of the proposed vehicle/transport you require:

It is a Motorcycle Model YAMAHA XTZ 125

The price is Tsh. 6,600,000 (Pound 2,300)

This is found in our local suppliers in our country of Tanzania. As seen in the Proforma Invoice attached here.

Section G - The final word:

Please! help us in this need of having a motorcycle. It is our hope that all what has been said above will meet your kind consideration.

Grant: £2,280

SM 6324 Yamaha 125cc motorbike for Misughaa Parish, Diocese of Singida, Tanzania

From Fr Gabriel Masaka we received this:

Section D - Background information about your Diocese/region:

The Catholic diocese of Singida was established in 1972. For the moment the diocese is under the leadership of Bishop Edward Mapunda. The Diocese is located in Central Tanzania about 720 km from Dar-es-Salaam. The area is dry and semi-arid with little amount of rainfall per year. This makes the people to have low income even to be difficultly to sustain their Priests. That is why we come to ask you for your support. Politically, Singida is one of small regions in Tanzania but with peace and stability. Inhabitants are mostly muslims, pagans, protestants and few Catholics. The diocese has 29 parishes scattered all over the diocese and Misughaa Parish is one of them. There are about 73 diocesan Priests and more than 35 religious Priests. All in all evangelization is need more and more in our diocese.

Section E - Your aims and objectives:

The major aim of this project in which we ask your support is that, we need this means of transport so as to be able to go in outreach stations for spiritual programmes such as conducting Masses in 19 outstations found in Misughaa Parish.

I will use this motorcycle to go to the sick persons in their homes and in the hospitals. It will also help me to go to the small Christian communities for prayers. We also aim to go to the schools to teach religion subjects and other services. I will use this motorcycle to go to attend seminars which are common to different groups of youths, sick persons, women, elders and children apostolate.

All in all we aim to reach and serve those places for apostolate with the support of this project. The objectives are



having such means of transport YAMAHA Motorcycle XTZ 125 is that:

This means of transport is easy to run if it is compared with a car. Furthermore, it is less expensive.

Secondly, Motorcycle can run easily and be able to penetrate through the rough roads and sand roads to go and reach the intended groups of youths, sick, Christians and other social needs.

Thirdly, the Parish does not have enough fund to run even the Parish. So this motorcycle will be manageable in terms of its running costs.

We need this means of transport to help us to realize our dreams.

~ Continue this section on ONE separate sheet if necessary ~

Section F - Details of the proposed vehicle/transport you require:

The proposed vehicle is a motorcycle YAMAHA XTZ 125. The Price ranges at 6,600,000/-Tsh. (2,300 GB STERLING)
It is found in our local Supplier in Tanzania. The diocese Transport Committee has agreed on this mean of transport because of its availability of spare parts.

This means of transport is appropriate.

Section G - The final word:

I have to say only thank in advance to you and your sacrifice - Hoping that my request will be considered and this will make us to have this means of transport. Thank you very much.

Grant: £2,280

SM 6325 Yamaha 125cc motorbike for Iguguno Parish, Diocese of Singida, Tanzania

A third grant was made to this parish, whose PP is Fr Simon Mdanku. He writes:

Section D - Background information about your Diocese/region:

The Diocese of Singida and the Region of Singida are almost equal in their boundary. It occupies an area of 49,341 square kilometers. The diocese of Singida was officially established in 1972. Now the Diocese is under the leadership of Bishop Edward Mapunda. The diocese has 29 parishes scattered in the diocese. There are four deaneries in the Diocese of Singida. Economically the regions inhabited have low income. This is due to the fact that the region is semi-arid and receive small amount of rainfall. That is why even the christians are poor and they cannot afford to buy this means of transport. There are Diocesan priests, religious, brothers and nuns. There are big number of outstations most of them found in rural areas.

Section E - Your aims and objectives:

About the aim of this motorcycle.

The first one is that will help a priest in attending sick persons and bringing holy Communion to the elderly and sick person.

The second, this motorcycle will help the priest to go to the outstations and small christian communities.

Thirdly, the motorcycle will be used to go to the schools (primary and secondary) for teaching catechetics.

Fourthly, it will help in conducting pastoral seminars to the youth and lay persons in the parish.



The following are the objectives of having YAMAHA Motorcycle XTZ 125cc.

First of all, it is very easy to use motorcycle and penetrate in our roads which are rough and sand roads.

Secondly, our parishes are poor to run cars. Motorcycle can be affordable in maintainance and having spareparts. It is less expensive.

Lastly, motorcycle can go easily in streets where we find sick persons and elderly.

Thank you for your support.

~ Continue this section on ONE separate sheet if necessary ~

Section F - Details of the proposed vehicle/transport you require:

The Diocesan Transport Committee has proposed YAMAHA A MOTORCYCLE XTZ 125cc because it is affordable in purchasing even in running costs of the vehicle.

Its price is Tsh.6,600,000 equal to 2,300 Pound GB.

This is found in our local suppliers.

Section G - The final word:

The presence of motorcycle in our Parish will serve a lot. We hope that it will be a good new start in the evangelization of our people who are sick, elderly, marginalized and youth. Thanks a lot.

Grant: £2,280

SM 6326 Nissan ambulance for Eletra Bosco Health Centre, Heka, Diocese of Singida, Tanzania

Fr Bernard Ngallya is the Diocesan Health Secretary, and sent us this - note he says that the Diocese has 29 parishes 'at the moment'. Unlike in the UK, in some parts of the world, the Church keeps growing...

Section D - Background information about your Diocese/region:

The Catholic Diocese of Singida is located in the Central zone of the Country of Tanzania. It is semi arid area with small scale ^{farming} as a major economic activity of agriculture. The Diocese is under the leadership of Bishop Edward Mapunda. There are 29 Parishes at the moment. The Diocese have many schools and health facilities which are under supervision of the Diocese. There are Hospitals, Health Centres, and Dispensaries. Eletra Bosco Health Centre is one of the Health facility found in the Southern part of the Diocese and it offer services to a big number of people. The income of the people is low. The roads are mainly rough roads. To help these people we need a car which will be used in affordable ways to help them.

Section E - Your aims and objectives:

The aims of this project is to help the Doctors, Nurses and Sisters to go to the outreach stations for health programmes in these Villages around HEKA Health Centre. There are more than 16 Villages which will benefit with this car or ambulance as a means of transport.

This will enable the people around the villages to get proper treatment and health education and in time without delay and in a proper time.

This car will carry pregnant women to have safe delivery in the Health Centre because many of them give birth at home. Many mothers suffer from prolonged labour, obstructed labour, ectopic pregnancy and PPH.

Nissan Caravan bus - will be used to transport medicine, drugs and other medical equipment from the pharmacies safely and in time.

The car will be used to carry children with severe .



Once we manage to have this means of Transport, we will meet the following objectives.

Firstly, the doctors will be able to pass and penetrate in our rough roads to the villages and to the Health Centre to help those who are sick, pregnant and children under 5 years.

Secondly, Nissan Caravan Car-Bus is Comfortable Car and can carry pregnant mothers comfortably because it has a bed, seats and all instruments needed for first aid services which are found within the car. It can give room and have more sitting capacity for the workers. It is really made for health service.

Lastly, it is easier to run this type of car in terms of services, Diesel and other needs. It is simple car.

Thank you for your support.

~ Continue this section on ONE separate sheet if necessary ~

Section F - Details of the proposed vehicle/transport you require:

The proposed vehicle is NISSAN CARRAVAN BUS - This is a Minibus which is comfortable and affordable. It is found and supplied by our local suppliers in our country. It is less expensive compared to other cars. The specifications have been explained well in the Proforma Invoice attached. Its estimated price is ₦30,000,000 Equal to Pound BP Sterling 10,345.00 (TEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED POUNDS GB STERLING).

Section G - The final word:

Always "a friend in need is a friend in deed" please consider our request of supporting us to purchase this means of transport. There is a great need to help these people of God who are sick. Please assist us.

Grant: £10,030

SM 6327 Honda XL 125 cc motorbike for Businde Parish, Diocese of Kayanga, Karagwe-Kagera region, Tanzania

Kayanga Diocese is an offshoot of Rulenge, formed in 2008 by Pope Benedict. It has just fifteen parishes, with a Catholic population of some 260,000 spread over almost 8,000 square kilometres, and borders Uganda to the north, and Rwanda to the east.

A remote and extremely rural region of Tanzania, it is still enduring the scars and trauma of offering sanctuary to millions of refugees from Rwanda, and the civil strife in Burundi and the DRC. Additionally, as a new Diocese, life is a struggle for the parishes who have to cope with insufficient working facilities for their pastoral and development plans.

From Businde, Fr Revocatus Korongo tells us more: *“Our parish has no means of transport, and yet we have sixteen outstations to attend to, the furthest almost twenty miles from our base, and for this I am compelled to seek your support. Our parish is in a vast, mountainous area, and I struggle to ensure regular spiritual services and to make sick calls and bury the dead. Many of our people would benefit in many different ways if pastoral care was more available, and the whole parish could function more efficiently. We would hope to reach them all, including those who have not yet heard the Word of God.”*

Grant: £3,530

SM 6328 Honda XL 125 cc motorbike for St Pastor Parish, Nyasura, Diocese of Bunda, Mara Region, Tanzania

One of twenty-five parishes which make up the Diocese, located in the north of the country, and first erected in 2010. Fr Albert Mung'aho took over responsibility for this grant, after the original applicant, Fr Simon Masondole, was made Bishop - a real grassroots appointment, if ever there was one.

Fr Mung'aho acts as Diocesan secretary, and informed us: “Here in the north east, we are located in part along the shores of Lake Victoria, with the Serengeti International Park close by. We are young and not yet financially independent, and so it feels like a great task to evangelise, and make all God's people brothers and sisters of Jesus. Our transport difficulties are a big hindrance in this.”

St Pastor's is 3 years old, and home to 1600 baptised adults, with 400 children. Of these, some 150 are classed as elderly and vulnerable, and need regular sick visits and monitoring.

Grant: £3,030

SM 6329-6413 85 bicycles for the catechists of the Diocese of Bunda, Mara, Tanzania

A further request reached us, for transport on the smallest economic and 'easiest- maintenance-possible' scale, this time for 85 bicycles for catechists and village workers in the twenty-five different parishes mentioned above.

Here is Fr Albert once more: *“The Diocese has some 335,000 Catholics in just 23 parishes and 2 soon-to-be parishes, with just 43 priests to provide support for an average of more than 13,000 people per parish. In fact, there are many small communities which make up these numbers. In this sense, the work of catechists in maintaining cohesion and contact and taking services on a regular basis is vital. There are several areas of the Diocese which, even after ten years of work we have still been unable to reach because of the lack of localised transport.”*

Fr Albert went on to explain the role SURVIVE-MIVA has in the plans for future development: *“We do what we do largely thanks to the commitment of those who volunteer, for no remuneration, and make sacrifices to the point of going to reach the people of God on foot. There are currently 258 serving catechists who have 192 outstations where the Faithful rely on them for services in those times the priests are in other zones. Some of them have attended two years of catechetical training where as others have not yet finished and still others are due to begin.”*

In order to encourage and motivate them, the Diocese has thought of providing a cycle to each. We have managed to distribute 120 so far, leaving 138. If we take on the challenge of another 50, we would still require funding for a further 85. Can you please help us with a subsidy?"

Once again, we are grateful to Fr Albert for co-ordinating this grant, which, once unavoidable delivery and assembly charges are taken into account, means each machine cost a total of £86 each.

Grant: £7,330

SM 6414 - 6428 Fifteen bicycles for the catechists of Kibehe Parish, Diocese of Rulenge-Ngara, Kagera, Tanzania

Fr Respicius Rugemalira is PP of Kibehe, and shows us once more the impact a small contribution can make to parish life at the simplest level. He tells us:

"We were established back in 1996 as one of the 24 parishes in the Diocese, and we currently have 8,225 Faithful clustered in eleven outstations, with a total of 64 Small Christian committees in active operation. They are reachable according to the rains, and our roadwork is characterised by just 25kms of tarmac, the majority being dusty or muddy tracks - although the rains are generally moderate here - and passable on two but not four wheels when they become narrow.

Communication has improved for some after the establishment of patchy mobile networks, and we have electricity coverage for 30% of the parish, although there is none connected to households in the villages. There is just myself and our 15 catechists working here.

The only safe, reliable and affordable means of transport for them is bicycles, and we have placed a priority on this but our local contribution will only meet the transport costs from the dealer, and the assembly costs will be made zero by each catechist according to their skills and helping each other.

As well as the obvious advantages like improving pastoral care and the provision of regular services for everyone, whatever their community, there are other important but less immediately visible benefits that come as a result. The catechists can improve their experience by being able to participate in exchange programmes elsewhere and can come in to the parish centre as their isolation is much reduced. They can also plan their work and manage both pastoral and family commitments outside these times, which in our culture is a very important responsibility."

Grant: £1,019 (£68 each).

SM 6429 Honda XL 125 cc motorbike for St Kizito Parish, Shanga, Diocese of Rulenge-Ngara, Tanzania

Ordained as recently as 2018, Fr Edwin Faraja contacted us to explain his transport needs: *"After my ordination, I was appointed as a Parish Priest at Shanga parish which is just 4 kilometres from the neighbouring country of Burundi and has 11 outstations. The transport and communications network has generally been poor and unreliable, and we are cut off from important markets, which means the locals are engaged in subsistence farming on a small scale.*

They are spread out over a large area, and I am convinced that the only way I can carry out my work effectively is with a simple and affordable means of transport. I have plans I wish to develop, and want to enhance the whole mission of evangelisation, and preside over Sunday Masses at each of the outstations in turn.

Because it is infrequent, the people are very happy to be able to gather for Mass when I am able. I am convinced that I will be able to meet the purpose of my Ordination, and visit and guide the small Christian groups, as well as respond to sick calls and visit the elderly in their homes without delay, despite the roughness of the roads."

Grant: £4,669

SM 6430 - 6497 Sixty-eight bicycles for the Catechists of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Yerya, Diocese of Fort Portal, Uganda

A parish made up of 34 church centres, whose pastoral life is the responsibility of Fr Francis Bamanyisa, who wrote with more details: *“Currently the Catholic population stands at 12,500, and we have a primary school with just over a thousand enrolled, and a secondary with 230 students. There is always much work to be done in the schools as well as in the village communities.”*

The Rt Rev Robert Muhiira also sent us his letter of recommendation for this request, saying: *“Catechists do incredible work in our Diocese. They help within the apostolate of their competence in the absence of a priest. They prepare candidates for Baptism, instruct the children, guide Christians in the lay apostolate movements, and prepare couples for marriage, among other tasks. They are fully involved in the cycle of church life and are an important team in the ministry of the Church here.”*

Says Fr Francis: *“They have been walking long distances to carry out routine duties and church obligations like home visits to the sick, all under very strenuous conditions. It is hoped that news of your support will bring a smile to the faces of many deserving people in our community.”*

Grant: £5,019

SM 6498 Honda Shine motorbike for Carmel Matha Parish, Palakurthy, Diocese of Warangal, Telangana State, India.

Here present the original request we received, verbatim and in its entirety. I speaks for itself, and is very representative of so many others:

Sub: Financial Assistance for the purchase of a Motorcycle for the Pastoral and Socio activities in Palakurthy Parish Carmel Matha Church for tribals .

Dear Director,

Greetings of peace and love of Christ to you From Fr.Pudota Chinnaiiah Parish Priest of Palakurthy Parish in Warangal diocese.

I am Fr. Pudota Chinnaya belonging to Warangal diocese. I am almost 33 years a priest and my age is 61.

Palakurthy Mission center started in the year 2004by Bishop Most. Rev. Thumma Bala. It is 60 kilometers away from diocese headquarters. It is very remote mandal area and there is no proper transportation and the state government also recognized as drought affected area.

In the beginning there were two catholic families. At present I have 120 Catholic families with numerous catechumens. I have many tandas as catechumen villages. Most of the population that I am working is poor Tribals. The education is almost nil. In these same Tandas there are still Hindu Lambadas. I hope to bring them to Christ in faith and baptize them in the course of time. There is a high school in the nearby town, run by the sisters and they help me a lot in the catechetical work. They stay overnight there and teach prayers, songs and the Bible.

In the last one and half year we changed a lot. Most of them say the prayers and attend the Sunday mass. I sent few children to our catholic schools. I have lot of hope in them. I waited to see their faith for the last one and half year. I have faith and love for them to help them grow in faith.

The Palakurthy Mission Center is predominantly rural in character. The different types of people are small and Marginal farmers, agricultural laborers, masons, stonecutters and most of the people are daily laborers who have no properties of their own. The land as such is red and rocky. It is not at all that good for the cultivation.

Most of the villages (tandas) also depend on small water tanks for drinking purpose and for cultivation. These people get about Rs. 100 or a Euro per day as wages. Their lives are hand to mouth that lack basic facilities like shelter, clothing, food, education, proper drinking water etc., women are ignorant and illiterate. They lack preliminary education, which is the cause for all these. Therefore, the level of literacy is high in this area and it is recorded 90.3% and it is 88% among the females.

They are deprived of basic health and sanitation facilities; hence they do not have bathing rooms and toilets even in this modern age. They lack transport and communication facilities.

People: The people, who belong to our parish, are economically backward people. These are socially belongs to schedule caste. People are daily labors and hard working people. Generally they are gifted in hard work, generosity and very loving people. It is our task and mission to work among the people who are socially, economically backward and live by the daily wages. Our Catholic live in midst of non-Christians. People have deep faith in Jesus Christ. All our Catholics are either small-scale workers or agricultural laborers.

Literacy: The literacy of the people is very low. According to statistics of Warangal District survey 14.3% only, it is the lowest ratio in the district of Warangal. Though the people are good and have deep faith but they are not able to send their children to the school due to poor economic status. We have regular awareness programs to make the faithful to realize the need of education.

Sub-stations:

Kolkonda: Kolkonda is about 16 kms from Palakurthy Mission Centre.

There are only 10 catholic families. They migrated from Guntur. Fr. G. Rayappa built a small chapel for this community in honor of Mother Mary.

Ramachandrapuram: Ramachandrapuram is about 18 kms from Palakurthy

Mission Centre. There are 8 catholic families. These are the migrants from Nallaballi and Thallacheruvu Fr. G.Rayappa built a small chapel for this community in honor of St. Theresa of child Jesus.

Dadedapally: Dadedapally is a catechumenate village and it is 16 kms away

From Mission centre. Here no chapel and we have prayer service in the villages.

Circanna Gudem: It is a catechumenate village and it is a 14 kms away from Mission centre. Here also no chapel and we conduct prayer service in the houses.

Some are so interior that they do not have even bus facilities. It is my special duty to take care of the faithful and meet their pastoral and spiritual needs. Sometimes, due to the traveling inconveniences I am not able to make regular visits. People of this area are very much in need of regular instructions to deepen and strengthen their faith. Hence I am trying my level best and putting all my efforts to reach them as regularly as possible.

But the main hurdle I face in dispensing my duties regularly is the means of conveyance, due to which I am not able to attend my duties regularly and meet their spiritual needs. Hence, to solve this problem, a two wheeler motor cycle will be of great help to my mission work.

Therefore, I earnestly and humbly request you to assist me to purchase a Motor cycle by which I may be able to do the God's work in the midst of the poor people and your benevolence will definitely help me to carry on the apostolate more effectively and successfully. Your assistance in this regard will be highly appreciated and your help will be counted for the greater glory of God.

I do hope and pray that you will kindly consider my request and give me a positive reply. I shall ever be grateful to you for the service of yours in this regard. I am sure, you will become the source and strength for the growth of the Catholics in this tribal area specially in the work for the God's Kingdom. If you need any other information I am ready to do it necessary and relevant information to the best of my knowledge.

I assure you of my humble prayers that God may bless you abundantly and give you enough of strength to continue to serve for the spread of the Gospel message and His values.

Looking forward to hear from you and thanking you in anticipation, I remain.

With every good wishes,

Yours Sincerely,

Fr.PUDOTA CHINNAIAH

Grant: £1,035

SM 6499 Honda Splendor motorbike for Rengarih Parish, Simdega Diocese, Ranchi Province, Jharkhand, India

In the same way as with Fr Pudota, below we reproduce a request from a brother priest of his, although we have edited it for reasons of space:

Subject: An application for financial support to buy a Motor Bike (Two wheeler) for pastoral work -

Dear Sir,

Greetings from Rengarih, India!

I open this letter with all respect and regards to you. I would like to introduce myself to you as Fr. Benedict Kiro, S.J., a Jesuit Priest, engaged in pastoral ministry in Simdega diocese (India). Our parish is located in hilly and forest area. There are nearly 12,000 Catholics in our parish who are strong in faith. While doing pastoral work in far away scattered villages, we have to cover long distance to reach those villages in remote area (40 KMs in some cases). We have also to come to diocesan headquarters Simdega for office work as well as other works which is 25 KMs from our parish centre. There are 19 village centres with village chapels and Primary schools in some centres. We have to visit these village centres regularly for celebrating Holy Mass, sick calls and burials as well as for other purposes.

People cannot come so often to the parish centre for the Holy Mass and other sacraments because of the distance so constant touring on our part is needed. The people whom we serve are Adivasi/ tribals and people of backward classes who are very poor. All who live in rural areas are below the poverty line. Because of irregular monsoon rain and infertile land they get very low yielding. What they produce in their field is not sufficient even for 4 months. They sell minor forest products in the market close by to supplement their earning for livelihood. Most of them migrate to nearby towns and also in big cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and others in search of menial jobs. In this process, they are sold or get lost in the cities, specially the girls.

It has 19 village chapels with families nearly 500 families and 12,000 Catholic populations which needs regular visits to take care of the various pastoral needs. Seeing the urgent need of the means of transportation for this parish, I make this application for your kind consideration and positive decision.

Thanking you in anticipation and wishing you God's blessing,

Sincerely yours,

Fr Benedict Kiro SJ

Grant: £800

SM 6500 Nissan Hardbody double cab for Aborah Sika Catholic Clinic, Wawase, Diocese of Konongo-Mampong, Ashanti Region, Ghana

One of 20 Dioceses in Ghana, Konongo-Mampong has a Catholic population of just over 76,000, spread over an area of 11,357 square kilometres, roughly the size of Lancashire, Kent, and Suffolk combined.

There are sixty parishes in all, although each has a number of outstations or 'satellite' rural chapels attached, Wawase being one of them. The clinic provides primary health care to some twelve thousand inhabitants of the surrounding area, whose inhabitants are Ashanti people who are engaged small-scale farming as the main activity, growing cocoa, maize and cassava (manioc) and plantains as food crops.

Amina Iddrisu, the co-ordinator at Aborah Sika, informs us that *'The whole district lacks any reliable pipe-borne water, the only supply being mechanised and hand operated boreholes, which exist alongside open refuse dumping due to the absence of any form of organised collection, and sanitary facilities are of the most basic kind. All this leads to widespread health problems, and there is a great deal of health awareness and disease prevention work to be done.'*

The vehicle provided will be used to improve maternal and child health via regular village visits designed to enhance the pre- and post-natal care undertaken by existing staff, and also to organise in-service training for others. The plans the clinic has to set up community health development programmes will be able to begin, and will include the distribution of resources and equipment to the various small health posts located in the villages, increasing access to health care for those not normally catered for.

Grant: £20,399

SM 6501- 6526 26 bicycles for the catechists of St Paul the Apostle Parish, Goweko, Archdiocese of Tabora, Tanzania

Fr Charles Sinkala makes his case for funding in the application below, and was duly funded in October of 2021:

CONFIDENTIAL

SURVIVE-MIVA (Missionary Vehicle Association)

U.K. Reg. Charity No. 268745

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

CIDSE Ref: 154 / 028 / 13827 Date of issue 24 / 05 / 2021

Official seal S-M

Section A - Where you are based:

Parish/Clinic/Centre name: ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE GOWEKO PARISH - ELECT

Town/Locality: GOWEKO

Province/State/Department etc: TABORA

Diocese ARCHDIOCESE OF TABORA Country TANZANIA

Section B - Where we can best contact you & how:

Full Postal address: FR. CHARLES BENEDICT SINKALA
ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH - ELECT
ARCHDIOCESE OF TABORA
GOWEKO PARISH - ELECT
P.O. BOX 828, TABORA
TANZANIA

Telephone: +255763 - 172748 Fax/e-mail: cmwananzika@gmail.com

Section C - Your personal details:

Your family name/s: SINKALA Your first name/s CHARLES

Your title: PARISH PRIEST Your nationality: TANZANIAN

Your home Parish KALIUA

Missionary Society (if applicable) & Contact Number _____



Section D - Background information about your Diocese/region:

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TABORA IN TANZANIA WAS ERECTED ON 25TH MARCH 1953 UNDER THE MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA (The White Fathers). THE MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA FIRST ARRIVED IN TABORA IN 1878 CARRYING THEIR MESSAGE OF LOVE WITH THE MISSION TO PLANT THE CROSS OF CHRIST IN AFRICAN SOIL. THIS WORK IS NOW MAINLY IN THE HANDS OF NATIVE AFRICAN PRIEST AND IS REFLECTED IN THE WORK OF EVANGELIZATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES RENDERED BY THE CHURCH IN AFRICA.

THE MISSION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TABORA IS TO CARRY OUT BOTH RELIGIOUS PASTORAL SERVICES FOR THE WELFARE OF THE CATHOLIC POPULATION WITHIN THE ARCHDIOCESE AND ASSIST IN PROMOTING THE COMMON GOOD OF ALL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF CREED FOR THEIR SPIRITUAL AS WELL AS SOCIO-ECONOMIC WELFARE.

THE ARCHDIOCESE HAS ESTABLISHED TWENTY SIX (26) PARISHES AND NUMEROUS OUTSTATIONS WHERE THE FAITHFUL GATHER FOR WORSHIP AND FOR OTHER RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES. THE ARCHDIOCESE HAS ADDITIONALLY ESTABLISHED AND ADMINISTERED MANY INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF VOCATION AND FORMATION OF LAY MINISTERS AND RELIGIOUS FOR THE SPIRITUAL GOOD OF ITS PEOPLE AND FORM CITIZENS OF THE REGION GUIDED BY CHRISTIAN MORAL VALUES.

Section E - Your aims and objectives:

THE PROJECT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED WITH AN INTENTION OF COVID PANDEMIC AWARENESS TO OUR PEOPLE AND OFFERING PASTORAL ZEAL ON COUNSELLING AND PROVIDING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ON SPIRITUAL MATTERS AS OUR MISSION AT ST. PAUL GOWEKO PARISH-ELECT AS FOLLOWS:-

- (i) STRENGTH AND TRANSFORMING BOTH THE BAPTIZED AND NON-BAPTIZED FAITHFUL ALL OVER THE PARISH.
- (ii) OUR GOAL AND OBJECTIVES ARE TO CARRY FORTH THE WORD OF GOD TO ALL PEOPLE OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE, SO THAT BY ITS EVENTUALLY TRANSFORM, ALL THEIR ACTIVITIES AND WHOLE ENVIRONMENT WHICH SURROUNDS THEM.
- (iii) IT MUST TOO IMPREGNATE AND TRANSFORM THEIR CULTURES. WE DO THEREFORE NEED TO CONDUCT ALL THE YEAR ROUND REGULAR ONGOING SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTIONS ON CATHOLIC MORALS, SACRAMENTS, LITURGY BIBLICAL APOSTOLATE, RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD, MARRIAGE
- (iv) INVOLVED FULLY IN POVERTY ERADICATION AND COVID-19 THROUGH SEMINARS.



LAST BUT ^{NOT} THE LEAST IS TO TRAIN ALL CATECHISTS AND LEADERS OF THE OUTREACH TO BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT PROPER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CONFIDENT WAY.

~ Continue this section on ONE separate sheet if necessary ~

Section F - Details of the proposed vehicle/transport you require:

EXCHANGE RATE; 1 POUND IS EQUIVALENT TO 3,000/- TANZANIAN SHILLINGS. BICYCLES ARE SUGGESTED AS MEANS OF TRANSPORT FOR CATECHISTS. CATECHISTS ARE MAKING EXTRA EFFORTS TO EVANGELIZE AND STRENGTHENING CHRISTIAN FAITH AT LARGE IN THE ISLAM SPHERE LIKE GOWEKO. IN THIS WAY PARISH PRIEST IS INCORPORATING OTHER PEOPLE LIKE LAY CATECHISTS, IN THIS MINISTRY OF WHICH THEIR HELP IS VERY INEVITABLE.

THE CATECHISTS ARE OF GOOD HELP TO THE WHOLE WORK OF EVANGELIZATION SINCE THEY ARE THE ONE TO PREPARE PEOPLE PRIOR OF RECEIVING SACRAMENTS AND GIVING SOME CATHOLIC INSTRUCTIONS IN SCHOOLS, FAMILIES AND SUNDAY SERVICES.

I THEREFORE APPEAL TO YOU FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF POUND (£) 2,980 EQUIVALENT TO TANZANIAN SHILLINGS 8,940,000/- WHICH WILL HELP TO PURCHASE TWENTY SIX (26) BICYCLES FOR THE CATECHISTS AT GOWEKO PARISH - ELECT.

Section G - The final word:

HOWEVER; POUND 350 EQUIVALENT TO 1,050,000/- TANZANIAN SHILLINGS AS A LOCAL CONTRIBUTION FOR SEMINAR. DURING A DISTRIBUTION OF BICYCLES, THE PROJECT WILL BE OF GREAT BENEFITS TO THE PEOPLE OF GOWEKO, PARTAINING TO COVID PANDEMIC, PASTORAL SERVICES, SUSTAINABILITY AND MAINTAINANCE WILL BE DIRECTLY UNDER OUR CATECHISTS FROM THE LITTLE MONEY THEY EARN THROUGH SUBSISTANCE FARMING. EITHER MAINTAINANCE OF BICYCLES WILL BE DONE BY LOCAL MECHANICS AS WELL AS SPARE PARTS LOCALLY AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY.

SM 6527 Honda XL 125cc motorbike for Kaabong Parish, Diocese of Kotido, Uganda

A short description of the Diocese can be read under SM 6310, but PP of Kaabong Fr Patrick Mulumba also adds: *“when the men move with their cattle looking for grass and water during the long dry seasons, the women are left at home to look after the crops. The Karamoja people who live here have the least access to education and the illiteracy rate is as low as 9%, with that of the women as low as 3% due to the attitude of the community towards the education of girl children, which is negative.”*

The provision of a parish motorcycle will enable Fr Patrick to take his pastoral and educational care to the 28 outstations or chapels attached to the main parish in the surrounding villages, and in the eighteen primary and three secondary schools to which he also has to cater. *“ I need to reach out to the huge number of youth and old people and those living with or affected by HIV, the vulnerable orphans and widows, as well as maintain contact with the different groups of refugees who have travelled from the Sudan.”*

Grant: £4,019

SM 6528 Yamaha 125 cc motorbike for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Yendi, Diocese of Yendi, Northern Region, Ghana

The first of a block grant for five motorbikes in all, (see SM 6653/4/5 and 6656 below) these were made in response to an area of Ghana from which we had previously not received any requests. Local Bishop the Rt Rev Vincent Sowah Boi-Nai contacted us initially in early March of 2020, just as the UK was experiencing the first recognised impact of covid; and the subsequent lockdown and restrictions in place here and in Ghana itself meant that when the grant was approved, it could not be made until October of 2021.

Located in the Northern Region of the country, and covering an area of 70,000 square kilometres, (Scotland = 78,775) Yendi Diocese has just 14 parishes, and dates from as recently as 1999, and Bishop Vincent tells us: *“Our Diocese lies within a region which is only 150-300 metres above sea level and is a continuation, in effect, of the Guinea Savannah Belt, in other words it is covered by thick grassland with occasional trees found only in some small areas. Unfortunately, within some communities, wood contractors are felling trees indiscriminately for commercial purposes, and they are not being replaced.”*

Bishop Vincent goes on to say: *“We are 89% rural, according to the Ghana Statistical Service, and cultivation is at the mercy of the rain using traditional subsistence methods, which do not give a large economic return. In the light of this, the people are not able to support the Church in terms of physical money for our developmental agenda, but they very readily offer their farm produce to support the upkeep of the priests who minister to them.”*

The parishes of the Diocese can each have up to 20 or 30 substations, or places where people gather for services when a priest can reach them, and their work and the challenges they face are numerous: *“Due to the traditional cultural norms, education is not so much a priority amongst the people. Whilst the young boys are needed on the land, girls are expected to take care of the younger ones and do household chores. They are mostly betrothed at early ages to much older men, and these traditions still have a great influence over the locals.*

However, the Church at the same local level strives to make efforts to bring about awareness and change, and the ability to reach out to them through transport will greatly help us in our efforts to sensitise both women and men in the areas of formal education, skills training, and human rights issues. If our request is granted, the transport challenges associated with the remote Christian communities will be greatly reduced. ”

Grant: 5 x £2,327

SM 6529/6658 2 x Locally built 23 ft launch and 40 hp outboard motor for Misima and Hobruk Parishes, Alotau, Diocese of Alotau-Sideia, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea

Made in conjunction with SM 6658 (see below), these two grants represent our contribution to the work of the Church in especially remote and isolated communities, as Bishop Santos himself explains:



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALOTAU-SIDEIA

Bishop's House, P.O. Box 107
Alotau 211, Milne Bay Province
Papua New Guinea
Tel: (675) 641-1252 Mob: 72265717 Fax: (675) 641-1471
Email: rsantosalotau@gmail.com

25th June, 2019

SURVIVE - MIVA
5 Park Vale Road
Aintree
Liverpool
L9 2DG
United Kingdom

Dear Simon Patrick Foran,

Kindly find enclosed the following project applications for subsidy from the Diocese of Alotau-Sideia:

1. A 23ft dinghy & a 40HP Yamaya engine for Misima Parish - submitted by Fr Sam Phasz.
2. A 23ft dinghy & a 40HP Yamaya engine for Nimoa Parish - submitted by Fr Robert Timi.

I approve of these project applications and humbly request if you can grant subsidy for these two projects.

Thanking you once again for your kind assistance. Rest assured of my prayers for you and all the Staff of MIVA - SURVIVE.

Sincerely yours,

+Rolando C. Santos, CM
Bishop of Alotau-Sideia



Misima Parish is a newly Established Parish some ten (10) years ago. The Island is a Pentecostal Dominant Island with almost 99.9% and Catholic Population is only .1%. This is a breakthrough for the Catholic Church on Misima Island and the surrounding Catholic Island Communities. The population now is increasing to Almost 400+ Catholics. A proper census will be conducted to confirm the exact figures of every Catholic on Misima Island.

St. Joseph's Parish - Hobuk, is part of Nimoa Parish ever since the MSC Missionaries landed on the Island. Since then, the population has grown drastically. The Nimoa Parish is the biggest of all the Parishes in our Diocese with Forty (40) Mass Centres. The Mass Centres are scattered from the Calvados Chain Group of Islands to the Mainland Sudest. The total Population of the Nimoa Parish is about 7,000. That is the reason why, our former Bishop Francesco Panfilo, SDB, asked me to establish a New St. Joseph's Parish - Hobuk. The population of the Calvados Chain Group of Island (Hobuk Parish) is about 3,000. We have eighteen (18) Mass Centres and the population is growing very rapidly every year. The setting up of the New Parish is already off the ground and the Priest's house is already completed. The other buildings will be built this year as planned by our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC).

The purpose of the project of a parish dinghy

The primary purpose of the sea transport for the two (2) Parishes is for the work of Evangelization to all my Catholic Communities. The majority of the Catholic population misses out in receiving the Sacraments. Many Catholics die without receiving the Sacraments, because of the isolation of the smaller islands which can be reached only on a 40HP Motor and a 23 Footer Dinghy. I have been sailing on our Traditional Sailing canoes for twelve years (12) now and feels that, the slowness that I travel, majority of the population misses out. That is why I am seeking your financial assistance to purchase an outboat Motor for the work of Evangelization in my two (2) Parishes.

The objective of the two (2) Parishes Outboat Motor & 23 Footer Dinghy

The main objective of the two Parishes having an Outboat Motor and a dinghy is to foster some of these following Programmes:

- ✓ Transportation of Missionaries, Parish Animation Team for Awareness Workshops
- ✓ Celebration of the Sacraments
- ✓ Visiting the old, sick and the people living with physical disabilities
- ✓ Visiting and celebrating Holy Eucharist with the Students, Teachers in our Agency Schools as well as with our Catholic Nurses in our Agency Health Centres and Clinics.

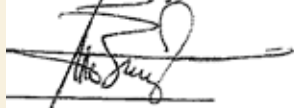
My two Parishes are scattered in the outer Islands of our Diocese and Province and using the Engine and the Dinghy will be regular. Engine parts are very expensive to purchase on those two Islands and it takes a lot of time to wait for the parts to arrive from Alotau town. These may delay the work of Evangelization at times. But, on the other hand, our Parish Mechanics are well trained to fix and service the Engine at all times. With the little resources that we have in terms of tools, our Mechanics are well trained to get the Engines back in operation.

Community contribution

The Catholic faithful of the two Parishes are very kind in giving to the Church. Their contributions of Cash and kind are always collected and have them saved in the two Parishes' Accounts. Currently, the two Parishes of Misima and Hobuk has a total amount of PGK 4,000. 00 in our Bank Account. This is our community contribution towards the purchasing of a 40HP Motor and a 23 Footer Dinghy. I now kindly ask SURVIVE MIVA to assist me with **PGK27,371.00**. These will include the purchasing of a Tool Box Kit for the fixing of the Engine and other Mission properties by my Parish Mechanics.

Your kind generosity will be very much appreciated by all my Parishioners of my two (2) Parishes and me for the continuing work of Evangelization.

Yours sincerely,



Fr. Sam Phasz
Parish Priest & Dean




Bp. Rolando Santos, CM
Bishop for Alotau - Sideia.

Grant: £6,172 each

SM 6530 - 6599 70 bicycles for the catechists of Good Shepherd Parish, Butundwe, Diocese of Geita, Tanzania

Butundwe is to be found near the south west shore of Lake Victoria, and is a remote area where Fr John Bosco Lwenge has been PP of Good Shepherd since his ordination in 2017. He says: *"I have 25 outstations to cover in the surrounding villages, where I am helped by lay catechists. Between us we have created 90 small Christian Communities, the furthest being about 32 kilometres from the parish headquarters. The local population live from either fishing or tending to small scale plots of land used for subsistence crops.*

My aim is to provide a bicycle for each of the catechists and parish workers so that they can be more effective in their vital work. They preside over liturgical services in the absence of a priest on Sundays, but also hold a fundamental position in our pastoral undertakings. They teach the young and the adults, and prepare them for the Sacraments of Initiation, and also visit the sick and needy of the area. They fulfil these and other duties in the most difficult circumstances, and go on foot to carry them out."

Grant: £4,430

SM 6600 Honda CB 125cc motorbike for Fatima Rani Parish, Bandarban, Archdiocese of Chattogram, Bangladesh

The Grant Committee
SURVIVE-MIVA
5 Park Vale Road,
Aintree,
Liverpool
L9 2DG
UNITED KINGDOM

Subject: Prayer for funding for a motor-cycle for the pastoral care of Fatima Rani Catholic Parish, Bandarban.

Dear Sir,

Greetings in Christ!


I the undersigned is assigned as the Assistant Parish Priest in Fatima Rani Catholic Church, Bandarban, Bangladesh. The parish is one of the 7 parishes of Chattogram Catholic Archdiocese situated in Chattogram Hill Tracts in southeastern Bangladesh, bordering India and Myanmar.

The Chattogram Hill Tracts is first evangelized in 1957 and presently the Fatima Rani Catholic Parish has a Catholic population of 6,675 scattered over a vast area in 65 hard to reach tribal villages. There are 12 ethnic communities namely Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Mru, Tanchangya, Chaks, Khumi, Kuki/Lushai, Khyang, Pankho, Bangoji and Mrung in the parish area. It is a rapidly growing parish and on an average 80-100 adult baptisms take place every year.

Only a few tribal villages are nearby from the parish church. So, the maximum of the parishioners is unable to participate in liturgical and sacramental services being held at the parish centre. Priests working in the parish needs to visit the remote villages frequently to render the pastoral care and preside masses and provide other sacraments. As an assistant parish priest, I always need to reach out to the villages for the purpose. Total distance to the tribal villages from the parish centre is 2,582 kilometres in total. Among the 65 villages, the one-way distance of 18 villages is more than 50 km. The farthest village is situated 98 km away from the parish centre. Chattogram Hill Tracts is the most disadvantaged area in the country. Very often there are no proper roads to reach to our villages by public transports. So, we need to always walk for long hours, sometimes even 12 hours! If I had a motorcycle, it would surely be very much helpful to provide more frequent pastoral service to my parishioners and also celebrate masses and sacraments regularly.

In these circumstances, I would like to request the grant committee of SURVIVE MIVA to provide me with a motor-bike to be used for the pastoral care of the people of Fatima Rani Catholic Parish, Bandarban, Bangladesh. In expectation of the positive consideration of my application, I am attaching herewith a proforma invoice for a suitable motor-bike.

Sincerely yours,
I remain,


Fr. Pronoy Anthony Gomes 7/9/2020
Assistant Parish Priest
Fatima Rani Catholic Parish
P.O. & Upazila: Bandarban
Bangladesh

Recommended.
Rebeiro
FR. LEONARD O. REBEIRO
DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR



Grant: £1,400

SM 6601 - 6628 28 bicycles for the catechists of St Mary's Parish, Karonga, Diocese of Karonga, Northern Region, Malawi

Here we present a further grant for bicycles, partly hand-written, partly completed by 'cut and paste technology' - it is all equally valid in our eyes!

CONFIDENTIAL

SURVIVE-MIVA (Missionary Vehicle Association)

U.K. Reg. Charity No. 268745

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

CIDSE Ref: 135 / 008 / 13830 Date of issue 02 / 06 / 2021

Official seal S-M

Section A - Where you are based:

Parish/Clinic/Centre name: ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Town/Locality: KARONGA

Province/State/Department etc: NORTHERN REGION

Diocese KARONGA DIOCESE Country MALAWI

Section B - Where we can best contact you & how:

Full Postal address: ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH
P.O. BOX 75
KARONGA
MALAWI
+265 999 933 654/silungweben@gmail.com

Telephone: +265 999 933 654 Fax/e-mail: _____

Section C - Your personal details:

Your family name/s: SILUNGWE Your first name/s: BERNARD

Your title: FATHER Your nationality: MALAWIAN

Your home Parish: ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH (Karonga Diocese)

Missionary Society (if applicable) & Contact Number: _____



Section D - Background information about your Diocese/region:

Malawi is one of the poor countries in the south of Sahara region. It is among the third world countries that are on the threshold of development. A number of interventions are being made in line with development but still the country is dependent on foreign aid.

Karonga Diocese is one of the eight dioceses in Malawi. This diocese was created on 21st July, 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI and the official opening of the diocese, and the consequent consecration of Bishop Martin A. Mtumbuka, the first bishop, was on 20th November, 2010. The motto of the diocese on which all of us focus our apostolates on is: "*We shall go to them.*" The basic aim of this motto is that we should be able to reach out to people meeting their respective needs.

St. Mary's Catholic Parish is one of now twelve parishes of Karonga Diocese. It was opened in 1945. The parish is found at the centre of Karonga District. The parish has 4 zones, 12 outstations and now 30 prayer centres. It has a total of 12,217 Catholics in the 4 zones.

Section E - Your aims and objectives:

When I was made a Parish Priest of St. Matthias Mulumba Parish, since I was alone, I established a system of working with trained catechists, assistant catechists and volunteer catechists. This system brought about a good coordination and made information sharing and reporting easy. It also helped to have dedicated individuals on the ground who have direct allegiance to the leadership of the parish. It further helped to make follow-ups on issues like parish finances and pastoral matters in details; as each catechist worked hard in his/her particular area in order to score some marks.

In Misuku, this system had many successful outcomes to an extent that, pastorally, we became a successful story as a parish among all the parishes in our diocese (recognized by the Diocese). It is because of this that in my current parish, I am introducing the same system but we have mobility problems for all these catechists who have voluntarily already accepted to serve our parish.

St. Mary's Catholic Parish has 4 zones. In each zone, we have a full catechist, an assistant catechist, and a number of volunteer catechists depending on the need and population. An assistant catechist works closely with the full catechist in the whole zone and reports to the full catechist. The volunteer catechists work in their particular local church councils (called outstations) and work closely with the assistant catechist of their respective zones. These as well report to the full catechist of their respective zones. Some of these volunteers have 3 or 4 and in some cases 5 prayer centres to oversee. In all these zones, these catechists have over 12,000 Christians to serve.



Unfortunately, the Diocese of Karonga provided bicycles to full catechists only in 2015. And it has taken a number of years since the diocese gave them bicycles. The rest, who are also equally important, to the running of the parish have not been given any means of transport.

That's why I am requesting Sisters of St. Peter Claver to assist St. Mary's Catholic Parish with funds to buy bicycles for 4 full catechists, 4 assistant catechists and 20 volunteer catechists. In total, we are requesting the funds for 28 bicycles. These will improve the mobility of catechists to reach Christians easily and eventually help the parish run smoothly.

The main aim of this project is to improve the mobility of all catechists (trained, assistants and volunteers); which is one of the biggest challenges that our catechists have. Eventually, the parish will be helped to run smoothly just as it was in Misuku.

The objectives include enabling catechists to:

- Respond quickly to calls from different Christians of different prayer centres which they oversee.
- Easily go to prayer centres of their areas to conduct prayer services especially on Sunday.
- Quickly go and conduct funeral services in different corners of their territories.
- Going to prayer centres for groups and lay leaders' meetings and lessons.
- Easily attend different important church meetings and functions at the parish.
- Easily carry the gifts that generous Christians give during services.
- Easily follow up finances of each prayer centre.

Section F - Details of the proposed vehicle/transport you require:

St. Mary's Catholic Parish, just as many other parishes in the Diocese of Karonga, has long distances between its prayer centres and between prayer centres and the parish. For different church activities like conducting prayer services most of our catechists just walk from their homes to these prayer centres and from their homes to the parish centre to collect funds, conduct and attend meetings etc. As such Survive-Miva will be doing a great service in improving the mobility of our catechists.

All these bicycles will belong to the parish; not the catechists.

Section G - The final word:

The transports which I am seeking for our catechists are common push bicycles. Bicycle Centre offered AVON bicycles. Like Humber bicycles, Avon bicycles are also a common type that has a reputation to last long. Their spare parts are not very difficult to find and not very expensive as compared to sports bicycles.

Section H - Funding: payment procedures & account details...

Bank name: NATIONAL BANK OF MALAWI
 Bank address: KARONGA BRANCH, P.O. BOX 95, KARONGA
 Account name: KARONGA DIOCESE
 Account number: 286125 Preferred currency: MALAWIAN KWACHA
 SWIFT/IBAN NBMAMWMW

Section J - Approval of your Bishop and/or Religious Superior:

Rt/Most Rev: MARTIN A. MTUMBUKA
 Signature: [Signature]
 Address: Karonga Diocese, Box 140, Karonga, MALAWI



Superior - Name & Title: _____
 Signature: _____
 Address: _____



Applicants Declaration:

I declare that the information given on this form is to the best of my knowledge accurate, and in accordance with the form 'Guidelines for Completing your application'.

Your signature [Signature] Date 12/07/21

Return to: SURVIVE-MIVA, 5 Park Vale Road, Aintree, Liverpool, L9 2DG. Tel: 0151 523 3878
 Completed forms must reach us postmarked within 3 months of date of issue.

Grant: £4,419

SM 6629 Honda XL 250cc motorbike for Old Maswa Parish, Bariadi, Simiyu, Diocese of Shinyanga, Tanzania

Shinyanga has a total of just 36 parishes, Old Maswa being one of them, and is to be found in the north west of the country. Fr Paul Kitaly PP writes: *“The parish dates from 1962, and so is an established base, but currently has 14 outstations whose number we wish to increase, as there are 82 small Christian Communities which also need to be visited and nurtured. I have to teach in the local schools, both primary and secondary, and my work involves visiting the sick, the elderly, and the disabled. The economic situation of the majority of the people of the parish is poor, and the roads are very rough and in many places only passable with a motorbike. Due to their economic and geographical status, parishioners cannot afford the cost to purchase a motorbike but could support the running costs, and so we are asking you to help us with the task of evangelisation and human development in this area of poor infrastructure but growing Faith.”*

Grant: £4,030

SM 6630 Honda XL 125cc motorbike for Nyiendo Quasi Parish, Diocese of Bunda, Mara region, Tanzania

Nyiendo used to be a small outstation of a large parish, St Paul Bunda, Fr Carol Mwibule tells us, and was given the interim status of ‘almost’ parish in 2016. *“Along with four catechists, I cover a further four outstations, where people live from animal husbandry and smallholdings to grow food. Within the outstations, there are seventeen small Christian Communities who meet regularly with a catechist to pray and hold services together. Other denominations include Anglicans, Lutherans, Adventists and Islam, and we co-exist peacefully.*

Although the number of Catholics is increasing, there are still many who believe in superstition, which is one of the great challenges facing us. The inhabitants of this area are scattered all over, and there are great distances between the families. Many live in places which cannot be reached because there are no roads, just footpaths, so a motorbike is the best method of travel.”

Grant: £4,030

SM 6631 Honda XL 125cc motorbike for St John’s Parish, Nemba, Biharamulo, Rulenge-Ngara Diocese, Tanzania

“Rulenge-Ngara Diocese covers over 13,000 square kilometres of north west Tanzania,” Fr Brighton Tibamanya wrote in his initial request for funds, informing us that “it borders Rwanda and Burundi to the south west, Kigoma to the south, and to the east are the shores of Lake Victoria. This effectively means that we are cut off to the east, and access to the rest of the country is by the south only. Apart from the main tarmac road which links us to Rwanda and Burundi, the network is poor,” and inadequate in the rainy season.”

Fr Brighton says that St John’s is a new parish, dating from 2018, and it already has sixteen outstations attached: “Nemba, being new, has many challenges and there is an urgent need to build up infrastructure, the nearest outstation is 32 kilometres away and the other are even further.”

As a small charity with no staff or office costs overseas, we have always trusted those on the ground to give us a first-hand account of the realities they face, as is the case here: *“In order to be effective in providing pastoral services to all the communities, I need a reliable form of transport. Because most of the roads are impassable, a car cannot be of great help for this work. What is needed is a strong and reliable motorbike to help us increase the quantity and quality of our mission to the people of God.”*

Grant: £3,227

SM 6632/33/34 Three Hero Honda Destini mopeds for the Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, Diocese of Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh State, India

Provincial Superior Sr Philomena George is our contact in Ambikapur, and co-ordinated this grant. She told us:

“Ambikapur Province of the Ursuline Sisters is working in one of the most backward and economically poor states, Chhattisgarh, in north India. We are also working in other states like Odisha, Madhya Pradesh where Christians are suppressed by the state run actors like Fundamental Hindus and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP). Most of the people in Chhattisgarh are tribals and ‘untouchables’, who live on the banks of lakes or water canals in the jungles and thick forests which are very far from cities. They have no political role to play. They just live on what they produce from small bits and pieces of land. Girls and boys are sent to big cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata in search of work.

In spite of aggression from the fundamental Hindus, there are thousands of Catholics who practice their faith on a regular basis. There are still some tribals and untouchables who just worship nature and live with the strongest superstitions with outmoded customs and traditions. So, the Ambikapur Province of Ursuline Sisters is mainly concentrating on the overall development of these tribals and untouchable dalit people. We are nurturing them in their Catholic faith and traditions. We are working hard for the overall growth and development of these people.

Tribals are very superstitious about having a girl child. The girls are given the least importance in the family and in the society. That’s why the girls are sent to graze cows, buffalos or sheep or they are sent to work as maids in Land Lord’s families where they are regularly subjected to abuse. In search of livelihood some girls are sent to big cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata and some even to Dubai. In the process some girls are dragged into prostitution, drugs and smuggling and some mediators sell these girls permanently to brothels in these big cities.

Some of the innocent tribal boys are also dragged into drug peddling, smuggling, robbing and rag picking or begging in front of holy and crowded places and give the collected money to their handlers. That is why we are persuading the parents not to send their children to big cities in search of work, but send the kids to our schools where they will be provided good education and with that they can get a good job and live a dignified life. An educated child can decide between what is good and what is bad and lead a moral and ethical life.

The state of Chhattisgarh is inhabited mainly with tribal people who were mainly nature worshippers decades ago. They are very poor and worked in the farm of the rich land lords. By seeing the good acts done by the Catholic Church, the tribal people were attracted towards Catholicism, and we the Ursuline sisters go to different villages in the jungles and attend the pastoral needs of the poor tribal people. We attend the poor sick people and spend some time with them and distribute necessary medicines. We spend a lot of time with the old and the bed ridden people and talk to them. They feel happy and that there is someone that cares for them even in this jungles.

But the sisters are finding it very difficult to visit these people who are staying in jungles and thick forest. There is no public transportation at all. There are no proper roads to visit. It is not possible for a four wheeler to reach these villages. It is only possible for scooty’s (two wheeler) to reach these villages. These forest and jungles are very far from the cities. The sisters are walking for miles to visit these families. Sometimes it becomes very late in the evening. Sisters walk at night in the jungles to come back to the convent. There were sisters that were bitten by snakes while walking at night, some were attacked by the wild animals. Some sisters were attacked by the robbers. It is not safe for the sisters to walk at night in the thick jungles and forest. Therefore we humbly request your kindness to help us buy scooty’s (two wheeler). The poor tribals especially the old sick people cannot walk for miles to get medicines. So, sisters can easily access to these people and distribute medicines and make them feel that they are not forgotten and can make them feel that they are loved and cared.

May our beloved mother Mary always stay with us and pray for us as she prayed at the foot of the cross.

Thanking you, Sr. Philomina George_

Grant: £2,635

SM 6635 - 6652 18 bicycles for the catechists of St Cecilia's Parish, Mphelembe, Mzimba District, Diocese of Mzuzu, Malawi

Fr Petros Mwale contacted us with his request originally during the first lockdown here in the UK, and so there was a delay in our assistance reaching him and his parishioners. He told us this:

"The Catholic Diocese of Mzuzu is one of the eight Catholic Dioceses in Malawi and covers an area of 27,912 square kilometers and has a population 600,00+ Catholics and eighteen parishes. The origins of the Diocese of Mzuzu begin from the Apostolic Prefecture of Northern Malawi which was erected on 18th May 1947 from the Apostolic Vicariate of Malawi, by the Decree issued on 8th May 1947. On the 3rd of March 1961, it was raised to the status of North Nyasa Prefecture. Up to April 2017, the diocese had eleven parishes against the steadily rising Catholic population. On the 15th of April, 2017 the Diocese created four more parishes. Three more were created later.

St. Cecelia Parish is one of the new parishes. It is located 67 kilometers from Mzuzu. The entire parish is rural with all roads dirt. The parish was created with the idea of reducing distance from the old parish. This has helped a lot; the population of Catholics in the area is growing, church attendance has also increased. Today, the parish has 42 places of worship we call churches. The furthest church in the parish is St. Gerald church which is 60 kilometers away from the parish. The parish is divided into six zones. The parish has two priests and four catechists, plus two student catechists. In addition to these, we have lay groupings and their leadership.

Our desire is to train more volunteer lay leaders that would support the pastoral team. We want to train 2 volunteer catechists per zone. This will bring the total number of employed and volunteer catechists to 12. We will also train 1 Sunday school teacher supervisor per zone.

We have already identified the teachers and the diocesan Sunday School office has already started training some teachers. The biggest challenge is mobility. They walk long distances, and sometimes they don't go to intended places.

With the problem stated above, we ask you to assist with funds to purchase 18 bicycles. A bicycle costs MWK120,000. For 18 bicycles we request that you assist us with MWK2,160,000. This is equal to GBP2,252 at exchange rate of GBP1=MWK959

Find attached a quotation from Ziweto Enterprise Ltd.

We look forward to hear from you.

Sincerely yours

Rev. Fr. Petros Mwale."

Grant: £2,319



QUOTATION No. 160

ZIWETO ENTERPRISE LTD

Mzuzu Branch

Area 37, Plot No: 37/51
Malangalanga, Lilongwe.
P.O. Box 30240,
Capital City, Lilongwe.

Mobile: +265-995 679 075
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Website: www.ziweto.org
Email: ziwetomalawi@gmail.com
ziweto@info.org

Date: 05.10.2020

M/s: ST. CECELIA PARISH

We are pleased to submit our quotation as follows:-

QTY	DESCRIPTION	@	K	t
16	BYFFALO Bicycles	120,000	1,920,000	00
			1,920,000	
Sub Total			1,920,000	00
16.5% V.A.T				
Grand Total			1,920,000	00

Issued by: WABEKANI

SM 6653 Yamaha 125 cc motorbike for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Yendi, Diocese of Yendi, Northern Region, Ghana

Acquired with the second (see SM 6528 above) of a block of five grants, Our Lady of Lourdes is the Cathedral parish of the Diocese and was established 22 years ago. In that time, according to PP Fr Justice Gmabagnan, there has been steady growth:

"I now have 28 outstations in the rural outreaches of the parish. Our ministry to these areas continues to grow and even to thrive, but our biggest challenge is the lack of means of transport to make routine visits. This would help in the leadership formation programmes we run which we want to extend to the youth and women's groups. We want to enlarge our work so engage with more Catechumens and those preparing to be received into the Church, having built their faith on a sound foundation."

Grant: £2,327

SM 6654 Yamaha 125 cc motorbike for St Brigid's Parish, Chereponi, Diocese of Yendi, Northern Region, Ghana

This parish is ministered to by Fr Rudolf Babugih, who simply states: *"Because of the location and condition of the roads and tracks here, it is almost impossible to be effective in my work to build communities and train competent leaders, without a means of transport."*

Brief, perhaps, but succinct and undeniably the case!

Grant: £2,327

SM 6655 Yamaha 125 cc motorbike for Holy Spirit Parish, Chamba, Diocese of Yendi, Northern Region, Ghana

From Chamba, Fr Basil Tengkye supplies some statistics, informing us that this parish dates from 1978, and has a population of over 45,000. *"of these, Islam represents 12%, Catholics make up 10%, Protestants 8% and the remaining 70% are traditional worshippers, meaning that our work is almost exclusively centred on primary evangelisation, bringing the love of the Lord to those who do not know Him."*

Father continues: *"Over 80% of my parishioners fall below the poverty line, the result of the lack of investment and living from a subsistence economy, so employment opportunities are few. Raising livestock is the main source of food, and water comes from streams, hand dug wells, and a few boreholes. The few urban dwellers are engaged mostly in petty trading, and another small number are civil servants. Women and girls are the most deprived group in the Diocese, and education levels and literacy are very poor in this part of the country. If I am to decentralise and move out from the parish centre, some form of transport will be necessary ."*

Grant: £2,327

SM 6656 Yamaha 125 cc motorbike for St Augustine of Hippo Parish, Zabzugu, Diocese of Yendi, Northern Region, Ghana

The final area to be included in the block grant has 22 outstations, which are the pastoral responsibility of Fr Peter Taana. He says: *"We were established as a parish in 2013, and each outstation is far from the next, so visiting all of them with any regularity is a practical impossibility. We have youth groups and small Christian Communities in existence, and we also have a programme to support the on-going formation of catechists to organise them and conduct prayer meetings with them. There is a great need to foster a strong community spirit, but this can only come about with regular contact."*

Grant: £2,327

SM 6657 Toyota Hilux double cab for Mother of God Health Centre, Esaase Bontefufuo, Diocese of Obuasi, Ashanti Region, Ghana

Dear Sir/Madam,

REQUEST FOR A 4WHEEL- PICKUP VEHICLE FOR MOTHER OF GOD HEALTH CENTRE AT ESAASE BONTEFUFUO, GHANA

I am Sister Mary Owusu Frimpong and I belong to the congregation of the Sisters of St Louis in Ghana.

I am a health worker, working in the Catholic Diocese of Obuasi in the Ashanti region of Ghana. I am in charge of Mother of God Health Centre, Esaase Bontefufuo, a faith based organization of the Catholic Diocese of Obuasi in the Amansie west District of Ghana.

I wish to apply for a 4wheel pickup vehicle to solve the problems of transportation at the Health Centre for the delivery of healthcare for the people of Esaase Bontefufuo and its environs. I am making this request because of the poor nature of the roads leading to the Health Centre from the communities where we carry out our outreach health programmes.

Mother of God Health Centre, which is situated at Esaase Bontefufuo was established in 1990. It is within a typical farming community with the population of about 13,500 and surrounded by eight communities. It was initially established to help pregnant women in the community and its environs to have safe delivery and to provide healthcare services to sick people, particularly the children and the aged. Strategically the Centre is located to serve the communities especially the poorer people and provide valuable healthcare services through outreach programmes in the surrounding communities.

Esaase Bontefufuo is located in the rain forest where the rainfall patterns are seasonal. The rainy season is roughly from March to October with the peak occurring in July -August bringing disease such as severe Malaria, Diarrhoea, Respiratory tract infections, anaemia, reptile bites, fractures and brings respiratory and urinary tract infections, occupational injuries, typhoid fever, and gastritis and skin infection. There are also other common diseases prevalent in the area like hypertension and Diabetes mellitus. Most of the populace are mainly farmers, cultivating plantain, cassava, maize for consumption, notwithstanding the illegal mining activities that go on in Esaase and its environs. Esaase is a place where a lot of girls are impregnated because of the illegal mining activities which goes on there. The community has three (3) basic schools and a senior High school. There is no market and recreational facilities in the community. The police post is about 4 kilometres away from the Esaase Bontefufuo. The distance between Esaase Bontefufuo, the project location to the nearest referral Centre is 18.5 kilometres.

Problems with Current Situation

- The location of Mother God Health Centre, Esaase Bontefufuo is where transportation is a major challenge to both the patient and the staff, there are very few vehicles plying on the road and this becomes more challenging at night, during the rainy season and where there is an emergency referred cases such as complicated delivery, severely sick child, severe injuries, sudden collapse of a patient because of the deplorable road network. Such critical conditions in most cases are delayed and sometimes patients are at the mercy of a motor cycle to the referral Centre which is approximately eighteen and half (18.5) kilometres from the Health Centre. Other times, the men in the community would have to carry the sick person to wherever a vehicle can be found. In the case of a complicated labour, the woman could lose a lot of blood and lose her life or that of the baby.

- Again, there is the difficulty of transporting essential medicines and other health products from the city to the facility due to lack of transportation to the facility.
- There is unwillingness on the part of staff to accept postings to the facility because of the poor nature of the road and transportation challenges.
- There is a long waiting period of the mothers to be seen by staff of the Health Centre during Reproductive Child Health activities at the outreaches because of difficulty in getting a vehicle is leading to high rate of home deliveries and its complications.

• Objective of the Project

The main objective of the project is to provide quality health care services to Esaase Bontefufuo community and its environs, focusing on the poor and the marginalized.

- To provide timely preventive and emergency obstetric care to the pregnant mother and the woman in labour.
- To prevent complications and unnecessary Maternal and infant mortality.
- To provide prompt and smooth referral services to the critically ill patient.
- To improve prompt availability of essential drugs as well as consumables to the Health Centre.
- To provide transport services to the patients, as well as reducing stress at the point of referral.
- To motivate and retain our professional and competent staff who are sent there to work.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The provision of timely preventive and emergency care to the people is of importance and concern to Obuasi Catholic Diocesan Health Service. The facility is greatly supported by the Diocese in terms of personnel and equipment, however, we are not able to afford a vehicle to the Health Centre. We therefore see the urgent need to have a 4wheel - pickup vehicle to enhance easy and quick access to essential medicines, save the lives of the rural people, improve the quality of health care in Esaase Bontefufuo and its environs, as well as boosting the morale of the staff.

IMPLEMENTORS AND MONITORING TEAM

The project will be executed within 3 months when funds are available.

The implementation will be done by the Physician Assistant of the Clinic, the Health Director, the Diocesan development officer, the Board Chairman of the Clinic and the Diocesan financial administrator and these shall also serve as the project monitoring team.

SUSTAINABILITY

The project shall be sustained by the internally generated fund from the Clinic and the national Health Insurance claims. I would therefore be grateful if our request for the 4wheel - pickup vehicle is granted to enable us carry out our work as health providers in response to the third point of the sustainable development goals, which is “good health and well-being” of the people of Esaase Bontefufuo and its surrounding communities of Ghana.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

SR MARY OWUSU - FRIMPONG -SSL

DIOCESAN HEALTH CO-ORDINATOR-OBUASI, AND

IN CHARGE OF MOTHER OF GOD HEALTH CENTRE.

Grant: £32,312

SM 6658 Locally built 23 ft launch and 40 hp outboard motor for Nimoa Parish, Alotau, Diocese of Alotau-Sideia, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea

See SM 6529 above for details.

Grant: £6,127

SM 6659 Honda XL 125cc motorbike for Chalinze Parish, Dodoma, Archdiocese of Dodoma, Tanzania

PP Fr Chrisant Mganga says: *“Chalinze is one of the 36 parishes which make up the Archdiocese, and here we have eleven outstations to cater for, the furthest being 50 kilometres away. Additionally, we have 8 primary and 3 secondary schools located around the parish. The locals are semi-nomadic or small scale farmers, and regular contact with them is very important to follow up on their integral formation - spiritually, intellectually, morally, economically and socially - through the parish pastoral plan.”*

The plan allows for meetings with the 21 small Christian Communities Father has established, and the provision of a small motorbike would mean that priest was able to celebrate Mass as scheduled and on time with each of them, as well as make regular school and home visits to the sick and elderly.

Grant: £3,030

SM 6660 - 6759 100 bicycles for St Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Parombo, Diocese of Nebbi, Uganda

A parish with fifty outstations, each one having two workers or catechists, on behalf of whom Fr Simon Otyekwa made this request. He tells us: *“We started a local fund across the outstations with a view to having some local contribution, and the ‘Ride with a Catechist Fund’ asks for a 2,000 shillings per parishioner, which is less than a pound. The locals are in a precarious financial state and we recognise that we will still depend on help from outside our area, so we are turning to you.”*

Fr Simon ministers to people from a rural area of small scale agriculture and has at least five different languages and indigenous tribal peoples within the parish limits.

“The overall aim is to provide a modest means of transport to all our full-time selfless catechists, both male and female. Each day, they represent the Church’s pastoral mission and are a visible witness to the Faith in the remotest areas of Parombo in the absence of a priest, where locals may only meet a priest on one or two occasions a year. The catechists’ job is to listen to their problems and challenges, offer suggestions or solutions, and keep them in touch with a Church that is anxious to support them. With a bicycle they can take Holy Communion to the furthest reaches, hold prayer meetings, and also perform funeral rites for the dead.”

Grant: £9,119

SM 6760 Toyota Hilux double cabin for St John the Baptist Catholic Health Centre, Ndop, Diocese of Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon

Sr Kum Shallotte, a Holy Union Sister (Soeurs de la Sainte Union) contacted us to request a health outreach vehicle grant in August of 2021, and told us: *“Ndop is one of the areas of the country that has been affected by the ongoing socio-political crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon, between Anglophones and francophone communities. Given the relatively favourable conditions here, many internally displaced people from other areas have left everything behind to move here, and this had brought increased pressure on our services. Sometimes we receive critical patients, especially children and expectant mothers with complications as a result of the delay in seeking healthcare. The fear of coming to the health centre and contracting covid, along with the insecurity brought about by the conflict has added to the people not being able to access the health centre on time. The bad state of the road network has also had negative consequences. The local community has been calling on us to have outreach activities but due to the lack of proper transport, we have not been able to answer their needs.*

Sister Shallotte explained her plan in more detail: *“With a good means of transportation, we will be able to reach out to the needy, especially in the hinterlands. We are ready to carry out consultations to assess the precise needs, and organise immunisation activities and health awareness sensitisation which will go a long way to improve their health and raise their dignity as human beings. We have had cases where patients are brought to us in wheel barrows.”*

Grant: £33,048

SM 6761 Yamaha DT 125 cc motorbike for St Austin’s Parish, Mbale, Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda

One of the nineteen Dioceses in Uganda, Tororo consists of 46 parishes, covering an area of almost nine thousand square kilometres - roughly the size of Devon and Herefordshire combined. Fr Martin Mutete, based at St Austin’s, tells us more:

“The Christian Communities in the parish are spiritually vibrant, and yearn for the services of a priest, despite the vast distances between the main parish and the eight sub-parishes, which makes regular contact with them impossible. I am requesting a grant for a small motorbike so that I can offer Masses in each place, anoint the sick, and offer guidance and counselling to the youth - however hard to reach they may be.”

Grant: £4,019

SM 6762 Toyota Hilux double cabin for St Therese Health and Maternity Centre, Bassa Doula, Archdiocese of Douala, Littoral Province, Cameroon

Here we complete our update for 2021, fittingly with a return to our founding aim of supporting health outreach work via four wheels in an area of patchy health cover, where transport is a vital ingredient in getting essential work done. Sr Felister Sevizdem, a Sister of St Theresa of the Child Jesus gave us a most comprehensive and insightful description of the background to her needs, and this final grant was squeezed in on December 6th 2021:

“From:

Applicant: Rev. Sr. Felister Sevizdem, Sisters of St Therese of the Child Jesus of Buea

Matron St. Therese Health and Maternity Centre, Akwa Douala, Littoral Region, Cameroon

BACKGROUND

St. Therese Health Center and Maternity is a property of the Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus of Buea and was founded in the year 2005. It is the leading Health Center in this health area. The population of PK10 Bassa is 17,521

GEOGRAPHY

Douala features a tropical monsoon climate with relatively consistent temperatures throughout the course of the year, though the city experiences somewhat cooler temperatures in July and August. Douala typically features warm and humid conditions with an average annual temperature of 27.0 °C (80.6 °F) and an average humidity of 83%. Douala sees plentiful rainfall during the course of the year, experiencing on average roughly 3,600 millimetres (140 in) of precipitation per year. Its driest month is December, when on average 28 millimetres (1.1 in) of precipitation falls, while its wettest month is August, when on average nearly 700 millimetres (28 in) of rain falls.

Wealth and poverty

Even though Douala is the economic centre of Cameroon, a large percentage of its inhabitants live below the poverty line characterized by so many displaced persons from the North West and South West Regions and this new population keeps growing by day. Recent data shows that about fifty per cent of the population lives in poverty. Unlike the rural populations of Cameroon that can grow their own foods to lessen their expenses, Douala locals are disadvantaged by living in slums in the port city where there are not many opportunities for monetary gain.

The main language is French in addition to English language which is the language of Anglophones found in Douala mostly as internally displaced secondary to civil war. The local language is Bassa.

There is water (borehole) and power supply in St Therese Health Center as well as telephone network, but frequent cuts are normal.

The road infrastructure of St Therese Health Centre PK10 is one of the worst in Cameroon. There are almost exclusively earth roads which are almost impossible to pass during the rainy season leading to impossibility of patients especially pregnant women to reach the Health Facility. We are situated 15kms away from the tarred inter-city highway coming from Yaounde and going down to Douala.

There are no industries in this area so inhabitants are mostly involved in doing house chores for the rich in the city and some in petty businesses. There is a lot of malnutrition especially among children which leads to anaemia. This is because feeding is generally poor.

There is a lot of violence against women and children at home as most marriages are illegal. Most times we see girls who have escaped from their homes and villages to live with men in the cities. The St. Therese Health Centre is a few kilometres away from the Douala General Hospital but with very poor access, as taxis do not ply the area. Pregnant women are therefore obliged to be transported on bikes even during labour.

The Health Centre consists of one building (ground and 1st floor). All the departments are in the same structure including the reception hall, 2 consultation rooms, 1 nurses' office, 1 laboratory room, 2 admission rooms with 4 beds each, 1 private room with 2 beds, 1 operation room, 1 labour room, 1 delivery room, 1 post natal room with 9 beds, 1 pharmacy room and 1 cash office.

The upper floor is occupied by the reverend sisters who work in the health centre and some who work in the prisons rehabilitation programs. The pharmacy store is located on this same floor of the sisters' residence.

Power cuts are frequent up to 2 days. There is no generator available in the Health Centre yet. Power cuts are always associated with water shortages since water is pumped with electricity. The Health Centre has 2 water tanks with a volume of 2000 litres and 1000 litres for drinking water pumped from the borehole. This same tank also supplies drinking water to all neighbours around the health Centre.

St Therese Health Centre enjoys a high popularity among the villagers among other Health facilities because of its cleanliness, high level of nursing care and cheaper services ensured by the sisters. Being the leading health facility in the Health Area it receives more patients and especially more deliveries. In a month up to 50 deliveries can be carried out in St Therese Health Centre with an average of 35 deliveries a month. Women who are unable to deliver normally are immediately operated on spot. The sick prisoners receive free medical care and free drugs. There is always a medical Doctor or 2 in the Health Centre some of whom are Reverend Sisters.

The Health Centre provides medical service around the clock, 7 days a week. Except for major surgeries and other complicated cases that we refer to the Douala General Hospital, we provide all the other medical services to the population. Our out-patient department attend up to 60 patients daily, the number is continuously increasing. Up to 10 patients are admitted a day.

Impact of the project

About fifty percent of the health care for the population in Cameroon is done by church institutions. The Catholic Church plays a very important role. As health care is seen more and more as money making business and also used to influence the religious beliefs there is a growing number of legal and illegal non-governmental health institutions all over, some located just 100meters away from St Therese Health Centre often providing insufficient and even dangerous services to the population. The catholic health service is now going into competition with these providers.

There is a growing importance of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension and even obesity in tropical medicine. These are new medical areas of great interest where there is lack of experience and lack of know-how of the medical personnel on how to treat these conditions properly.

Almost every drug is available over the counter from drug stores sold by non-medical persons. The quality of these products is very questionable. There might be no active ingredient inside. Drugs are given at wrong doses, wrong duration and wrong indications leading to the fast development of resistance against antimicrobial and anti-malarial drugs. With this the Health Centre has a lot of Health education to offer to the public to help them know what is right or not.

One of the most important aspects of health services is the appropriate supply with essential drugs to the patients to rule out people from buying drugs from the market. Once a year we get a basic supply with drugs from the Central Catholic Organisation (OCASC) from Yaounde, the Societe Industrielle des Produits Pharmaceutiques (SIPP) in Douala, Polypharma in Douala and Compagnie Camerounaise Pharmaceutique (CCP) and Laborex Douala for branded drugs.

The difficulty involved in drug purchase includes the lack of availability of all drugs with one supplier. We therefore need to move from one place to another in search of medications. Also there is a very bad road network leading to St Therese Health centre so taxis do not ply the road and everyone is forced to use motor bikes to come to the health Centre. Only those who have very strong cars can afford to reach the Health Facility. This transportation by bike makes it difficult and unsafe for the medical products.

The possibility could be to meet up with drug demands for about three month and store in the health centre but lack of availability of higher amounts of money is one reason that we cannot store higher quantities of drugs, but with the increasing numbers of patients we have to go out and buy drugs almost every week or even twice a week.

On the other side you never get all the drugs you need from the supplier. And therefore it is necessary to check regularly if the drugs are available. Hardly does the supplier keep available drugs for us as they are also in need to sell. That means if we call the supplier and he has the drugs available we should be able to pick it up on the same day or next day.

As we are not doing all major surgeries we work in close cooperation with the General Hospital in Douala which is about 15 km away from our health centre on very rough road. Often patients consult in the night with terrible incidents of road traffic accidents in our Health Centre. Which are most times transferred in emergency situations for operation but transport in the night is almost impossible. Sometimes we are forced to transfer the patient on the same motor bike on which the accident was sustained. With a car in the health centre such transports would be easy and save the life of the patients.

We need to go out for outreach clinics in the villages and carry medical equipment and drugs with us. Very often there is also need to transport sick people from the villages to the Health Centre for hospitalization.

With the increasing demands on our Health Centre we have almost reached our limits and we really need our own car to meet up with the demands in the future.

TARGET GROUP

One target group are the patients attending the St. Therese Health Centre to whom we could offer an appropriate and timely supply with drugs and other medical stuff. The pregnant women needing transfer for specialize care in the General Hospital will benefit safe and timely transfer.

Another target group comprise the patients in our outreach village to whom we attend. The availability of the car would even give the possibility to carry an echography machine, a microscope together with a battery and a transformer to the place to perform simple microscopic examinations. If the patient cannot be treated in place properly the staff could carry the seriously sick patient after finishing the clinic immediately to the St. Therese Health Centre. The staffs of the St. Therese Health Centre are also a target group as they would have the appropriate medical stuff available leading to job satisfaction and motivation.

WORK DONE TO DATE

It is our obligation to improve the medical service continuously. With the developing health centre and the increasing number of patients we need and will be able to run a health centre car. The sisters of St Therese contributed to purchase of modern medical equipment like the echography, monitors, blood analyser, etc. and to the renovation and reconstruction of the entire building. We consider the provision of medical services as charity. This means we try to balance the income with the output of the health centre. But it also means there are only very limited remaining financial resources for development.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The demands on health services in our time are increasing. People are not more satisfied with just medical care. They expect appropriate medical care according to standards. Even in very remote areas developments are going on, but expectations and demands are also a very good basis for making business with health care. So we are going into competition with providers who consider medical care as business. We need to develop our logistics to be more independent and to make sure we can offer appropriate medical service according to the local conditions. Under the condition of the bad infrastructure with the unreliable public transport we consider a car as essential equipment for our health centre.

MEASURES, COST PLAN, FINANCING PLAN

We are very much in favour to get a new Toyota HILUX double cabin 4 x 4 wheels. There is a market of used cars in Cameroon but it is almost impossible to get a car in a good condition at a good price. Most cars are styled and equipped with unnecessary things which make the cars more expensive and also more susceptible for technical problems. At the end you cannot be sure where the car was used before and how the driver handled the car. These circumstances make it very uncertain how long the car keeps going without needing any expensive repair or replacement of parts.

A new Toyota Hilux double cabin 4 x 4 wheels with appropriate basic equipment including transport to Douala, Cameroon, would cost about 22,000,000CFA. (\$39726)

The health Centre will be responsible for the running costs of the car. Please come to our aid.”

Grant: £38,000

NOTES

OUR OBJECTIVES

SURVIVE-MIVA is a Roman Catholic Association whose objectives are to provide a suitable form of essential transport in the developing world for missionaries and others directly engaged in one or more of the following:

(i) Pastoral and developmental work

(ii) Healthcare and educational projects

(iii) The relief of poverty

(iv) The advancement of religion.

OUR AIM

SURVIVE-MIVA's aim, in funding such mobility, is to support and widen the outreach work being done by those who share their lives with the world's poor.

OUR VALUES

We value the work and views of our sisters and brothers in the developing world, hearing in them the voice of the marginalised.

Rejecting dependency, we seek to strengthen grassroots initiatives which focus on locally identified needs and priorities so that access to the above objectives can be brought about by sustainable means.

We will be honest stewards of all resources entrusted to us through the solidarity and conviction of others.

We will be openly accountable to others, and systematic in the evaluation of our impact and effectiveness as defined in our objectives, which constitute the basis of our specific lay apostolate.

We will act with the responsibility our relations with beneficiaries demands, so that in spite of the obstacles, the opportunity for them to bring about change will be fostered by the mobility our Association provides.



Health outreach work in rural Tabora, Tanzania



SURVIVE-MIVA

MISSIONARY VEHICLE ASSOCIATION