



Since 1868... 150 years and counting



THE MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

Nº 4, 2018

Africa Report



These Muslim girls attend the Grade School founded by the Catholic Diocese of Niamey, Niger, and staffed by the Sisters of Perpetual Help. On a special festival day, the girls are wearing traditional Tuareg clothes. Photo Leonard Katulushi MAfr

Blessings on you who, in 2018, improved many lives in Africa!



Dear Friends,

It is December, and we are looking forward to the celebrations of Christmas and the New year. These festivities always bring happy moments filled with blessings and best wishes for our friends and loved ones.

As the year nears its end, I want to take this opportunity to express the heartfelt gratitude of the Missionaries of Africa for your continued support. As you may remember, the year 2018 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Society of Missionaries of Africa. 150 years of total dedication at the service of God's people in Africa represents a milestone

we are all proud of. We continue to treasure the many moments of encounter with the myriad of peoples across the vast continent of Africa. We are happy to have been part of their struggles for freedom and human wholeness.

We share these special blessings with you. Your support helped improve the lives of children and women, provide clean water, support youth and adult education, restore the hope and dignity of fragile communities in the war-torn regions of the African continent.

For them and with them, I wish all of you Merry Christmas and a Prosperous Year 2019.

Rev. Barthelemy Bazemo MAfr
President (Leader) of the
Society of Missionaries of Africa
in the United States •



Among the first members of our Missionary Society, Leon Livinhac, from France, 32 years old, was the leader of a caravan who walked for six months in unknown territories to reach the Kingdom of Buganda (now in Uganda) in January 1879.



Jean-Claude Robitaille, 73, from Silver Creek NY, was sent to mission in Zambia. Now director of our MAfr retirement house in St. Petersburg, FL.



Leonard Katulushi, 25, from Kabwe, Zambia, has been sent to Niger (here with a Tuareg turban) for a two years practical experience of the Mission. 500 young men like Leonard are now in formation for 9 years before their commitment for life. Photo: L. K.

Living the Gospel among the Peoples of Africa WITNESSING THROUGH A LIFE OF ENCOUNTER, ACTION AND PRAYER



For 150 years, the Society of Missionaries of Africa has sent international teams of at least 3 members to live the Gospel among the Peoples of Africa

In 1868, in the North African country of Algeria, Bishop Charles Lavigerie assembled a group of young men who had answered his call. With them, he founded the Society of the Missionaries of Africa, devoted to fostering closer relations with the Muslims of North Africa, the Arab and Kabyle people (or Berbers). Charles Lavigerie also sent his first Missionaries to witness the Good News of Jesus to the little known kingdoms in the interior of Africa, south of the Sahara desert, and in the countries surrounding the Great Lakes of Africa, where no missionaries had been sent. In 1869, Charles Lavigerie founded a congregation of women, now called the Missionary Sisters of our Lady of Africa.

150 years later, the Missionaries of Africa, Priests, Brothers, Sisters, are active in 26 countries of Africa and in the Near East. They work in "the African World" in 13 countries of Europe, 2 countries of Asia (India and the Philippines), 4 countries of the Americas (Brazil, Mexico, United States and Canada). In teams, men and women, they proclaim the Gospel in major cities and remote areas of the bush. They work in different fields, depending on their talents, their resources, and the circumstances: parish ministry, emergency work in refugee camps, youth and adult education, schools and universities, health care, hospitals and dispensaries.... In all, they are motivated to the promotion of Justice and Peace. From the time of their foundation in Algeria, they try to understand the religions and the cultures of the African peoples, being active in intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

To serve the poorest of the poor, to encounter learned people who have different ideas or who are of a different culture or religion, and accepting our differences as mutually enriching, this is the ideal underlying our missionary commitment. ●

“From slavery in gold mines to skilled workers in a shop.”

FROM THIS...

Mr. Josue Mulobola Kasololo sent this request to our Development Office :

“Near the town of Uvira, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, many young men and women are employed in the mines like slaves. They work in primitive conditions to extract tatalum or coltan (a rare mineral essential to make cellphones, computers, laptops...), tungsten, tin, gold. The boys and girls, are almost not paid. They have painful and dangerous work. They do not have any future: no employment, no marriage... In the mines, they live in alcoholism, prostitution and sexually transmissible diseases.

We are requesting your support to start a training center for “small trades”, like carpenters, masons, plumbers, tailors... Later, these young men and women will become skilled workers, with means to marry, have children, educate them and have a decent life. Would the Development Office help us to renovate an old house and provide a few tools?”

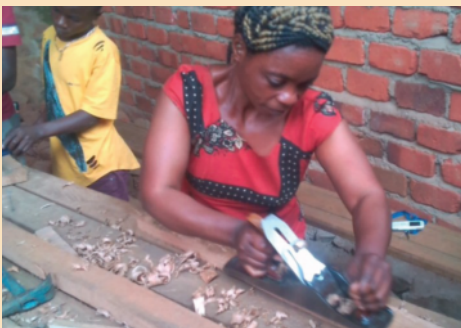
The request was approved and signed by the Bishop of Uvira and by the Superior of the Missionaries of Africa in RD Congo. After approval in Washington DC, the funds were sent to Congo.

TO THIS...

A few months later, Mr. Josue Mulobola Kasololo wrote to our Development Office:

“Dear Mr. Pringle, Director of the Development Office. My thanks to you and the donors for the funds that you sent to our little Trade School in Kamituga, Uvira. You see from the photos, in our workshop, eight stools that we made and some tools that we bought. I promise you that we are working hard so that our center goes along. I inform you that our training program is on its way. Dear Mr. Pringle, I would also like to tell you that part of the building you see on the photo has been destroyed by a storm a month later. So... But we remain faithful to our mission to provide a better life to youth who have been treated miserably and inhumanly in the mines and who are hoping for a better life, at least a decent life. Although they are few, 30, we remember our Lord Jesus words: ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ (Matthew 25:40)” ●

Photos: Josue Mulobola Kasololo



Charitable IRA Rollover

Help us continue our Mission in Africa!

What is a Charitable IRA Rollover?

- Charitable IRA Rollover is a permanent provision in the U.S. tax code for donors age 70 ½ or older to make a tax wise gift to non-profit organizations, including the *Missionaries of Africa*.

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Missionaries of Africa, Inc.
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1622 21st. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-1003

Any questions, please call our
Development Office:
1-877-523-4662

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WAYS TO GIVE TO OUR MISSION

- Join our Friends of Hope Monthly Giving Plan.
- Memorial Gifts in memory of a loved one.
- Celebrate a birthday, wedding or anniversary with a donation to our works in Africa.
- Donation of stock: appreciated securities, stocks, bonds or annuities provide the same benefit as a cash gift.
- Life Insurance - consider naming the *Missionaries of Africa* as a beneficiary.
- Bequests – an estate gift to the *Missionaries of Africa* will continue our mission works.

**For more information, contact:
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