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MissionAid
April 2016
Issue 103

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Welcome to the April Issue!



Bernard Onyango is a lay Franciscan and founding member of the Bright Doves of Kampala, Uganda. The Bright Doves was founded by a team of youth and lay Franciscans called the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) in 2006, and since then has been active in a range of activities from music, dance and drama, liturgy, sports and promotion of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) values among others. Bernard was instrumental in the initiation of prison ministry in prisons in Kampala. Photo: Lar Boland.

A Message from our CEO

Earlier this month, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Ecuador wreaking havoc and destruction and costing about \$3 billion in damages. The death toll continues to rise with 600 people already confirmed dead as rescuers search for further survivors. The Society of the Divine Saviour (The Salvatorians) are assisting 120 families in Quito, Northern Ecuador. Emergency support from Misesan Cara is helping the Salvatorians to distribute water, food and materials for temporary shelter including tents and mattresses.

There has been a lot of activity in the last month as we prepare our 2015 Annual Report. It's been a great opportunity to look back on all of the amazing work from the last year - ranging from enhancements to our reporting systems, additions to our funding schemes by way of the introduction of multi-annual funding and the growth in our supporters on social media (if you haven't already connected with us on Facebook or Twitter then follow us today!). This is all very important, and compliments the transformative work that our members are doing in over 50 countries worldwide.

Last year, we developed a Vision Statement through an organisation-wide process involving consultation with staff, board directors and members in Ireland and around the world. We also developed a Theory of Change that links our values, approach and the many assets we bring as a missionary movement to transforming lives and communities around the world. This year we are building on the Strategic Mid Term Review that so many of you participated in to draft our new Strategic Plan that will take us from 2017 to 2020. Our new Strategic Plan will set out our key priorities for the next few years and how we will



CEO Heydi Foster

News Stories

[Interview with Permaculture Designer Caroline Peani](#)

[Courage To Move](#)

[Time To Level Inequality](#)

Radio Documentary --
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achieve them.

Work on the Strategic Plan has already started with staff developing a consultative format for use in workshops with members and partners overseas to coincide with monitoring visits. Project Officer Zélie McGrath and Learning & Development Officer Jenny O'Connor have already facilitated strategic plan sessions in Ghana and Peru respectively to get ideas and gather feedback. The sessions were well attended and we are collating the feedback. We aim to include a strategy session at every member's meeting after our monitoring visits this year to ensure the new strategy incorporated input from members working around the world.

As you know, our AGM this year takes place on Wednesday 29 of June in All Hallows College in Dublin, and our afternoon session will feature a strategy session. We want to take advantage of having everyone together to gather your feedback, so please do mark this year's AGM in your diary and I look forward to seeing you there.

Your work reminds me of one of my favourite quotes from Mahatma Gandhi - "the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Kind regards,
Heydi



P.S.

I am now on Twitter! Connect with me
@HeydiFoster <https://twitter.com/HeydiFoster>

Send us your photos and videos!

We want to help showcase the work of our members by sharing photos, stories and videos of the wonderful work you do on our website, Facebook Page and MissionAid. If you have a photo, story or video to share then please email Tara Finglas tfinglas@miseancara.ie



Connect with us on Twitter!

Follow Misean Cara **@miseancara** or check out <http://www.twitter.com/miseancara> for updates.

Follow our CEO Heydi

Foster [@HeydiFoster](https://twitter.com/HeydiFoster) or check out <https://twitter.com/HeydiFoster> for updates.

We Want To Promote The Wonderful Work You Do!

We want to help showcase the wonderful work you do by sharing stories; updates; photos; and videos of on our website, Facebook and LinkedIn Pages, Twitter account, and in our monthly e-newsletter MissionAid.

If you have a story, update, photo, or video to share then please email our Communications Officer Tara Finglas tfinglas@miseancara.ie

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Stories from the field

Speech by President Michael D. Higgins To Mark The Visit by European Holy Ghost Fathers (The Spiritans)



You are all most welcome here today to Áras and Úachtaráin. May I particularly welcome, as President of Ireland, those of you who have travelled from England, Scotland, Holland, France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and Poland for your important meeting. I trust you are enjoying your visit to our country.

Is scéal fada, mórthaibhseach é scéal Chuallacht an Spioraid Naoimh. Tá bhur gcuid oibre bunaithe ar chúram agus ar thrua agus tá na prionsabail seo bhur stiúradh ó am bhur mbunaithe go dtí an lá atá inniu ann. [Read now.](#)

A New Website for Nonprofits at Benefacts.ie



The beta version of the Benefacts website will be available on April 18th at beta.benefacts.ie. Benefacts is a new, free online information service, which will provide everyone with up to date facts and figures about Irish civil society organisations. The aim is to give listed nonprofits a view of their own data before it goes live to the general public. The beta edition of the website will include the Search and About menu options. In Search mode, users can search for any term, and receive a list of relevant results, which they can then sift through further by using the filter menu. They can also find governance, financial and regulatory information through the Search function. The first release of the website will provide financial data from 2013 and 2014. [Read now.](#)

Peace Is The Fruit Of Solidarity



For two years civil war and ethnic violence has plagued South Sudan. Conflict erupted when the President and Vice-President spilt the government resulting in the re-emergence of old divisions. Since then thousands of people have been killed, and more than two million people have been displaced. A Peace Agreement was signed between the fighting parties last August, and they agreed to share ministerial positions this January. Despite the peace agreement breaking down on numerous occasions, there is now a shining light of hope with the former Vice-President agreeing to form a government on the 18th of April, which many hope will spell the end of violence.

To mark the hope of the peace agreement coming to fruition, Bishop Barani Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala of the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio spoke at the historic signing of the West Equatorial Peace and Reconciliation Agreement. [Read now.](#)

Members Collaborate In South Africa



Missionaries comprise one of the largest global networks on our planet. Each congregation of missionaries are well known in their own right for the work they do, and the lives they transform. Recently two Missionary Care funded projects – Home of Hope and the Damietta Peace Initiative collaborated for an exchange of skills workshop on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

On 2nd March 2016, at the invitation of Lance Thomas of the Damietta Peace Initiative, Aisling Foley, Project Manager with Home of Hope and a member of Viatores Christi, and her colleague Bianca Breytenbach set off for Pretoria. The invite was extended to Home of Hope to carry out a workshop on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) at the Padre Pio Conference and Spirituality Centre for community leaders and community change agents invited by Damietta to attend. [Read now.](#)

A Leap Forward In Education



Changa Changa Community School is a community based school in Mazabuka, Zambia. It was established in 2000, by the Congregation of Christian Brothers and the local community. The core purpose in establishing the school was to provide less privileged children with access to quality education.

Changa Changa has grown considerably since then and continues to grow. The school is now ranked 4th out of the top 20 schools in the district and is the only community school to rank at all (other schools on the top 20 are all private). The core project team of Changa Changa is managed by the Christian Brothers with funding support from Edmund Rice Development (ERD). [Read now.](#)

Video -- Don Bosco Flood Relief



Last November, Chennai and surrounding areas in Northern India received three times the normal rainfall of 40.31 inches. The rain did not let up, and another 12 inches of rain fell on December 1st. The enormous amount of rain has caused severe flooding, and claimed 269 lives. The floods in Chennai affected urban poor families who settled on low line areas in slums situated on the river banks. Similarly, the rural poor living around the lakes and rivers have also been overrun with the floods. Responding to these floods was difficult for the Salesian Fathers of Don Bosco who were also severely affected with flooding. With Emergency Response Funding from Misesan Cara, the Salesian Fathers of Don Bosco were able to relocate families to safe locations with temporary shelters; provide food and medical assistance. [Watch now.](#)

Upcoming Events & Training Courses

Save The Date: AGM 2016

This year's AGM will take place on Wednesday, 29 June in Woodlock Hall in All Hallows College, Grace Park Road, Dublin 9 so please save the date in your diary. A full agenda, and copy of our Annual Report 2015 will be sent to all Mission Development Officers (MDOs) a month before. If you are interested in attending please contact your MDO.

Workshop on Grant Writing and Fundraising for Missionary Projects

The workshop is hosted by SOFIA (the Salvatorian Office for International Aid) in Rome from 12 – 16 September 2016.

Do you want to learn how to put together successful applications for missionary projects?

Are you looking for external funding for your ministries?

Do you want to know what to say, how to say it, and what information to send to potential funding partners?

Do you want to receive first-hand funding information from two guest speakers — including the director of one of the most important Catholic grant making agencies?

Do you want to learn how to identify the right funding agencies for your projects, and how to set up long-term partnerships with them?

Do you want to network with 50 other committed religious and lay people from all over the world?

Then the full immersion workshop conducted by two experts in project management and grant winning is the right opportunity for you and your congregation.

For more information please go to <http://sofiaglobal.org/news/grant-writing-fundraising-workshop> or email workshop@mailsds.org

*** Misesan Cara members can apply for support to attend the training through the MPSS scheme. There can be a contribution to the costs associated with attending including fees and travel.

Register To Attend Comhlámh's Coming Home Weekend

Comhlámh's next Coming Home Weekend is taking place on the 14 and 15 May 2016 in the Emmaus Centre, Ennis Lane, Lissenhall, Swords, Co. Dublin. This residential weekend is a chance to carve out space to reflect on time spent overseas, to explore the transition of coming back home, and to have the chance to debate, share and hear from others as well as get to know what is happening in Ireland in the development, community and activist scene. Cost €50 for Comhlámh members and €100 for non-members (no cost for UNV and Rapid Response Core returnees). This includes all meals and overnight accommodation, all facilitation is conducted by experienced returned development workers, and there is an optional social gathering on Saturday night. For more information and to book please Susan T: 01 478 3490, E:susan@comhlamh.org

Other Events & Training Courses:

- [Kimmage Development Studies Centre](#)
- [Child Safeguarding - Organisational Self Audit Tool \(Free\)](#)
- [The International NGO Training and Research Centre \(INTRAC\)](#)

Misean Cara is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. It is registered in Dublin, Ireland, No: 381117. Its registered office is: 563 South Circular, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. It has been granted tax exemption by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland and has a charitable tax exemption number: CHY15772.