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MissionAid
May 2016
Issue 104



Welcome to the May Issue!



Students at the Fe Y Alegría School, Lima, Peru. During the last two decades, the role of private schools in education has grown. Last year's UNESCO 'Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2015' credited the Jesuit network Fe y Alegría in Latin America for having 'increased enrolments in 17 countries by an estimated 1 million children.' The Fe y Alegría School in Canto Grande offers an oasis of learning with an inclusive, holistic approach to education to vulnerable and marginalised communities Photo: Edmund Rice Development.

A Message from our CEO

Welcome to our May issue of MissionAid! This month we have some great articles showcasing the work of our members in South Sudan; Kenya; and some wonderful news about one of Miseen Cara's own team members.

Br. Bill Firman, Executive Director of Solidarity with South Sudan wrote a special report about efforts to strengthen a fragile ceasefire in South Sudan. Since the return of the first Vice-President James Wani Igga and former leader of the Opposition Riek Machar no violence or unrest has broken out in the capital Juba. Their return has culminated in the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity, which it is hoped will restore order.

We also have an inspiring story from 17 year old Simu in Kenya who has survived FGM, and left her family to avoid child marriage in Kenya. There are at least 200 million girls and women alive today in 30 countries who have undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). While every day 39,000 girls worldwide are forced to marry an older man. FGM and child marriage are two issues seriously affecting girls around the world today. Simu was helped by World Vision, and Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART) to stay in school to make a new life for herself.

In case you have not heard, our very own Learning and Development Officer Colette Nkunda was honoured earlier this month to be awarded the Dóchas Global Citizen of the Year. We are all very proud of Colette and this amazing achievement. She has excelled from the first day she started work helping to develop the capacity of Miseen Cara



CEO Heydi Foster

News Stories

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

[A New Website for Nonprofits at Benefacts.ie](#)

[Peace Is The Fruit Of Solidarity](#)

[Members Collaborate In South Africa](#)

[A Leap Forward In Education](#)

members in Ireland and around the world. There is no question in my mind that Colette will use this award as a platform to make a difference, and speak out on a number of challenges affecting our world.

We have an exciting opportunity for our members in Ireland. We are offering our annual MDO Media Training Workshop on Thursday, 28 July from 9:30am - 4:30pm in the Misean Cara office. We invite all Mission Development Officers (MDOs) and returned missionaries to attend to take advantage of this one day intensive workshop that will give participants the practical skills, tips and confidence to take part in media activities including but not limited to interviews for print and online media outlets, radio and TV interviews, techniques to share your story and lots more! Places are limited so please read the information below.

Save the date for this year's AGM! Our AGM 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.

Happy reading, and if you have story, photo or video to share then please send it onto our Communications Officer Tara Finglas tfinglas@miseancara.ie

Kind regards,
Heydi

Heydi Foster

[Video -- Don Bosco Flood Relief](#)

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



P.S.

I am now on Twitter! Connect with me

@HeydiFoster <https://twitter.com/HeydiFoster>

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 Growing Optimism In South Sudan

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Follow our CEO Heydi

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The first Vice-President and former leader of the Opposition during the civil war in South Sudan, Riek Machar, after many delays, has returned to South Sudan. There has been no unrest or violence in Juba following his return. The Transitional Government of National Unity has been formed. Last week, I listened to the Archbishop of Juba speak with much greater confidence about the peace process after he had attended a government reception only a few days before. There are still individual generals around the country with their own militias who say they don't accept the peace and there are pockets of violence perhaps, it seems, even instigated by Government troops. Overall, however, the country appears more stable. [Read now.](#)

When My Home Became A Prison



I remember being 11 years old and locked inside my parents' house as people stood guard outside the house to ensure I wouldn't escape. They were going to cut me and I had no choice. I underwent what they call Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). I had only just finished my sixth grade exams. Immediately after they started negotiating my bride price.

My name is Simu* and I am now 17-years-old. I come from a large Masaai family; my father has four wives and I am one of his 35 children. My sister and half-sisters before me were also cut. It is performed to prepare girls in our area for marriage. Just one month after the trauma, as my wounds were still healing, I was woken up by five men in the middle of the night. They took me from my bed and forced me to walk for many hours on the cold, dark night. One of these five men was my husband-to-be. [Read now.](#)

Colette Nkunda Awarded The Dóchas Global Citizen of the Year



Misean Cara's Colette Nkunda was recognised as the Dóchas Global Citizen of the Year at yesterday's 2016 Irish Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals in Croke Park, Dublin. Born and raised in Rwanda, the panic, anguish, fear and loss of 1994, forced Colette to find a new home. And so, she arrived on Irish shores, determined to carve out a new path.

Colette joined Misean Cara two years ago, quickly establishing herself as a mentor and role model to junior staff. She works to develop the skills and capacities of members in over 50 countries. She shares her vast experience with the wider NGO sector as Vice-Chair of the Dóchas HIV and AIDS working group. [Read now.](#)

Video – The Dóchas Global Citizen of the Year is Colette Nkunda



Misean Cara's Colette Nkunda was recognised as the Dóchas Global Citizen of the Year at the 2016 Irish Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals. [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 Now – Media Training Workshop

We are offering media training to Mission Development Officers (MDOs) and returned missionaries. This one day intensive workshop will give participants the practical skills, tips and confidence to take part in media activities including but not limited to interviews for print and online media outlets, radio and TV interviews, techniques to share your story and lots more!

The workshop will take place on Thursday, 28 July from 9:30am - 4:30pm in the Misesan Cara office, 563 South Circular Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8.

The workshop will be run by Jack Murray, Managing Director of MediaContact.ie. Jack is a media innovator with over 18 years of experience at the most senior level in the Irish communications Industry. He has worked in marketing, journalism, and media relations. He is a former political spokesperson and government advisor.

This workshop is a collaborative effort between Misesan Cara, the IMU and World Missions Ireland to strengthen the media skills of missionaries. If you would like to take part in this workshop please email Tara Finglas tfinglas@miseancara.ie by Friday, 15 July. Please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Other Events & Training Courses:

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