

APPEAL MESSAGE FROM THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

May the peace and the blessings of the almighty God be with you!



On behalf of the Missionary Society of St. Paul of Nigeria I thank you for your interest and support to our mission work. It has been a very difficult time for all and we want you to know that the Missionary Society of St Paul is united with you and the rest of the world in praying that the Lord will heal and restore our land, and lead us through this pandemic, to a newness of life!

This time has become even more challenging for us missionaries in various Mission lands, where in addition to lack of, or inadequate government response to the health crisis that leaves the people to themselves, a decline in donation makes it more difficult for us to continue to provide the much-needed support.

I spent my last Christmas in our Mission in South Sudan. In addition to the numerous human developmental projects we do in many rural communities of our parishes in South Sudan, we have a project of rescuing young boys between the ages of 10-15 from the streets; providing them with accommodation, feeding, education and health care. My time in the company of these boys (25 of them at the time) was not only very fulfilling and spiritually enriching for me but was also very enlightening. I could not hold back tears as I listened to them



narrate one after

the other the stories of their war experience and the devastation it brought to their lives and how they finally ended up in our care.



One told of how after their village was invaded by rebels, killing many while others fled, a band of them (little boys) that survived, not knowing what else to do, decided to seek survival. They set out on a journey to the cities, miles away from their village. They all went different directions and he ended in the town

where we have our Mission parish. He found other boys who roamed the streets and scavenged the market for whatever people throw away after the sale of their food items. It was there he was picked up by our priest who brought him to the home. Another told of how after they lost everything to the war, the mother could not afford to watch him starve to death so she brought him to the town and left him to roam the streets, from where he was picked up by the priest. They all expressed how so happy they are to have that place as a home.





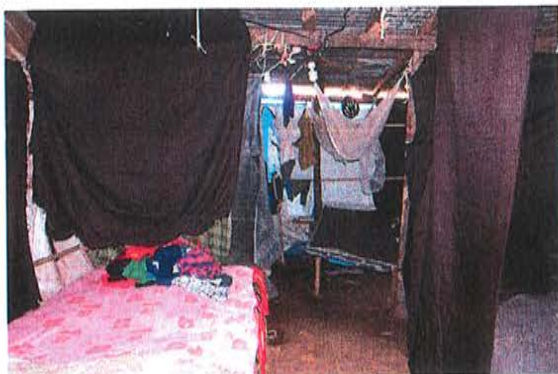
The home we currently have for them at the moment is simply a shack, built from left over tent materials from United Nations officials helping to provide food aid and other support to people that have been devastated by a more than 20 years old war. Regardless of this fact, these children are extremely happy and were excited to give me a tour of their living quarters. Again, I could not hold back emotions as each pointed to his little corner and what could be called a bed (though neatly kept). It was stuffy, dark and crowded room that I couldn't believe would be a living space for anyone. This was the luxury part. The next room was just a corrugated iron

sheets building (more like a barn), in which 5mins stay inside got me all soaked in sweat at 10am! Yet these children are so happy and when asked what they need, one simply requested for a bicycle just so they could play like any other kid. For them, the opportunity to be enrolled in our school is what they treasure most.

Our hope is to provide them a more descent living space (a dormitory). The average cost of taking care of each kid for the year is \$450.00. That is \$1.25 a day for feeding, clothing and healthcare. They are enrolled in our school program, which provides education for over 1000 poor children in the area, for an average cost of \$20.00 a year per student and it's the best school in the state!



As in South Sudan, so also in Kenya, Malawi, Chad, Liberia, Nigeria and other African countries where we continue to provide food aid, health care, education and water wells for the most vulnerable in the rural communities. We equally have our missionaries in Europe, Canada, 16 Dioceses of USA and the Caribbean. Your support to us today helps us sustain what we do in the missions as well as the training of our Seminarians. We deeply appreciate your partnering with us as we take the love of Christ to those most in desperate need. May the Lord abundantly bless you.



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