

Lend a Hand Movement News Letter No. 82

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Congratulations!! Sr. Leticia was awarded a prize by The Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs

The E-mail from Sr. Elisa Padilla, Lunsar, Sierra Leone July 25th 2009

Dear Mr. Satoh,

Yesterday was a big day for us. The ambassador of Japan in Ghana came to our school and handed over on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an award to Sr. Leticia for the 30 years she has worked in Sierra Leone. There were about 80 people in the hall. The ceremony started with a speech by the Ambassador explaining why the giving of the award and later he promised to continue helping the country. Later Sr. Leticia responded with another speech followed by a dance by the Maria Ines Vocational students. The bishop of Makeni was also present. The ceremony concluded with the vote of thanks by me. Everything was simple but meaningful.



Sr. Leticia receiving the award

I am sure that while we were thinking on all that Japan has done for Sierra Leone, we all had in mind people like you that has worked relentlessly and have made of our mission of what it is today. To you all I say also a big THANK YOU.

Sr. Elisa, m.c. from Lunsar, Sierra Leone

The letter from Sr. Leticia Negishi (Extract) July 12th, 2009

Dear members of Lend a Hand Movement, are you all fine?

Here in Sierra Leone, the months of July and August are the season cooler than in Japan. This year we don't have much rain. However once it rains, the surroundings become wholly green as if the dirt of the dry season is washed away.

It is the season the snakes lay thousands of eggs. A couple of years ago it happened that many thousands of cobras were born in our yard and astonished us very much. But today we are safe, for the grass is cut clean and the convent is built well. The snake doesn't attack us unless he is surprised by the encounter with us and his escape is disturbed. It then spits venom swelling his head. This deadly venom makes a man blind when it enters his eyes. Every year some people die because of the poisonous snake. But its death rate is quite low in comparison with malaria.

Many missionaries died because of malaria. Thanks to the progress in medicine we are now protected from the death, but we still suffer a lot from the malaria, in short the mosquito is our worst enemy.

During the dry season they don't appear because of the lack of water, but once the rainy season comes they enter through the smallest hole of the net. We close the room completely, but they come in smartly. The best defense from malaria is to eat well and take siesta even 15 minutes. I believe I am

escaping most successfully from malaria among us, 10 sisters, as the effect of malaria is serious for an aged person like me. But I must stop here this topic, so that I don't be taken by it after having bragged about it...

During the summer vacations many youths come from Europe. In July the medical students came from Spain and in August the common students from Italy as volunteers. This is why the quite large ground floor of our house is occupied by them. Their singing voices come up to my room of 2nd floor, but being convent we oblige them a rule not to make big sound after 10 o'clock PM. We hear that the student as accustomed to a life of late night begin a new style of life after they have experienced a life in a poorest country. Thus the Italian scholarship for OLG primary school girls started thanks to these students. Sierra Leone is still poor, but is developing without doubt and we see the construction of new houses in the towns and villages. Really the peace brings the happiness. I imagine the nuclear test of North Korea is uneasy for Japan. Let us pray unanimously for the peace.

This school year has ended on July 10th. I am very grateful to all of you. Thanks a lot for your support. I ask you to continue helping us from now on too. Sr. Negishi

A short news from Sr. Bernadetta Shirahata 5th July 2009

"Last week, I had a fever for three days. A Spanish doctor declared I had been attacked by malaria and typhoid after the examination. I took the medicine he gave me, but the quinine was so strong for me that I couldn't sleep day and night during four days. Moreover, I suffered the vision which appeared incessantly during 2 days. But thanks to the kind care of the sisters, I am now quite fine. Thanks to God!



Sr. Bernadetta with Sierraleonean boys

Event report

☀ **Sr. Leticia was awarded a prize** by the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs for her contribution in Sierra Leone for 30 years. Let us rejoice together.

☀ **The water-wells digging project was also realized.** We appealed in our News Letter No.81 to our benefactors to help digging good and safe water-wells for ten RC schools in Port Loco district, Sierra Leone, with US\$68,000 funds. And what a surprise! A lady responded at once to this appeal and the project began in May. Fr. John D. Tarawali of Makeni diocese is charged and a Sierra Leonean company is undertaking the project. Already three wells have been dug. You can read here at the end of this News Letter its interim report.

☀ **Our 2nd steering committee** was held on July 21. We decided to donate US\$20,000 to OLG schools to purchase a school bus in the current year, because we considered it useful for the education, and also the same amount to Maria Ines Vocational school in Lunsar for construction. Knowing Sr. Elisa's intention to use the multipurpose donation to purchase a school bus, we simply added the money she would need and remitted it already on July 14. The need of a bus you can see here after in Sr. Elisa's e-mail.

At this occasion, Mr. Sato, the chairman, reported a couple of unexpected cases of assistance which happened this year. He explained that we did them because the contributors appeared each time we appealed for help, but he promised never to do so again at the expense of the feeding program and the educational support of OLG schools in Sierra Leone. So he calmed the worries about unexpected assistance that might seem as if we are overextending our support.

The Extract of an e-mail of Sr. Elisa talking about a bus for OLG schools June 9th 2009

Dear Mr. Satoh,

Thank you very much for your help. ...Your letter is inspiring me to present a wish I have been longing to see as reality. For the past three years we have been taking our teachers out of Lunsar to see different parts of their country. While it serves to take them out from their own environment it also helps to strengthen the relationship among them.

Last year we started making it extensive to our students taking them to different plantations and industries in the provinces. All these outings have taken place in the midst of difficulties due to lack of transportation. We have hired poda-podas or borrowed buses either from the FHM or the hospital. There is a show room in town that has buses. The cost of one is of \$36,000. I went to check last week and they said that if I give them the guarantee in the month of July that we will be able to pay for it, they can bring it for us in December. Now, in order for us not to ask you too much, if you agree, we can keep the money you send for multipurpose needs and use it to buy the bus in December. What do you say? Thank you for everything. You don't have to answer immediately. I understand you may need some time to discuss with the members.

The E-mail of thanks from Sr. Elisa July 16th 2009

Dear Mr. Satoh,

Thank you very much. I knew you would found the way to make our dream become true. When we take our children or teachers out to places they have never visited you should see the expression of their faces!!! Many have never been to Makeni let alone Freetown...

I know the struggles I have to go through when we need to go out. I am sure that this bus will solve the problem and will give to their lives different vision.

Many thanks and God bless you. Sr. Elisa,m.c.

Information

☀ On July 2nd Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M. Sato attended the **general assembly of International Ladies Benevolent Society** and received ¥1,000,000 as their aid for the education of Maria Ines Vocational High school in Lunsar, Sierra Leone, and its feeding program. We are very thankful for this donation.

☀ Also we were given ¥1,000,000 **by Expert Charity Association** on July 19th as the aid for the school feeding program of OLG schools in Lunsar, Sierra Leone. We are very grateful for the Expert Holdings Co. Ltd's continued assistance since 2005.

☀ A total renewal of our Home Page. Thanks to Mrs. Maruyama's effort, it was wonderfully renewed and got its own domain. Here is the new URL. <http://tewokas.org/> You can read in English too.

☀ There are about 40 copies of the book **The Children's Smiles Rose Again** which remain unsold. We will be glad if they are sold out thanks to some of you.

☀ Clarissan Missionary Sisters in Sierra Leone was recognized by the Superior General of Rome as a regional community. The Regional Superior is Sr. Elisa Padilla, Lunsar's community superior is Sr. Josephine Kamara. Sr. Josephine is Sr. Leticia's former pupil and was one of the Japanese Scholarship students. So we can say she is a fruit of our educational assistance. Let us therefore rejoice together!

☀ Sorry! We have no space to introduce all correspondence from Japanese benefactors, because there were so many letters of thanks from abroad which we couldn't omit in this News Letter.

Voices from abroad

Extracto de la carta de agradecimiento de Nigeria 28 de mayo 2009

Estimado Mr.Sato.

Le saludo deseando que usted y su organizacion continue auxiliando a los necesitados.

El toyota pick up fue comprado ya y gracias a Dios llega en un momento que es muy necesario. La apertura del Hospital Maria Ines y la Escuela Secundaria y Vocacional para mujeres en la villa de Umozoke en donde esta la plantacion que Dios mediante sera el 20 de junio.

Tambien quiero decirle que ya se empezo a plantar algo que es propio de esta zona, la casava y el yam, esperando que llueva mas para poder plantar el arroz. Con las mujeres de la vocacional se podra abarcar mas terreno y empezar plantar otras especies alimenticias. Nuestros arboles frutales y palmas africanas sobrevivieron a la temporada seca, aunque algunos estaban bastante tristes. Al limpiar perfectamente el campo de hierba se evito que el fuego llegara a ellos. Aqui se acostumbra poner fuego al campo sin tomar ninguna medida de proteccion a las casas u otra clase de arboles.



The pick-up donated to Nigeria Mission

Le envio dos fotografias del Pick up y otras dos de los ninos ayudando a la siembra. Aqui todo mundo va a sembrar, ya que todo mundo debe plantar el yam o la casava que come.

Antes de agosto le enviare el reporte economico del dinero que nos envio y que tanta ayuda nos reporto. Que Dios le pague todo su empeno en ayudarnos.

Afectisima en Cristo

Hna. Mariluz Roa.

Extracto de la carta de agradecimiento de Sierra Colorada, Argentina 10 de junio 2009

Estimado Señor Sato,

Me es muy grato saludarlo por medio de la presente y ponerme a sus órdenes, mi nombre es Elizabeth Chaires, soy Misionera Clarisa y actualmente Dios me está pidiendo que brinde mi servicio como Superiora de Sierra Colorada donde por gracia de Dios comenzamos nuestro apostolado hace 5 años.

Desde entonces a la fecha hemos desarrollado actividades de promoción humana y catequesis en un humilde galpón, una bodeguita de 3 metros por cinco de ancho, que se utilizaba para guardar maderas, material de trabajo y cosas de aseo. Ciertamente es un lugar indigno para trabajar con jóvenes y con chicos pero sin ninguna otra opción, comenzamos a reunirnos, a tener nuestros encuentros con ellos y poco a poco, en medio de esas condiciones Dios permitió ir sembrando en esos corazones su palabra que es amor y servicio y gracias a esto vamos descubriendo que los jóvenes se van convirtiendo en protagonistas de la construcción de un pueblo mejor en todos los sentidos.

Con el uso de esta bodega y muchas veces teniendo que pedir prestadas otras instalaciones del pueblo seguimos trabajando sin dejar que nos amedrenten las excesivas carencias que rodean nuestro apostolado. Un día nos decidimos y comenzamos a tocar puertas para buscar la forma de crear algo verdaderamente digno para estas personas: un salón de usos múltiples que nos sirva para desarrollar nuestras actividades y brindar a ellos mejores posibilidades de vida.

Porque han abierto la puerta para atender nuestra solicitud de ayuda ya que una de las puertas a la que ha tocado la Congregación para este fin, es la de la Institución "Tiende una mano" que usted con tanta caridad fundó y dirige. Con enorme alegría hemos recibido la noticia del donativo que usted ha tenido a bien proporcionar a nuestra Comunidad de Misioneras Clarisas para la construcción del Salón de usos Múltiples en el pueblo de Sierra Colorada, provincia de Río Negro en Argentina.

Sabemos en quien hemos puesto nuestra confianza y estamos seguras que no nos defraudará, gracias porque una de las manifestaciones de amor y respuesta que Dios nos ha dado es su ayuda

generosa. Con esto gracias a Dios y a la generosidad de ustedes contamos ya con la tercera parte del dinero que requiere la obra, ciertamente el proyecto es fuerte por ello seguiremos tocando puertas.

No hemos comenzado la construcción porque esperamos respuesta al proyecto que presentamos a Adveniat el cual abarca dos salones que son mucho muy necesarios para la pastoral. Tan pronto nos llegue la promesa de ayuda comenzaremos la obra. Mientras tanto el donativo está seguro en el Banco del Vaticano colocado a plazo fijo para ganar intereses.

Querido Sr. Sato ¡muchas gracias! Pedimos a nuestro buen Dios los siga bendiciendo y que la Santísima Virgen los siga protegiendo bajo su manto amoroso.

Afectuosamente

Hna Elizabeth Chaires Mejia, Misionera Clara, Sierra Colorada, Argentina

The Extract of the Letter of Appreciation from Mange Bureh June 16th 2009

The Director & Members of Lend a Hand Movement of Japan

I write on behalf of Mange Bureh community, to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to you for the new car you donated for our mission work here in Mange Bureh. I tell you sincerely that you have made our mission work easier and accessible. Thanks immensely, we appreciate it. Mange Bureh is a town on a hill top with 8 village communities living too far away from one another. Since the opening of this mission, it has been a very difficult task to reach out to those interior communities for catechetical instructions and evangelization due to lack of mobility. But thanks be to God and to you, we can now move easily in the car into the villages where God has not yet been known, so that they also will receive the light of the Gospel.



The car donated to Mange Bureh house

Once again I thank you immensely and pray that God will bless and reward you abundantly for your good work. Be sure of our daily prayers for you and your families.

Devotedly yours in Christ and Mary

Sr. Caroline Mbamalu M.C. for the community

The Extract of an e-mail of info and thanks from Fr. John D. Tarawali July 3rd 2009

Dear Mr. Sato,

Thanks for the mail. Yes thanks to God for saving my life. The works of the water-well are going on well. In fact this morning the constructor came to inform me that they found water at R.C. Kabatha. We are all happy for this. The last money has arrived in our account. Thanks to everyone of you. My injury is two tiny fractures on two of my left ribs. So I have to remain on the bed for the next three weeks. I am now handicapped without a vehicle.

God bless all of you of Lend a Hand Movement.

Fr. John D. Tarawali



The 3rd water-well at Makump RC School

Editorial Notes

☀ The above mentioned Fr. Tarawali was injured in a car accident. His car was crushed completely. Isn't there anyone who can help Mgr. Bishop Biguzzi of Makeni Dioces to buy a car for Fr. Tarawali's pastoral activities? If someone will be able to help the matter, please contact Mr. Joseph Sato.