



Society of the Divine Savior
SALVATORIANS

Apostles for our times.

Salvatorian

Mission Warehouse

Winter, 2017

Dear Friends,

At Mass recently, we heard the parable of the talents, challenging us to use what we have in a way that will cause it to be even more impactful. This is even more powerful when put in context of the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse and our ministry of supplying relief goods and rice to those in need. Our goal is to be like the first two servants: to take what God has given us and spend it wisely so we can see the fruits of our labors, rather than like the third, who simply buried his talents for no one to see. It has been amazing to see how each of you have given your talents, gifts, and love to provide exponentially for those around the world. Rather than hoarding away what God has provided, you are using it to make a real difference and sharing in the joy that results!

January 2018 will mark the beginning of my fourth year as director of the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse. With your financial support, the help of the many volunteers, my wife Heather, and Beth Holbrook, our Development Director, we have been able to take the foundation of the Mission Warehouse and push it forward. For example, our social media outreach through our new website, our Facebook page, as well as many multimedia and video outlets. All financial and donation records are securely recorded and saved. The Mission Warehouse Board has welcomed new members, and the efficiency of the day to day operations is outstanding! Most importantly, I have had the privilege to visit multiple missions and have seen firsthand their needs today, which have changed and evolved since the Warehouse first started to operate 50 years ago.

It is these missions that benefit when you, our donors, give of your talents. Most recently, I have traveled to Tanzania, and seen how your financial gifts and prayers have provided an ambulance (the only ambulance to serve 15,000 people), medical supplies for children and pregnant mothers, rice for poor and impoverished communities, clothing, hygiene supplies, school supplies, and clean water opportunities.

Beth Holbrook, whom I introduced last year as our Development Director, was asked to go to Ghana, Africa in November to visit the many missions we send relief containers to. Take care to read her stories, see her pictures, and then continue to pray for these families and communities.

God bless you all! I am so thankful you have put your talents to good use and responded with so much generosity to today's needs of all the missions we serve!





Visit to Ghana, Africa

In November, my husband Kyle and I traveled to Ghana to visit 15 missions supported by the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse. The purpose was to find out why the Warehouse was having trouble getting our containers released from the port. We traveled around the country for twelve days, meeting 18 different priests, brothers and sisters visiting schools, churches, villages, leprosy colonies and homes for the disabled. Through these visits we came to better understand how the new democratic government's efforts to control port corruption, educational progress and the almost visible clash of past and present Ghanaian culture impacts the Warehouse's strategy with helping those in need.

"We help those that cannot help themselves."

Our trip was very successful. Not only were we finally able to meet those we've been communicating with via email for years, but also many of the people that receive the goods and rice. We were welcomed with so much gratitude and passion as they shared their challenges and prayers for continued help.



Some circumstances are overwhelming. We met with more than one group of sisters that use their own very small teaching salaries to reinvest back into their school to feed the children. At another village, we were welcomed by the elders who explained that illegal mining had destroyed their land, making the only road impassable during the raining season. First they requested rice, then pleaded for a plastic canoe because 4 people had died trying to cross the river last year.

Although Ghana is considered one of the richer countries in Africa, there is no question that the poor, challenged and elderly need our continued support. Without government social services, the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" grows every day. Since all of the missions we send to are in remote villages, they are defi-



Leprosy community near Volta Region that receives relief goods.



Example of one of the many schools we visited. Children wear uniforms every day, except on Fridays when they are allowed to wear soccer uniforms for weekly game against different grades or other schools.

nately the latter, filled with children and those with limited options. While free public education and government placed teachers are now available in almost every area, the “schools” are more like shacks without any teaching materials. They begged for things like crayons, markers, notebooks, craft supplies and computers explaining that the students are required to take exams that have questions about how to use a computer mouse without ever having seen or used one. They use rocks to practice “right click ,left click”.

The more we traveled, the more we were reminded that all people are the same. Kids love to dance and giggle, the sick want to be seen and remembered and families do their best to care for each other by whatever means necessary. Kyle and I are grateful to be changed forever...always keeping in mind that we all smile in the same language.

Beth Holbrook



Women and children of farming village near Kumasi

43 Containers of relief goods sent in 2017, total of 928,097 lbs.

Africa

- Ghana - 17
- Nigeria – 2
- Tanzania – 1
- Uganda – 1

Central America

- Guatemala – 2
- Haiti – 1
- Honduras – 2
- Nicaragua – 2
- Panama – 3
- West Indies – 1

South America

- Chile – 1
- Ecuador – 1
- Paraguay – 3
- Peru – 2

Southeast Asia

- Chuuk State - 1
- Philippines - 2

**PLUS
9 Rice Shipments to Africa (44,000 lbs. each) totaling 396,000 lbs.**

Average shipping and rice purchase cost – \$12,000 per 40 foot container.

Items Most Requested
by the Missions:

- New school supplies—notebooks, crayons, scissors, pencils, pencil sharpeners, craft projects, pens, backpacks
- Personal Hygiene Products—bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Diapers—adult & babies, all sizes
- Computers—PLEASE, only working computers that are within 5 years old (desktop or laptops)

Please contact **Dave Holton** to schedule a delivery or pickup.
dholton@salvatorians.com

One More Thing...

In the last year we have seen so many tragedies: hurricanes that have decimated Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico; shootings in Las Vegas and elsewhere; earthquakes around the world that have taken the lives of so many. In response to these events, many charitable groups have been asking for your support to help these communities.

I would ask you not to forget that the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse continues to need your financial support as well! Our donations have been down this year, due partly to monies going to other causes. Please also know, in light of questionable charities and how they manage their finances, our operating expenses are extremely minimal with \$.90 of your dollar going directly to support the missions. We have never and will never abuse, take for granted or spend immorally the gifts of financial relief we receive from you, our donors. Rest assured, the money you give for the cause you believe in (helping international missions) is going directly to those who need it most.

From all of us at the Warehouse,
Merry Christmas!



The Foundation for Children in Need treated the children of Jevodaya Orphanage, Sankalp Orphanage, and Father Francis Memorial School in Hyderabad with Hershey's and Figis products brought from the Salvatorian Mission Warehouse!



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Donor Name (s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please accept my gift of \$ _____

Salvatorian Mission Warehouse
1303 Milwaukee Dr., New Holstein, WI 53061

Donations also accepted through PayPal at www.salvatorianmissionwarehouse.org