PROVIDING FOR THE PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES Propagation of the Faith - Enables missionaries to be more effective In their works of evangelization. Caring for the carers. Society of St Peter the Apostle - Funds the formation of seminarians and religious in mission territories Holy Childhood Association - Supports the health and religious formation needs of

Missionary Union

children in the mission territories. Enables Children helping Children.

Stimulates ongoing missionary formation and awareness.
 Animators inspiring other animators.



News

Volume VI Nº. 2 | October 2013

Pope Francis



MISSION IS A BLESSING

Pope Francis has been radiating signs of hope and joy from the moment he was presented in the balcony of the Vatican Basilica following the words, "Habemus Papam!" His presence and his reflections have inspired and even challenged many Catholics. Even people of other faiths commend his simple and sincere manner of living and communicating.

I had the privilege of meeting him in person during the Annual General Meeting of the Pontifical Mission Societies in May 2013. Present on that occasion were the 160 National Directors from all parts of the world and the Secretaries and staff of the central office in Rome.

"We have not received the gift of faith to keep it hidden, but, rather, to spread it."

He noted the importance of the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies. "They are fully up to date, indeed they are still needed today because there are so many peoples who are still not acquainted with Christ and have not yet encountered him. It is urgently necessary to find new forms and new ways to ensure that God's grace may touch the heart of every man and of every woman and lead them to him. We are all simple but important instruments of God; we have not received the gift of faith to keep it hidden, but, rather, to spread it so that it can illumine a great many of our brethren on their journey."

He spoke in few words and then he individually met all who were inside the Pope Clement Hall.

When my turn came up, I presented myself as a Divine



Fr Bernard Espiritu, SVD, National Director of MISSIONZ meets with Pope Francis on 17 May 2013 at the Vatican.

Word Missionary who had worked in Brazil, Australia, North America and am now in New Zealand. He held my hands tightly, looked at me with warmth in his eyes and spoke to me. We exchanged words in Spanish and in the end he gave his blessings. "Que Dios te bendiga y todo lo que se reúnen en su trabajo [May God bless you and all you meet in your work]."

I sent a copy of my photo with Pope Francis to my family members and some friends. All spoke of the big smiles we had for each other and the seeming familiarity in the meeting. But one niece returned a comment saying: "The Pope held you with warmth". That made me remember what Pope Francis said to friends back in Argentina who commented on his manner in receiving visitors. "I hold their hands firmly as I welcome them that they may know that they are not alone."

Surely, mission is a blessing — it is a blessing that binds us as partners of God in His Mission to bring transformation and healing. In the words of Pope Francis, "Everyone should be able to experience the joy of being loved by God, the Joy of Salvation." And we are not alone in fulfilling it. God is with us as he has promised.

MISSION SUNDAY IS* ...

ission Sunday is an occasion to celebrate that as a Church we can strengthen our friendship with the Lord and reevaluate our ways in proclaiming with courage the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

Mission Sunday is a celebration because we believe. Faith is a precious gift from God that helps us to open our minds to understand and care. Faith makes us understand that our God wants to be in communion with us that we may participate in his life that we may become better and truly special persons. But this gift has to be accepted. It is generously offered to all, and not only to a few. Everyone need to experience this transformative love of God. It is not a gift to be kept for oneself, lest it becomes insipid and unproductive. It is a gift that grows only when imparted. It is a gift that needs our response. One who answers to this gift becomes a follower of Christ; and a follower of Christ is a witness who enriches the life of the community.

Pope Emeritus Benedict once wrote: "The missionary outreach is a clear sign of maturity of an ecclesial community". A mature Christian Community worships with joy, cares for each other, and proclaims untiringly the Gospels to the "suburbs" where Christ is not yet known.

Mission Sunday is thanksgiving day. The Year of Faith is meant to revitalize Christian Communities. The missionary spirit of the church is not just about geography but it is about peoples and cultures because the boundaries of faith cross over not only places and human traditions but also the hearts of peoples. All baptized have a mission to be a witness of Christ. It is not just a task, but a way of life. In a world torn by violence, lies and mistakes, believers must always possess the courage and joy of proposing an encounter with Christ and become heralds of his Gospel. And every witnessing must be seen as an ecclesial act. This makes us grateful that an individual believer does not act alone but is part of the one community guided by the Holy Spirit, the Body of Christ.

Mission Sunday recognizes
the finger of God at
work in the world
today. Migration has
facilitated in many places
the growth of
multicultural
communities. Migrants
from young churches
who practice their faith
have become missionaries
that contribute to the life of

Churches of ancient Christianity.

They bring freshness and enthusiasm with which they live their faith that renews life and gives hope. They have

facilitated a kind of "return" of faith.

Mission Sunday posts a challenge. Pope Francis calls us to remember that there are Christians who meet difficulties in openly practicing their faith, and who endure with apostolic perseverance the many current forms of persecution. Quite a few also risk their lives to remain faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Let our prayers be the assurance of our closeness with them. May the consoling words of Jesus echo: "Take courage, I have overcome the world" (Jn 16:33).

In the end, Pope Francis says: "May this Year of Faith increasingly strengthen our relationship with Christ the Lord, since only in him is there the certitude for looking to the future and the guarantee of an authentic and lasting love. This is my wish for World Mission Day this year. I cordially bless missionaries and all those who accompany and support this fundamental commitment of the Church to proclaim the Gospel to all corners of the earth, and we, ministers and missionaries of the Gospel, will experience 'the delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing.'"

* Excerpts from the Mission Sunday Message of Pope Francis 2013



MISSION BRINGS FRESH HOPE

ne Friday night in May, I visited a family of scavengers who live in an improvised shack built just on the garbage dump of Inayawan, Cebu City, Philippines. I had to walk through a 10 feet high pile of smelly garbage treading each step with much care. Taking a misstep could mean sinking to my knees into the trash and debris. Candles and kerosene lamps flickered here and there as I passed by narrow corridors formed by rows and rows of small shacks. Those lights guided my way through the dump. As always and everywhere, I received a warm welcome from all I met on the pathways as I made my way to the madeup shack of Tony.

"Maayong gabi! Kamusta man mo?" ("Good evening. How are you?), I greeted Tony and his two daughters. Tony, a young widower, whose wife died two years ago in an unfortunate accident, was cooking outside in front of the house. The interior of the small shack is dimly lit with a flickering oil lamp, but I right away recognized his two daughters Jovi and Jane. "Nag-unsa man mo?". ("What are you doing?") "Magtudlo ko sa akong manghud nga si Jane sa iyang homework." ("I'm coaching my sister Jane with her homework), Jovi quickly responded with a big smile on her face. She continued telling me that classes would start soon and she was very excited to return to school. She also

One of the girls the age of Jovi who lives on the mountain of rubbish of Inayawan landfill in Cebu City, Philippines. She is swarmed by flies as she scavenges for a living. Missionaries work among them. added that she was very excited to meet her new classmates at school and her new teacher soon.

Surely, a candlelight can brighten a dark alley; fresh hope can radiate amidst mountains of landfill.

Jovi will be starting her second year in school. Before her primary schooling, she and her younger sister, attended kindergarten. That really served for both of them as salvation. I remember that after the unexpected death of their mother, Tony, their father, started to binge drink a lot to the point that he was no longer able to care for his two daughters. Often that time, after 9:00 PM when I go out to work among the street children, I would come across those two little girls in the streets in search for their father. Tony was usually found completely drunk lying among the garbage not far from his shack. Those days, both daughters already reached an advanced stage of malnutrition, and something had to be done urgently.

One day, after much effort, I finally convinced Tony to enroll Jovi who was then 5 and Jane 3 years old in the kindergarten programme. Due to the daily food served and regular medical checkups, both girls rapidly recovered. It was a happy revelation that Jovi and Jane enjoyed classes in kindergarten, and have regained weight. Tony left his drinking vice and changed completely. He was both father and a mother to his daughters. He acknowledged gratefully the nursery

SILENCE STRIKES IN THE MISSIONS

y name is Fred." This was how he introduced himself that night. I work with the street already known Fred for some time but only through what others had told me. He always shied away from a distance, but that night, for the first time, he greeted me and introduced himself.

Fred was among those who sleep in the streets of Cebu City, Philippines. Their number is growing every year in some places of the city. I first saw Fred one afternoon looking for food amid the rubbish dumped near his "home" on the mountain of garbage tip; I approached and offered him something to eat. This surprised Fred. Not having eaten for two days, he had been literally rummaging for food in the heaps of garbage. It was distressing, but that is his life, scavenging from the heaps of smelly garbage. I remember how he hesitated to approach me,

probably for being shy or was he uncertain how I might react to him. Fred looked very dirty bekids in Cebu City, Philippines. I had cause he can hardly take a shower. He does it only weekly or even monthly, depending on his chance. He wore filthy rags and he really stinks. He was not a picture of somebody one would like to have as a friend; but something in him attracted my attention. It was his smile. It was the smile on a face that had no nose! Fred told me later that it was not long ago that he was discharged from a leprosarium in Consolación, Cebu. Since that time he has been abandoned by relatives and friends. This is why he finds the street as his home.

> Fred has also lost both hands completely by leprosy. He had difficulties maintaining his balance due to his deformed feet, though ironically, he found a pair of old and oversize rubber shoes in the tip and he wore them. He used to fill them with rag and paper so as he could

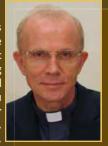
manage to walk with them "comfortably". It didn't take long for Fred and I to become friends. The regular visits I did in the streets and in the garbage tip facilitated that friendship to grow. He had become a part of my life, until one day he just disappeared. No one of those who lived in the streets, his "neighbours", could tell me where he went. Several days passed by, and one day I found him again on the street. I was crossing the street just in front of the Recolletos School. A crowd gathered on the other side of the road by the sidewalk. I had to squeeze my way in, and to my shock I saw Fred lifeless and with his eyes wide open. I immediately recognised him by his nose-less face and the oversized rubber shoes. He must have died just few minutes before I arrived. I knelt down beside his lifeless body. Closed his eyes, and blessed him with the sign of the Cross on his forehead. I invited all who were gathered to pray. Then there was silence.

continuation of page 4.

school. He proudly tells me that he also helps in educating his daughters at home. He dreams of a better future for Jovi and Jane, perhaps he can someday send them to earn a college degree so that they can find decent jobs.

What a beautiful and touching portrait — a responsible father, and daughters who have fresh hope to live with dignity and a future. Surely, a candlelight can brighten dark alleys; fresh hope can radiate amidst mountains of landfill.

Fr. Heinz Kulüke SVD, our story teller who shares two stories, worked as a missionary in the Philippines from the late 1980s. He taught philosophy at the University of San Carlos during the day and ministered to the street children, and the marginalized in the landfill of Inayawan, Cebu City, Last year, 2012, he was elected Superior General of the Divine Word Missionaries. Fr Heinz is originally from Germany.

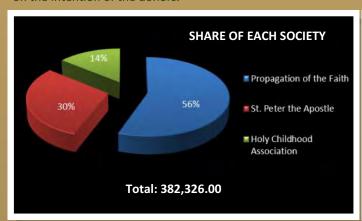


MISSION COLLECTION 2012

uch obliged!" is an old form of saying "Thank You". The dictionary states that its use indicates that the person who uses it is very grateful for something that had happened. I prefer to use the term as I share with you the financial report for last year. Our financial year begins on the 1st of March and ends on the last day of February the following year.

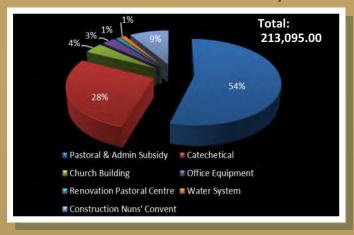
The total Mission Collection for the year comes from two main sources, namely: (1) the generous donation from our benefactors who regularly give their gifts directly to the MISSIONZ Office, (2) and one Yearly Collection done in all Catholic Churches every Mission Sunday. This Sunday is always celebrated on the penultimate Sunday of October. This year it will be celebrated on October 20, 2013.

The total Mission Collection for the Financial year 2012/2013 that we were able to send to various local Catholic Churches overseas amounted to \$382,326.00 The distribution is based on the intention of the donors.

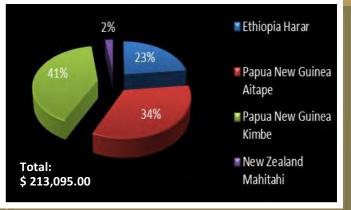


The Propagation of the Faith Society allocates funds to help run a Vicariate, and to support Dioceses that are financially weak. This Society primarily takes care of the carers; it helps build decent presbyteries and convents, churches and schools. It also helps the local Christian communities finance their on-going catechetical programmes and helps maintain parish-based local clinics, and projects to promote health, e.g. clean water systems.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH 2012 / 2013



BREAKDOWN OF DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

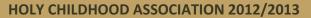


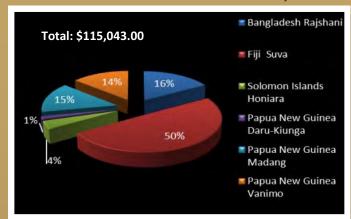
RECIPIENTS OF THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH DONATIONS

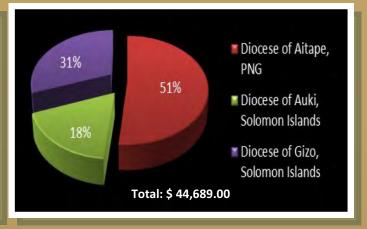
This year we are helping maintain the administrative activities of the Vicariate of Harar, Ethiopia, Dioceses of Aitape and Kimbe, both in Papua New Guinea and Mahitahi, the official arm of the Bishops of New Zealand that organises volunteer lay missionary activities of Kiwis especially in the Pacific.

THANK YOU! MUCH OBLIGED! THANK YOU!

ST PETER THE APOSTLE SOCIETY 2012/2013

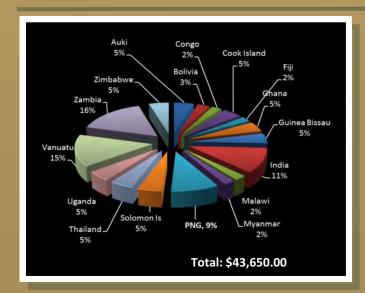






The Recipients of the Donation of St Peter the Apostle Society as shown above are all seminaries. There are many vocations to the priesthood in many developing countries as reported in our NEWS last May 2013. Generous donors in countries like New Zealand help finance their formation to the priesthood.

The beneficiaries of our Holy Childhood Association Collection of 2012 are children from Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Funds will be used for faith formation in catechism. In Gizo Diocese a dormitory and toilet facilities will be built in the Catholic School in the Shortland Islands.



MASS STIPENDS FOR INTENTIONS PRAYED FOR

equesting a priest to offer the Mass for a specific intention, even when we cannot be present at Mass, is a longstanding tradition in the Church. An amount of \$43,650.00 that has been given by donors who have requested that missionaries pray for their intentions have been given out during the fiscal year. The intentions together with the stipend money have been passed on to 17 different countries. They have been sent to priests who live in those countries by our contact Bishops, Provincial Superiors, or Pontifical Mission Societies National Directors. The stipend is used by recipient priests to help maintain a decent daily life in the mission territories, and also at times shared to complete or initiate a certain pastoral project. Those who have celebrated Masses for the intentions of the donors are grateful. Our office at the same time continues to pray for all donors in our regular prayers.

verything began to go wrong in 2008. The small town of Badessa and its neighbouring towns in the Wolaita Zone of the southern part of Ethiopia experienced the start of another Calvary. Rain did not come at the expected time. The devastating drought grew worse day by day and sadness became more evident in the faces of people. Many, especially women and children, starved and slowly died. Others were lucky to able to receive meagre help from the government, or church-based organisations, or non-profit groups.

The Missionary Servants of the Holy Spirit who have been in the area for several years felt helpless seeing the pains and sufferings of the people, especially children and lactating mothers, and the elderly. Schools were closed, particularly the kindergarten and non-formal schools in the villages, because the children had less food to eat at home and had no energy to walk to the school and be attentive in the classrooms.

The Sisters soon started a feeding program for children and mothers. The kindergarten and non-formal schools in the villages were opened to receive and help children who were malnourished and undernourished. The initial number was only 34 children, and all were in very critical medical conditions. They were brought in by their own parents and guardians. I will never forget seeing a lot of babies with big heads, and literally only skins and bones and outstanding swollen eyes.

Their number increased. The Sisters worked hard and lived austerely to sustain and maintain this program for months sharing whatever resources they received, given by generous people, until the worst of the crises were over. Visible transformation in the general health condition brought joy in the faces and gratitude in the hearts. Change was clearly seen in the faces of the children and their mothers and those who were with them fighting against death. LIFE started to bloom once again in the small town.

The work still continues today. Supplementary daily feeding is still provided for in the school. Parents have created a roster for parents to take turns in cooking food for their children. The sisters also started to assist the people to grow food through backyard gardening. Diversified farming production is promoted continuously among the families who were convinced to secure food for their families and the community.

The children who survive are like seedlings that still need care as they mature. Many are really very poor; but alive they will continue to have dreams and aspirations in life. It is necessary to sustain them with good food, and enabling education that can help construct a more humane future.

The Sisters continue their mission as partners of God. They begin to see brighter smiles in the faces of the children. God has truly awakened many hearts for these children to stay alive and hopeful.

Our Author: Sr. Maria Jerley Renacia, SSpS is a Filipina Missionary of the Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit working in Badesa, Ethiopia.

MISSION BRINGS BRIGHTER SMILES



he children of Badessa under the care of the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit

hank you for your communication and the good news of New Zealand's help through the Holy Childhood Association. The children of the Diocese of Auki here in the Solomon Islands are richly blessed and helped through this Pontifical Mission connection.

Here in Auki in the Island of Malaita, Solomon Islands as in many parts of the developing world, 70% of our population is under 30 years of age. I am now 55 years old, and at most masses that I celebrate I am always the oldest person present! Families in our subsistence culture are large and most have 5—10 children. They are lovingly seen here as gifts from God and contribute to the whole well being of the community.

Because of our large numbers of children, there is a great strain on the Church and Government to provide health and education. The Holy Childhood subsidy money goes towards the Religious Education of our little ones through our extensive Sunday School Program. After Sunday Mass or Sunday Liturgy of the Word services, the Children quite willingly come together for their lessons. Music and singing of the Bible songs begin their lessons, and catechism classes follow for some two hours! Thankfully the lessons are "reinforced" by strong Catholic family life and our village communities are growing and flourishing in the Love of the Lord and Service to the Community.

Interestingly we are quite a poor diocese, but because of an active Catholic family life, we have a richness that New Zealanders would cherish, too. A fruit of our family life is that here in our Auki Diocese [civil population is 155,000, Roman Catholic population is 40,000 or 25% of the total] we have 28 local young native diocesan priests and only 11 parishes. Thankfully we are able to send priests to 3 other dioceses to help and this year we have four more ordinations.

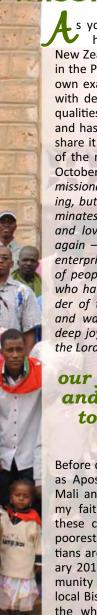
Donations from New Zealand and beyond help greatly in our Evangelization in Solomon Islands, but maybe we—because of your help, may one day send missionaries to New Zealand to help in the New Evangelization among the secular and the un-Churched of society.



Bishop Chris Cardone, OP, DD together with some o children from Auki who benefit from the donation su

MISSION CREATES
GRATEFUL HEARTS

A NEW MISSIONARY IN OUR MIDST



s you know, Pope Francis, whom I have the pleasure to represent in have the pleasure to represent in New Zealand and in many of the islands in the Pacific, invites us often and by his own example to live our Christian faith with deeper hope, love and joy. These qualities show that our faith is attractive and has the strength to invite others to share it. In his message on the occasion of the next World Mission Day on 20th October, the Pope says: "The Church's missionary spirit is not about proselytizing, but the testimony of a life that illuminates the path, which brings hope and love. The Church - I repeat once again - is not a relief organisation, an enterprise or an NGO, but a community of people, animated by the Holy Spirit, who have lived and are living the wonder of the encounter with Jesus Christ and want to share this experience of deep joy, the message of salvation that the Lord gave us."

our faith is attractive and has the strength to invite others to share it.

Before coming to New Zealand, I served as Apostolic Nuncio to Guinea and to Mali and had the opportunity to share my faith with brothers and sisters in these countries which are among the poorest in the world and where Christians are only a small minority. In January 2011 I met the small Catholic community of Timbuktu together with the local Bishop, a year before the city and the whole northern region of Mali

were conquered by Islamist extremists. The State was on the brink of collapse, a big part of the population and all the Christians were driven away, and their property was looted. In these recent months the country has begun to recover, the Catholic communities reorganize themselves and try to heal the deep wounds of division and war. Encouraged by their pastors and accompanied by engaged Christians all over the world, these women, men and children don't give up, grow in their faith and attract others to Christianity. We can help them with what we have: resources and a faith full of hope, love and

Archbishop Martin Krebs, JCD, DD is our new Papal Nuncio in New Zealand. He was born in Essen, Germany in 1956. He was ordained priest on October 10, 1983, and was ordained bishop on November 10, 2008.

The picture on the background was taken with a Christian community in Timbuktu, Mali . The Archbishop is wearing a traditional priestly garb.

HONORING OUR KIWI MISSIONARY by Fr Michael Gormley SSC

🚺 n July 2013, Columbans marked the Columban's Mission Society. His bishop impression on the town. Here was a Frank Douglas, who is now honoured in overseas mission. the New Zealand Catholic Church as an inspirational missionary figure.

Francis Vernon Douglas was born in Wellington on May 22, 1910, into a close, lively, Catholic working-class family in the suburb of Johnsonville. Leaving school at 14, he worked in the post office as a messenger boy. From his youth he was tall, robust, dark-haired and sportsloving. Friends spoke of him as strongminded, with a fine sense of social and religious duty.

His bishop graciously acknowledged the idealism and leadership qualities suited for overseas mission.

In 1927, he entered the national seminary at Mosgiel, trained for the diocesan priesthood, and was ordained in 1934 for the Archdiocese of Wellington. In 1937, as an energetic and extroverted

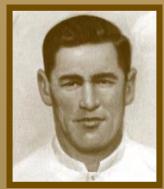
70th anniversary of the heroic graciously acknowledged the idealism strong and brave man who withstood death of a colleague, Columban Father and leadership qualities suited for days and nights of horrific punishment.

> to Pililla, a lakeside township beyond He made the most of every opportunity, saviour. especially in learning the language, and in coming to terms with the culture and After the war, reports of his heroic death unfamiliar customs. The people were on containing local resistance, so they Cathedral in Wellington. kept a close eye on Fr. Frank, with a suspicion that he was a foreign spy. He was finally arrested in late July 1943 and taken to the neighbouring town of Paete. Along with others, he was interrogated, deprived of sleep and tortured. Through the whole ordeal, tied to a pillar in the church, he remained silent. After three days, bloodied and bruised, he was bundled away on a truck. It is believed that he died as a result of the beating. He was never seen again, and his body was never found.

young priest, he volunteered to join St. The suffering of Fr Frank made a deep

He suffered in silence, not betraying the trust of others. Filipinos spoke of him as a Fr. Frank was assigned to the Philippines, Christ-like figure. When anger was centred on him, others were spared. Manila. It was not an easy assignment. Beaten and ill-treated, he was a kind of

reached his homeland, aspects of his poor, and, because of religious dedicated life and heroic death became indifference, the number attending known, and are remembered still. To church was small. Life became more honor his memory; Columbans in New difficult when the Japanese military Zealand have commissioned a carved invaded the Philippines in December memorial stone which has been 1941. The invading soldiers were intent presented to the Archbishop for the



Fr. Francis Vernon Douglas SSC

"I appeal to all those who feel the call to respond generously to the holy spirit, according to your state in life, not to be afraid to be generous with the lord."

Pope Francis, 2013 Mission Sunday Message to All



FUNDRAISE FOR MISSIONZ— Faith Changes Everything

START YOUR FUNDRAISING JOURNEY TODAY!

any people have been experiencing donor fatigue syndrome when it comes to financial appeals in our churches. Why not create your own fundraising event with your friends or parish members for the Evangelization Work of the Catholic Church during the Mission Month of October as we end the Year of Faith!

Ms Una from Auckland together with her friends in their Reflection Group have been promoting a cake sale every Mission

Sunday for some years now. Last year, they even invited people to participate in a Mission Sunday Reflection before an Afternoon Tea.

Ed and Rinia are husband and wife from Wellington who decided to celebrate their birthdays together, and organize a thanksgiving dinner with their friends for all the blessings of the years past. They have requested their visitors who came to give donation to MISSIONZ in lieu of gifts.

Both events were gatherings of friends where they all enjoyed the presence of one another and still raised funds for the missions.

We have some booklets which you can give away during your fundraising. Write to us and we will send you some material.

Fundraising for MISSIONZ is a fantastic way to support our work and have fun whilst doing it! How you fundraise is limited only by your imagination — a sports event, a BBQ with your old mates from school or town, an afternoon tea with colleagues or a cake competition with your friends. If you want to do something special for a momentous occasion, donations can also be made in lieu of gifts.

LOOK FOR YOUR MISSIONZ ENVELOPE



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