



Newsletter

Issue 3 • September 2007

FATHER FRANK JONES

LATIN AMERICAN MISSION

'Hola' from Fr Frank

Dear Friends,

Saludos de Ecuador. We have had a few natural disasters here since I last wrote to you all. The eruption of the volcano *Tunguraga* left many people homeless. Some of the families have migrated to Guayaquil and into San Francisco in order to make a new start - without anything in the way of possessions. I include some of these families in this newsletter.

St Edmunds College: Thanks to a generous donation from St Eddies I have been able to help build some homes for the poor. My neighbour, Estella, is an *Afroecuadoriano*. She is a real hoot! She is advanced in years but still works hard everyday to provide for her daughter and her grandchildren. Everyone goes out to work in this house. The children sell Coca Cola in the streets in between the traffic jams. Their mother works in a soup kitchen while Estella sells flowers on the streets. They live in misery. You can see by the photos that their house is small: just one room for five people; no electricity or water; one bed for five and no sanitation whatsoever. Their roof is patchy and the walls of the house are made from bamboo - sparse and rotting. Thanks be to God, they now have a new home. They will be dry from the tropical rains. I still need to help with some sort of gas stove as they still cook outside on an open fire of sticks. I will rely on divine providence for that.

St Clare's College: St Clare's have been fantastic to the mission. Our nutrition centre and childcare centre have survived because of their generosity - providing care for our poorest children and help for their mothers. I have also been able to begin work on a new house for Isabel and her husband Carlos and their two little children. Isabel is expecting a new baby next month. For that reason alone it was imperative to provide some housing for this family, so deep in poverty. Their home has one room, a dirt floor, and the walls are made of cardboard and the roof of plastic sheets. They are a lovely family and very faithful to Jesus in prayer and attend Mass at every occasion. They arrived destitute. Thanks to our mission group we are able now to build them a good house of wood and bamboo cane. It should be finished in five days.

Estella's house, before ...



... and after



Isabel & children

Registrations

You can register interest in the Mission by completing an enrolment form via the website at www.frfrankmission.org.au Enrolling within the Mission will ensure you are kept up-to-date regarding news from Fr Frank, and activities including fundraising to provide support.

Donations

There have been many requests for information regarding the appropriate process for making donations to the Mission. Funds may be direct debited or deposited into the following Commonwealth Bank account:

Manual Deposit:
Account No. 2902 0090 3419
Agent No. 13274

Electronic Transfer:
Account No. 22524
BSB: 062-786

**WEB ADDRESS: WWW.FRFRANKMISSION.ORG.AU
EMAIL ADDRESS: [PANCHOJONES@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:panchojones@hotmail.com)**



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Maria: Maria is 85 years old. She was the first to arrive in San Francisco after the disaster of the volcano eruption. She lost everything in the lava flow - her home and possessions and her animals. She is a widow and so beautiful in character and soul. Her suffering has not left her bitter. In fact, she is a most generous lady in spirit and her smile lights up the mission. Thanks to all of you - in particular, the Carmelite monastery in Ormiston - we are able to start building a home for Maria. She has already invited another widow she found in our streets. The poor are natural at understanding misery and doing their best to alleviate it. So we will build a bigger house for Maria to accommodate her widow friend and, of course, name her home *Carmel* in honour of Mary, mother of the poor.

A new baby: Last Christmas I was visited by a two young girls, both 15 and pregnant. They had been thrown out of their homes. I was able to find shelter and pay for their care in our local *albergue* (orphanage). Here is a photo of one of the baby girls. What a joy to help these girls find a new beginning and care for the future of their babies. Thanks to all of you and your kindness, all this possible.

Rosa and her puppies: My dog Rosa gave birth to seven puppies. The photo shows her contempt as I hold two of them. If only you could see my expression: I'm soaking wet!!

La Germania: This photo shows the depth of poverty in our mission. Housing is a special need. There is no rubbish collection. In fact, the people sift through it to find something of value. With no sanitation or running water, disease is rampant. However, our mission is providing slowly and in small ways: Love in action to provide the presence of God in the word; Eucharist and the washing of the feet; Service in housing, nutrition and child care. Our medical centre has had to close temporarily due to lack of funds. However, I know with God's help we will re start the dispensary with enthusiasm and success.

God love you,

Fr Frank

Coming up: Fr Frank's visit this month ...

*Saturday 9th September, 6pm: Ordination of Constantine Chukwudi Osuchukwu, St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla

*Tuesday 19th September: St Clare's College fundraising dinner

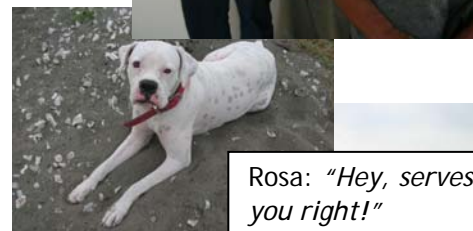
*Wednesday 20th September: Gathering and acknowledgement of *Club Cientos* members (details to be advised by email)

Club Cientos (100 Club) was launched earlier this year with the aim of providing sustained financial support for the Mission. Club members pledge up to \$500 per year for a three-year period. The Club already has a robust membership and is seeking new members to help reach our goal of *Cientos* members. \$50,000 per year would provide Fr Frank's community with a sound financial base. Please contact a committee member for details or visit the Mission website.



A new arrival

A new priest from Eire: Father Tom, with Pablo (a prisoner & builder), and Maria of *Carmel*



Rosa: "Hey, serves you right!"



La Germania

Father Frank Jones, Latin American Mission – Committee: Ted Anderson (Secretary), Bec Bromhead (Promotions), Stephen Cusack (Finances), Brendan Mulhall (Chair), Michael Ryan (Volunteers), Pamela Slocum (Fundraising), Ashley Watson (Publications)