



Teachers Helping Teachers

Workplace Giving Program

Report #4

*Catholic Mission and Catholic Schools Office
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
April 2019*



TEACHERS HELPING TEACHERS

in association with



Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Executive Summary | 3 |
| Current Projects | 4 |
| 1. Karunalaya Leprosy Care Centre – Puri, India | 4 |
| 2. St François Technical High School - Phnom Penh, Cambodia | 8 |
| 3. Pyinya Sanae Institute for teacher education – Yangon, Myanmar | 13 |

Executive Summary

The **Teachers Helping Teachers – Workplace Giving Program** is an exciting partnership between the Catholic Schools Office, Maitland-Newcastle (CSO) and Catholic Mission. The primary purpose of the Teachers Helping Teachers program is to support teachers in developing Catholic communities around the world with the financial assistance of teachers employed in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. This is achieved through a voluntary workplace giving program delivered under guidelines set out by the Australian Taxation Office. This arrangement allows for authorised deductions from teachers' salaries to be transferred to a nominated charity, such as Catholic Mission.

Catholic Mission holds Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status and, importantly, also has the capacity to disburse and monitor teacher contributions to worthwhile projects around the world. Projects are closely monitored by Catholic Mission and delivered by international partners through the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, of which Catholic Mission is the Australian agency. Catholic Mission works closely with overseas partners to increase their capacity and to assist them to report back regularly on progress. Project progress updates form the basis of this report.

It is anticipated that the number of teachers enrolling as **Teachers Helping Teachers Partners** will increase as promotion is undertaken through formal methods and via peer networks of teachers.

Contributing teachers can rightly be proud of this innovative program which currently supports three excellent and exciting projects in India, Cambodia and Myanmar. Working in partnership, these projects build self-determination, drawing upon community-development and capacity building strategies to grow strong individuals and sustainable communities. Each project builds upon the faith and energy of emerging Catholic communities and benefits all people in that location regardless of faith background. Consequently, the projects build trust and social capital within and between communities of differing faith background, giving witness to the principle of subsidiarity and demonstrating a preferential option for the poor.

This fourth interim report highlights some remarkable achievements which are already making a substantial difference within communities and will continue to do so into the future. The learnings from these experiences of solidarity have a mutual benefit as we experience being global citizens who share a living faith which embraces all cultures and affirms the dignity of all peoples. I look forward to continuing this fruitful collaboration between the Catholic Schools Office and Catholic Mission.

Mark Toohey

Diocesan Director – Maitland-Newcastle
Catholic Mission

Current Projects

1. Karunalaya Leprosy Care Centre – Puri, India

Project code: INPT-1200019



Student at the Beatrix School

Project Summary

Karunalaya Leprosy Care Centre (KLCC) in Puri, India supports the rehabilitation of people living with Hansen's Disease (leprosy) and their families by assisting them to take up opportunities to participate in the broader community. To achieve this, KLCC provides primary healthcare, rehabilitation activities, education and training for employment. These interrelated services enable individuals to have every opportunity to fully participate in society according to their abilities and aspirations and ensure that families not be further marginalised by social stigma or poverty.

The KLCC comprises five program areas:

Leprosy Health
Care Centre

Mercy Kitchen

Rehabilitation
Units

Beatrix
School

Ashram &
Retreat Centre

- The **Health Care Centre**, which provides 'short stay' hospital care, medicines, and food free of charge;
- The **Mercy Kitchen**, which provides nutritious food, clean drinking water and clean wound dressings;
- **Rehabilitation units**, which employ women and youth with disabilities in a jute and coir manufacturing cooperative; the 'Garden of Hope', involving crop cultivation, fish farming and dairy for self-sufficiency and supported employment; an orthopaedic workshop which makes scientifically designed shoes for maintaining foot care;
- The **Beatrix School**, which provides for the education of children of leprosy patients, which includes a hostel and provides free education, board and lodging.
- The **Karunalaya Ishopanathi Ashram**, a retreat centre for local inter-religious dialogue, spirituality and social service to the poor of Puri.

In recent years, with the assistance of **Catholic Mission**, programs are increasingly taking on a community development and sustainability focus. Services have been initiated mindful of the special needs of the community, while the developmental concepts are being gradually integrated into the rehabilitation activities and employment opportunities.

The Beatrix School receives support from you via your regular contribution as a **Teachers Helping Teachers Partner**. The first transfer of funds occurred in 2013 following a visit from former CSO Director Mr Ray Collins who was greatly moved and impressed by Karunalaya. The school was established in 1983 by Polish Divine Word Missionary Fr Marion Zelazek SVD for the children of leprosy patients as they could not get admission in other schools. Once a school of segregated children, now it has become a centre of integration for people affected by leprosy. More than a third of children attending the school hail from families affected by leprosy.

The school runs classes ranging from kindergarten to Year 10, and there is high demand for places, with the school accepting approximately 70-75 new students each year. Current enrolment is as follows:

- 325 boys, including 79 boys with leprosy
- 342 girls, including 91 girls with leprosy
- Total 667 students, including 170 with leprosy
- 18 teachers

The Beatrix School holds an outstanding reputation in the district for being an effective centre of learning and integration. The school also offers extra-curricular activities to students, including music classes, drawing, painting, daily morning yoga and dancing (traditional and modern). Upon completion of year ten, approximately 50% of students continue elsewhere to year 12, while 30% will reach tertiary studies. Teachers come from the local area and all possess formal teaching qualifications.

In late 2015, Catholic Mission staff made a project visit to review progress at Karunalaya and Beatrix School. In collaboration with the school principal, an innovative Leprosy Centre Cow Project 2016-2019 was devised to create an income stream from the production and sale of milk to offset teacher wages and school overheads. As at December 2018, the construction of an additional milking shed, and purchase of additional cows had occurred along with the upgrading of the solar power unit to provide electricity for the water pump and fans at the dairy. The project will also utilise the increased waste of the cows through the production of two biogas plants, which will be used for cooking at the Mercy Kitchen and the school.

"I am so grateful to you and to your teachers who have been so kindly assisting us in our mission of education here. Please accept my gratitude and kindly communicate to the teachers that their generous contribution will be well utilised for the payment of our teachers in the school."

Father Baptist Dsouza S.V.D. Principal - Karunalaya Beatrix School

Project Update 2018-19

As a **Teachers Helping Teachers Partner** your fortnightly donations contributed to the following achievements as at March 2019; as noted in the 2018-19 project report.

The dairy building has been completed and additional live stock purchased and blessed. Solar panels have been installed to power lighting, cooling and machinery.

The dairy is now producing 80 litres of fresh milk a day, providing supplementary feeding for people with leprosy attending the Mercy Kitchen and for the children of leprosy patients who live in the Beatrix School Hostel. With your help and proper nutrition, the children and adults who live at Karunalaya are better able to thrive and reach their full potential.

Most importantly, the project expansion will continue to multiply benefits as it enables the dairy farm to become fully self-sufficient and to reach the goal of providing a steady income stream to assist with teacher wages.



Photo: New stock arrive awaiting the dairy completion - October 2018



Site clearance - April 2017



Foundations for construction begin - May 2018



The new dairy including power room, storage room and shop - December 2018



Blessing of the dairy - March 2019

2. St François Technical High School - Phnom Penh

Project code: KHPT-1100523



St François students perform Khmer dance at opening of new training facilities - January 2019

As a **Teachers Helping Teachers Partner**, your fortnightly contributions have assisted rural students enrolled at St François Technical High School to gain valuable knowledge and skills to find gainful employment particularly in agriculture and emerging tourism related occupations.

Since 1969, Cambodia has been the site of many conflicts which have severely affected its infrastructure and population. In a short period, the brutal Khmer Rouge regime, led by Pol Pot from 1975 to 1979, left the country without educated professionals and without an economy. Cambodia is still a developing country, with an estimated 23.9% living below the poverty line. The poverty rate is higher for rural areas (up to 50%). Agriculture and tourism are the most important sectors of the Cambodian economy, with approximately 58% of the population relying on agriculture for their livelihood, and rice being the principal crop. However, there is currently a skills shortage across the country in these industries, and they have been impacted by a recent economic crisis.

St François Technical High School is located at the Our Lady of the Smiles Parish, Takeo Province and provides general educational and vocational training to disadvantaged young people from the surrounding rural communities. These communities are predominantly Buddhist, with a small but vibrant Catholic contingent, yet students of all religions are enrolled at the school. Since 2014, the School has gained favourable attention from government authorities who have noted the excellent educational outcomes being achieved.

In September 2015, recognising the need for specialist training in modern agricultural and technical skills, the Vicariate of Phnom Penh successfully applied to the Cambodian Ministry of Education for permission to offer approved agricultural and tourism training curricula to be run for students across the tenth to twelfth grades. The first cohort of Agricultural students commenced their studies at this time, however these streams required additional infrastructure to be built and developed.

In January 2017, construction commenced on the agricultural campus of St François Technical High School. The site is adjacent to St Paul's Institute (a university campus established and run by the Phnom Penh Vicariate) and within easy travel distance to both St François Technical High School and Phnom Voah Farm (a community-based enterprise also established by the Vicariate). This arrangement allows the new agricultural and tourism training streams to share some of St Paul's facilities such as the library and undercover multipurpose hall. It will also enable university staff with qualifications in agriculture and related disciplines to teach in the high school and to provide ongoing technical advice and supervision of students gaining work experience at Phnom Voah Farm.

The students are learning sustainable agricultural procedures for them to adapt to best modern practices, which will assist them, their families and their communities into the future. This will be only the sixth technical and agricultural high school in the country. Funds from the **Teachers Helping Teachers Program** contributed towards the costs of building new classrooms, material, curriculum development and teacher training.



Completion of the new St François Technical Campus

Project Update 2018-19

On 31st January 2019 the St François Technical High School opened its agricultural and tourism training campus! As a **Teachers Helping Teachers Partner** you can be proud to have contributed with **Catholic Mission** as a major funding partner. The entire construction took just under 15 months to complete. The official opening and innovative agricultural practices gained media attention on Cambodian national TV!

All 77 students currently enrolled in the agriculture stream have now moved into the new campus. A key component of the agriculture stream is the practical experience gained at the nearby Phnom Voah Agricultural Farm and social enterprise where knowledge and skills are gained in growing crops, animal husbandry, handicraft and food production.

The tourism stream is expected to begin in 2019, pending the development of a new curriculum. Each educational stream (Agriculture and Tourism) will eventually consist of three grades (10-12), with an expected 30 students per grade, for a total of 180 students at the campus.

2018 saw the graduation of the first cohort of Agricultural students, with all achieving a 100% pass rate. Of these students eight are now working full time in Phnom Voah, making coconut oil and moringa pills (like a vitamin pill from trees). Four students have been sent to Vietnam to study flower production; ten students are pursuing university level studies in agriculture St Paul's Institute; two students are studying to become secondary school teachers and the remaining four students went onto further education in Phnom Penh.



Photo: Cambodian Minister for Education, Youth and Sport, Dr. Hang Chuon Naron (middle), with Bishop Olivier Schmitthausler (left, with red sash) at the official opening of St Francois Technical High School, 12 January 2019



Students displaying produce and textiles produced at Phnom Voah Agricultural Farm

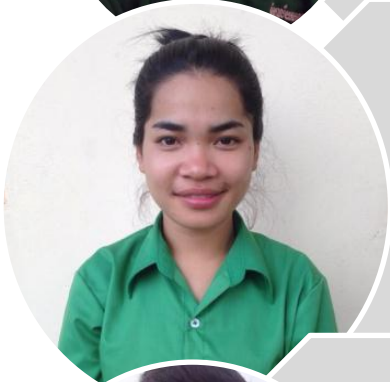


Cambodian Government Certificate of Appreciation received by Catholic Mission's International Programs Manager Mr Lawrence Gigliotti (centre) for assistance in establishing sustainable development programs in partnership with the Catholic Vicariate of Phnom Penh.

Student Stories



Rin (year 10 student) really loves his subjects at the school, and he appreciates that there are enough study materials and teachers who are invested in their students. He studies agriculture so he can find a job and support his family.



Chin (year 11 student), has studied at the school for one year now. She feels that she has learned a lot from the theory and practice units. She and others in her grade feel that with their knowledge and experience they will have good opportunities when they finish their studies.



Nen (year 12 student) feels that, with his three years of studies, he has many new skills. Nen appreciated the opportunity to do practice on the farm. The Bishop, teachers and the school committee have supported him and other students, encouraging them to apply themselves to their studies.

3. Supporting Teachers in Rural Myanmar to Receive Formal Qualifications

Project code: MMPT-1100686



Photo: Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Director Mark Toohy (back row, far left) with PSIE's 2018 student intake.

Since foreign missionaries were expelled from Myanmar (formerly Burma) in 1963, it has been a long road back for the Catholic Church to negotiate Government permission to operate schools. Seeing a need in his country for stronger education, Cardinal Charles Maung Bo S.D.B., Myanmar's first Cardinal, initiated the teacher training program called **Pyinya Sanyae Institute of Education (PSIE)**, which aims to enhance educational opportunities in a country where conflict and unrest has limited such opportunity for decades.

A major focus of Catholic Mission's work over the past three years has been in partnering the Catholic Church in Myanmar in its efforts to return education to the exceptional standards of six decades ago. Your contribution as a Maitland-Newcastle CSO **Teachers Helping Teachers Partner** directly supports these efforts, helping to fund programs such as the PSIE teacher training program. The goal of the PSIE is to train a professional team of teachers who will serve children from disadvantaged and vulnerable backgrounds located in remote areas of Myanmar.

Prospective PSIE trainee teachers are either scouted by the Institute from across the country or nominated by their parish priest to attend the centre. The mix of students includes trained catechists, lay people and religious sisters and novices. The PSIE program consists of four years of training, including a two-year placement in a school environment in a different state. Upon graduation, teachers are posted to schools around the country where they can then positively shape the education of the local children.

The teaching diploma covers 27 subjects, equipping the trainees to teach from years one to eight in the different subjects including extra-curricular formation in anti-trafficking, child protection, art for healing, creative development, environmental education and physical education. The main goals of the project include:

- *Training 30 teachers in child-centred education, who in turn will be posted to at least five locations to teach approximately 900 students.*
- *Developing environmentally conscious trainee teachers, who will become environmental advocates and share this with students.*
- *Providing the trainees with skills to facilitate art for healing and creative development, especially for children who have experienced trauma.*

This project aims to improve the education of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of children in Myanmar. Specifically, these groups include children from:

- *Remote areas;*
- *Families of internally displaced people;*
- *Children living in orphanages run by the Church;*
- *Conflict area; and/or*
- *Highly disadvantaged families vulnerable to human trafficking;*



Pre-diploma students from PSIE, Yangon, Myanmar

Project Update 2018-19

The PSIE teacher training program, which you are directly supporting through your regular contribution as a **Teachers Helping Teachers Partner**, is training aspiring teachers, equipping them with the skills and knowledge so they can bring modern, child-centred education methodologies to areas in need.

In January 2019, PSIE welcomed the eleventh intake of first year trainees (2019) comprised of male and female student teachers. 'The young people in the program develop many skills, whether it be personal or teaching, through the experiences of living together, knowledge of teaching and learning, and practical activities,' says Sr Grace Chai, Director of PSIE. 'The whole program assists them in their professional and personal development, while helping them to grow in their confidence and creativity.'



A welcome ceremony for first year teacher trainees in Yangon, 2019

Sr Grace stated, 'These trainee teachers will be instrumental to improving the quality of education in their various diocesan or community primary schools... They will have better understanding of how the new curriculum is designed and how to implement it as our modules encourage the student-centred approach through practical activities.' Following the teaching placement, the qualified teachers are sent out to a remote community to teach in the new Catholic schools such as St John's School in Hakha (see Case Study p. 19), or to supplement the government schools.



PSIE diploma students workshopping together



Teacher placement at the Nazareth Bush School, deep in the forest of Myuangmya, Myanmar.

Case Study – St John’s School – Hakha 2017-19

The opening of St John’s School in Hakha in June 2017 was a momentous occasion; the first non-government school in the northern, mountainous state of Chin. St John’s School is one school now staffed by three teachers who have graduated from the PSIE program which you support as a **Teachers Helping Teachers Partner**. These teachers with other staff, care for over 150 students ranging from Preschool to Year 1.

Feedback from parents of the children attending St John’s is extremely positive; they are confident that their children are receiving quality education and care and can see how their children are enjoying the interactive learning environment. The school’s leadership, including Principal Theresa Htua Swe and Chancellor of the Hakha Diocese Father Lucas Tha Ling Sum, are hoping to expand each year to provide holistic, child-centred education to more local students through both their primary and secondary education. In the words of Father Lucas, this is truly an “education revolution” in Myanmar, and with your help we have the opportunity today to heal a nation through education by supporting this work through Catholic Mission as a **Teachers Helping Teachers Partner**.



Fr Lucas with a young student at St John's Primary School, Hakha, Myanmar

Your support of this program enables the PSIE teacher training centre to continue to recruit and develop high quality candidates for schools throughout Myanmar, particularly in remote areas. By making a regular contribution through the **Teachers Helping Teachers - Workplace Giving Program**, you are helping to provide the teaching materials, infrastructure and qualified tuition staff to ensure graduates of the PSIE teacher training program are among the most skilled in the country.

For more information on the Teachers Helping Teachers
Workplace Giving Program



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Start making a difference today - it's easy! If you're passionate about helping your fellow teachers, nominate to become a champion and lead the call for help at your school.

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