



NEWS AND VIEWS



SUMMER 2013



Stretching the Aussie dollar

Like I tell people on appeals, "we can stretch the Aussie dollar way beyond its value in Australia," said Columban Fr Robert McCulloch.

In May this year, two newly renovated male wards at St Elizabeth Hospital in Hyderabad, Pakistan were blessed and re-opened.

This is how far \$3,526 Aussie dollars stretched:

- New windows
- New doors
- Total new electric wiring
- Plumbing in both rooms
- Painting

How do we do it?

Having been on the ground for many years now, we know the situation, we know the people, we know the languages and we plan carefully, together.

All this is only ever achieved through the generosity and kindness of our Columban benefactors, for which we say thank you.

Columban Fr Robert McCulloch is the Procurator General for St Columbans Mission Society in Rome and returns to Pakistan several times each year.



ST COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY

What a difference your support makes

The Negros Nine Human Development Foundation, Inc. was set up in the year of the Great Jubilee (2000) to continue the work of total human development started in the dark years of the Marcos dictatorship and in the memory of all those who suffered and died in the course of justice. Their struggle will not be in vain, they will not be forgotten.

With your support, Fr Brian Gore, from the Philippines, a trustee of the Foundation, has been able to establish many projects to assist those who suffer and do not see any hope for the future.

Some of the projects include:

Feeding Program for children who were too hungry to attend school

To combat malnutrition and hunger, the children are given a free lunch from Monday to Friday, 200 days in a school year. The feeding project is now in its second year, and attendance is almost 100%, as children now have the energy to walk to school.

Anti-Human Trafficking

Trafficking in people is nothing new even in the remote areas of Negros. However, what is new is the brisk trafficking of minors. Poverty is the main factor which pushes young people to seek work outside their local area.

One of the tasks of the project, is to engage the relevant government agencies to do their job and to give seminars and forums to all kinds of groups.

Two municipalities have now enacted local ordinances to help combat trafficking in people especially minors. Regular meetings of pertinent government agencies have been organized at the invitation of the Foundation staff member. There is only one full-time worker in this project to date.

For further information visit: www.negrosnine.com

Follow us on



Fr Keith Gorman - 70 years of missionary priesthood

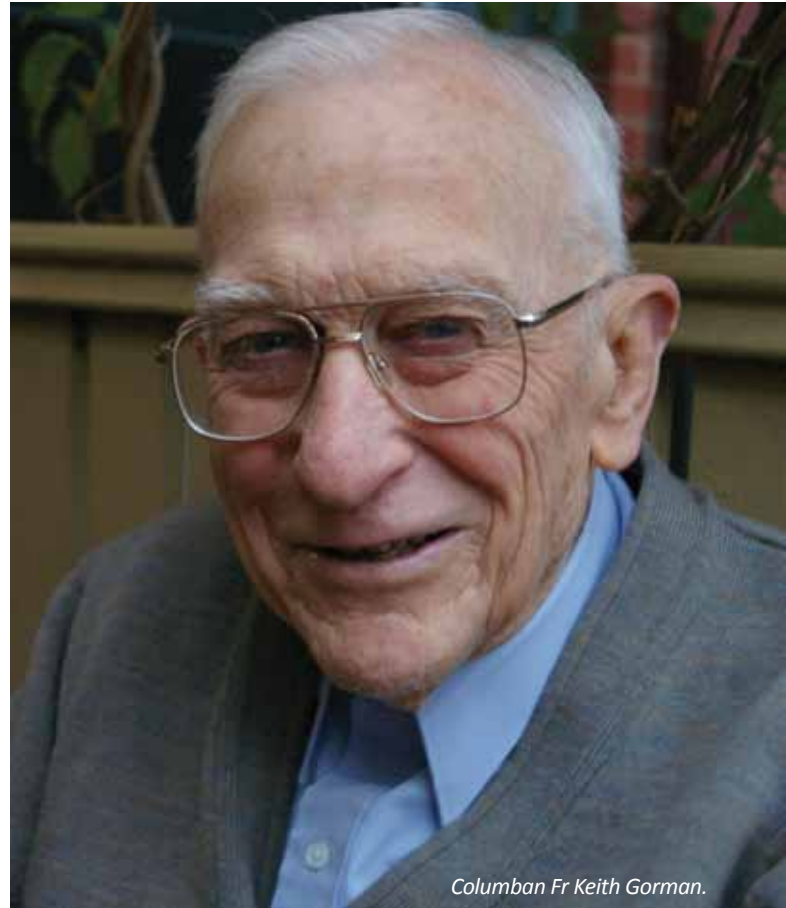
When parish priest of Wakayama, Japan, 65 years ago, Fr Keith Gorman's mode of transport around the parish was a bicycle. These days it is a wheelchair that carries him to the chapel and the dining room of Mercy Place Parkville Aged Care Home in Melbourne.

When in his room and not asleep, he spends a lot of time watching movies, mostly comedies and musicals, on DVDs. His favourite is a Walter Matthau comedy called *Hopscotch* in which Matthau plays a former CIA agent intent on publishing a memoir exposing the inner workings of the CIA and KGB.

Fr Keith enjoys seeing Matthau beating the proud and powerful and getting away with it! What does that say about Fr Keith? He certainly loves a laugh, jokes against himself and the success of underdogs.

Charm is one of his special gifts and has made him much loved wherever he has served. He takes great interest in all his relatives and friends and all those who care for him. Earlier in his life he worked as a chaplain to a retirement home and has reflected much on ageing and the blessings of that time of life.

We give thanks for Fr Keith's many blessings and his fun and joy and faith.



Columban Fr Keith Gorman.

Suicide - a priority for the "Year of Faith"

"What are we doing during the "Year of Faith" has been a question often asked at the level of community and parish and in meetings of the five neighbouring parishes that make up our Northern Zone of the Prelature of Sicuani in the Southern Andes of Peru.



It was not difficult to decide on our first priority, as there has been widespread concern in the region over the increasing number of suicides among youth.

Emotional and family problems are usually the cause, but in the larger cities, there has been an increase in the use of drugs and alcohol among youth and an alarming rise in delinquency and early pregnancies.

Our first aim then was to strengthen our Youth Formation Programme and make the parish a place where the youth would feel welcome - and at home.

We have encouraged many youth to participate in the parish groups and numbers of youth in the groups has doubled this year.

The adults have not been neglected. Pope Francis is continually calling us to go out to the streets and Acts of the Apostles tells us how the first communities met in houses. We are inviting groups of neighbours to meet in nearby houses also to sing, pray and reflect on the Gospel.

We pray that the effects of these activities will last for many "Years of Faith."

Columban Fr Donald Hornsey is a New Zealander and has been a missionary in Peru since 1999.

Columban donors make a difference



The nation of Myanmar (Burma) is a union of seven divisions and seven states, which are the homelands of one of the main indigenous groups (Kachin State being one).

Through the generosity of Columban donors, we have been able, for the last seven years, to construct boarding houses for the education of the children of the thousands of internally displaced Kachins, as well as train teachers and boarding masters.

The security and political situation in Kachin State remains unsure and unresolved. As the conflict drags on, and the refugees, although deeply desiring to return to their villages, still lack courage to do so, due to the presence of landmines and ongoing fierce military skirmishes. Attention needs to turn to medium and long term income generating projects for these students and their parents.

This has already begun with the weavers' project in Edin (Myitkyina), the small scale farming in many of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, and in the construction of the 'Cultural Centre' in the town of Banmaw where young talent artists and musicians try to preserve the Kachin way of life.

I am proud that the Columbans, with our friends, are still walking with the Kachin people in this, their 'dark valley', believing that one day they can rest once again in the green pastures of their native soil.

Columban Fr Patrick Colgan is currently on the Columban General Council in Hong Kong.

Eduardo and Rosa's mission



Eduardo and Rosa Cueto are a married couple in their 40s. This is the story of their mission to the local people and the Pehuenche People, one of Chile's indigenous communities.

Eduardo and Rosa Cueto live in a poor deprived area of Lo Espejo, a suburb of Santiago, Chile. They have two children, both in their early 20s and are active lay leaders in their local Catholic Community - The Pastoral Unit of Jesus of Nazareth.

This parish has a long history of Columban ministry and Rosa and Eduardo have worked alongside many Columban priests and remain good friends with several of them.

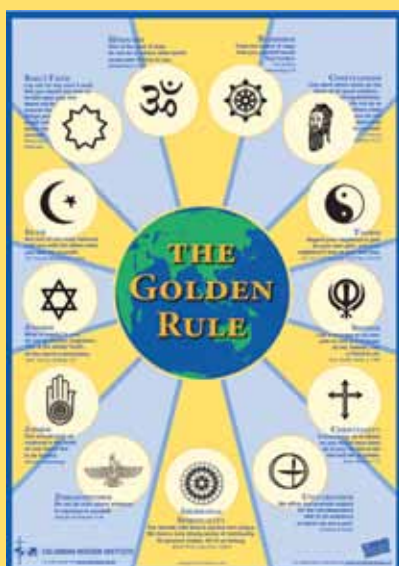
They work only to earn enough money for their basic needs which leaves them time to bring communion to the sick and elderly, to visit a drug rehabilitation centre and to organize the Christian community.

Eduardo and Rosa have made a commitment to live the Gospel message through a simple lifestyle.

Rosa bakes bread to sell locally and Eduardo works part-time. They work only to earn enough money for their basic needs which leaves them time to bring communion to the sick and elderly, to visit a drug rehabilitation centre and to organize the Christian community. It also leaves them time to support the Pehuenche people.

They are true messengers of the Gospel.

"The Golden Rule"



The Golden Rule Poster

- Includes sacred texts of 13 different religions
- Promotes mutual respect and harmony in our multi-religious society
- Provides discussion topics for schools, homes, offices and congregations

The Golden Rule Poster is available in:

A1 (594 X 841mm) - \$11.99
(inc GST + \$7.00 postage)

A4 pack of 25 - \$25.30
(inc GST + \$3.50 postage)

Order at: www.columban.org.au/thegoldenrule
or Ph: (03) 9375 9475

Columban News



Columban meets Pope

When Cardinal Tauran presented the newly-elected Pope to the world on the 13th March, 2013, Pope Francis explained his origins as follows: "You know that the work of the conclave is to give a bishop to Rome. It seems as if my brother cardinals went to find him from the end of the earth."

Some months later the same Cardinal Tauran invited me to Rome as one of 10 delegates from the Catholic world to take part in a meeting of the 'Islamic-Catholic Liaison Committee' in June.

The Liaison Committee members and the international Catholic and Muslim delegates were given the

privilege of a meeting with the Holy Father. It was a clear sign of the Pope's commitment to and support of interreligious dialogue.



When it came to my turn, Cardinal Tauran introduced me to the Holy Father as a Columban priest from Australia. I said to Pope Francis, "Your Holiness, I too have come to Rome from the end of the earth!" At this, the Pope burst out laughing and said, "Yes, but from the other part!"

I feel enormously privileged to have shared a laugh with the Pope. Filling the shoes of the fisherman is an awesome responsibility. Hopefully, our brief but humorous encounter had lightened his day.

Columban Fr Patrick McNerney is the Coordinator of the Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations, Strathfield, NSW.

A gift for Christmas

- The Far East magazine (12 mths sub)
- 2014 Columban Art Calendar

Cost: \$22 inc postage (a gift card will accompany the gift pack)



ST COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY
PO Box 752 Niddrie Victoria Australia 3042
TFE @columban.org.au

YOUR DETAILS:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ P/Code: _____

 Email: _____

RECIPIENTS DETAILS:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ P/Code: _____

 Email: _____

CHRISTMAS GIFT (\$22 inc postage) \$ _____

GIFT TO COLUMBAN MISSION \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please accept my: ☐ Credit Card (Fill in details below) ☐ Money Order ☐ Cheque

Please debit my ☐ **VISA** ☐ **MASTERCARD**

NAME ON CARD (PLEASE PRINT)

EXPIRY DATE

SIGNATURE