

MISSION-ACTION

FATHER-MENARD FOUNDATION

Vol. 30/n°1 – Easter 2010

Easter...

Together towards the future

(Photo : Eva, an 8 year old child enjoying clean drinking water)

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Escuela de Vida (school of life)

Situated in the heart of Lima, capital of Peru, Escuela de Vida is a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts. Thanks to its program of rehabilitation, it allows young 18 year olds and older to become drug free and recover their self esteem, their dignity and discover a new set of human, social and spiritual values.

This humanitarian centre, non profit, saw the day in 1988 and owes its existence to a nun, Sister Anna Maria Cuoghi Losi (Madre Emma), who has devoted her life tirelessly to the most underprivileged for the last 40 years in Peru.

This rehabilitation program, lasting 12 months, is supervised by a team of professionals : doctors, lawyers, psychologists, nurses, social workers.

Escuela de Vida has the following objectives :

- Help the resident become aware of his situation and willing to accept the help that is being offered.
- Obtain, through an educative and formative program, a change of values leading to the integration of the individual, in order to establish a life project according to his needs as well as his family's.
- Prepare the individual to face life in a way that he may assume his personal, family and social responsibilities.

This Escuela de Vida program is offered to any person who is on drugs and who wants our help, regardless of his social or financial situation, his schooling, his profession...

The management of this centre comprises a committee made up of many members from different religious communities in Peru. This centre cannot count on any help from the government, and therefore has been suffering from an important lack of funding for many years.

This is why we ought to sincerely thank the Father-Menard Foundation for its financial collaboration that we consider providential. It will allow us in 2010 to realize important renovations of our installations that have singularly deteriorated in time. These works will have a considerable positive impact on the residents of this centre.

In the name of the management, the personnel and of the sixty residents of Escuela de Vida, once again, MANY THANKS to the Father-Menard Foundation for this financial help.

Gille Sénéchal
Volunteer from Quebec for Peru

(Photo 1- Residents of Escuela de Vida reproducing the logo of the rehabilitation Centre)

(Photo 2- Mr Sénéchal, seated in the middle, surrounded by residents of the Centre, during phase 1 of the rehabilitation program.)

Brunch 40th anniversary of the Foundation

A benefit brunch including music and colors from Peru will be organized on the 30th of October to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Father-Menard Foundation.

It has been already 40 years that the Father-Menard Foundation exists. To underline this event, the invited speaker will be Father Christian Rodembeourg, Assistant General and Secretary General of the Society of the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles. His talk will be on the book he has just written : *Priez 15 jours avec Père Eusèbe Henri Ménard* (Pray 15 days with Father Eusebe Henri Menard). His book, published by Nouvelle Cité editions will be in bookstores by May 2010.

A High Mass will take place at Marie-Reine-du-Monde (Mary Queen of the World) Cathedral by the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles and a festive brunch will follow the celebration at 12h00 at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel.

All profits of this event will go to the humanitarian Works of the Foundation.

Father Menard used to say...

We are presenting the last installment of a series of three excerpts of the conference given by Father Menard on the 28th of September 1980, titled : "Bloom wherever you have been sown".

Tonight, especially, I would like each one of you to forgive whoever has offended you. Forgive entirely and you will see that you will be rid of a heavy weight. Forgive! Love! If someone does not love you, love him anyway. This is another reason to love him. The Lord has said : if you love those who love you, what do you do more than the pagans, those who do not have the faith? Love your enemies. Do good to those who persecute you and slander you. This is how you will be children of God. Forgive! Love!

Let us remember how rich we are. All that belongs to Jesus belongs to you, and all that is yours is His. Everything He does, so do you. And don't say that your life makes no sense. What is lacking is perhaps some light, or that you have never understood the deep meaning of your life. You cannot know it without contemplating the one who is the life : Jesus. *"I am the Life"*.

Your life is His life, and His life is yours. What He is doing, so are you, and what you are doing, so does He. What a wonderful life you are having. If you could realize it some day with an act of faith. And quit thinking about the negative aspect of your existence, at your aging body, at the wrinkles that are showing, etc. Stop thinking about it and think rather that when the last moment of your life arrives, the moment of

your death is the most beautiful moment of your life. That is when you will experience the greatest moments of joy. You will be falling into the arms of He who is Love. *"Fear not, I am with you"* says Jesus. Our love is His love, and His love is our love. His life is our life; His prayer is our prayer; His apostolate is our apostolate; His riches are our riches; His sufferings are our sufferings; His death is our death; His resurrection is our resurrection; His ascension is our ascension; His happiness is our happiness and His joy is our joy.

Thanks for having come in such great numbers. I hope that you all leave this place very happy. Each day, I get the feeling that I haven't done much. All I do is celebrate the Eucharist. You are with me as well as your intentions, even those that were not expressed. You are present with the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles. We thank you for all the spiritual and material help you bring us.

I would like to leave you with the words of Saint Vincent-de-Paul : *"When it is a question of love, we must love by the sweat of our brow and with the strength of our limbs."*

Transcript : Pat di Stasio

(Photo : Dancers of the "Ballet Raices de Columbia")

Another Water Project comes to life

2009 was an amazing year for HOTC as our service to humanity reached the remote Matsigenka village of Tayakome, in the Manu Rain Forest Biosphere Reserve, in the Peruvian Amazon. On December 18, 2009, clean, safe drinking water flowed directly to the homes of the children and families, the village school, and the medical post in the village. This achievement is monumental in the 47 year history of this remote Matsigenka community that had all but been forgotten by governmental social services.

The people of Tayakome in partnership with HOTC have built a low tech gravity flow water system, with slow sand filters to purify the water supply, a tap stand with an underground greywater drain at each home, and a utility sink at the village schoolhouse.

To build the infrastructure over 150,000 kg of quality construction materials; cement, PVC tubes, geo-membrane filtration tanks, rock, sand, etc, was transported from Cusco eight hour by off road land travel, and then 3 days in our river boats to Tayakome. Upon arriving at Tayakome, the materials had to be then unloaded from the boats, and carried on the backs of the people up a 75 foot cliff embankment to the community. The work did not stop there! Staff and community members then carried the materials to designated locations throughout the 3.5 km water distribution line. It was labor intensive and physically challenging for all. Building in the intense tropical heat, torrential rain and mud were the challenges we faced, and collectively surpassed.

Through the entire six month building process, the people and the dedication of HOTC's experienced staff, led by our project supervisor Caleb Matos Chaves, rose above each obstacle they encountered. All of us at HOTC learned greater patience, respect and surrender to the elements of nature and her people. The children were active participants, always filled with curiosity, and the women participated by carrying tubes, and bags rock and sand on their backs throughout the village for the betterment of the lives of their children.

When the flow of water reached the furthest sector of the community with full pressure, the people became believers once again, in mankind! Up until that point years of failed social programming and broken promises had left them somewhat disillusioned, It was on Dec 18th the people experienced that through their own effort and hard work, they completed a goal, and that they themselves were creating a

better world for their children. It was beautiful for HOTC staff to experience the renewed hope of the people return, as well as, kids drinking safe water directly from the tap!

Our work continues in Tayakome, as clean water is only the first step to long term health advances for the people. HOTC will continue to technically train the village water committee in water system maintenance and repair, and reinforce basic health practices in partnership with the health post and school teachers over three years. Construction of an eco-friendly bathroom facility with flush latrines and septic system for the schoolhouse will begin April 2010. The successes of our pilot programming in Huacaria, has taught us that it is the alchemy of clean water, sanitation infrastructure, and culturally appropriate health education over time, that truly advances the lives of children and people.

Nancy Santullo
Executive Director
House of the Children

(Photo 1 : Children carried 5 meter PVC tube to work area throughout the distribution line)

(Photo 2 : Carrying rocks for construction up th 75ft embankment)

A Soup Kitchen for underprivileged children

While one fifth of the world population possesses 86% of all the riches of our planet, three billion men and women live with less than 2 dollars a day. One billion are suffering from malnutrition, 13 million children a year (36 000 a day) die of hunger and 230 million children under five years of age have a serious lack of basics in their food diet bringing on a delay in growth (physical and intellectual) as well as a deficiency in their immune system. While there are those living in affluence, others do not have access to an education, health care, drinking water and to an adequate and well-balanced diet. In such a situation, how much longer will we be able to hold back the anger of the weak?

Anyone who visits the city of Lima, or travels in the countryside, is saddened to see the streets and roads filled with beggars and three or four children in tow, dressed in rags, bothering passersby with their outstretched hands. These mothers, rather than working to earn an honest living, are obliged to spend their time pacing up and down, begging for their defenseless children who, as they grow, can become thieves resulting from unemployment.

We believe that everyone agrees that this phenomenal number of children hanging from the arms, back and at the heels of their mothers, and sometimes of their fathers, show the growing need of these persons and constitute a very great responsibility. But our intention is far from staying focused only on beggars. Our *Comedor* Saint Martin de Porres exists on a much wider scale and continues to look after all children of a certain age whose parents are also unable to feed them without excluding those who ask for handouts on the streets. The setting up of our *Comedor* , soup kitchen, allows us to put an end to a horrible practice of women, all too frequent in our society, that of killing those who are illegitimate. They sacrifice them using rat poison, it seems, to avoid supplementary expenses and hiding in this manner their guilt. Our *Comedor* adds on other advantages : for example, the reintegration of many children into schools.

We contribute through our food service to put smiles on the faces of pre-school children. At the beginning of school year 2009, 80 children took advantage of our community services. The economic difficulties of families, the poverty and problems related to overpopulation of living accommodations are as many factors that risk hindering the climate that the youngsters need in order to find the peace and quiet to study well. There are also other factors less immediate. For example, the fact of seeing that the parents

are not able to improve their living conditions can lead the children to believe that they also will not succeed.

Our *Comedor* recommends the necessity of fighting against failure in school by having a better diet, giving these children the possibility of a better future. The Father-Menard Foundation of Canada, thanks to your donations, brings us help and encouragement to continue this struggle. Please continue to support this Foundation for we need you to pay the salaries of the cooks, to buy the food and help the children in receiving a lasting education. Let us not forget that an empty stomach has no ears!

It is by educating our children that we are able to build a country! Many thanks for the generosity you bring to all these children by offering them the possibility of a future by means of a sound diet and an education. "For I was hungry and you gave me food" (Mt)

Father Jean Braconin Kasiama Eleb, M.S.A.
Pastor of Immaculate-Conception Parish
Director General of Hogar San Pedro

(photo 1- Children during lunch at the Comedor of Saint-Martin-de-Porres)

Knitting Grandmothers

Knitting grandmothers would be more than happy to receive your surplus of wool : all colors, all dimensions, work unfinished. With your treasures, they will knit warm clothes for the whole family (scarves, socks, bonnets, sweaters, blankets...) as well as toys for the little ones. They will then be sent to wherever the needs are greatest.

For more information, please get in touch with Mrs Hélène Marceau at 514-525-0574 or by email at helene.marceau072@sympatico.ca

(Photo – Children with toys made by the Knitting grandmothers).

(Photo last page– Young men cleaning the new sanitary installations in Tayakome)

IMPORTANT : Please complete the following coupon in order to update your file and allow us to send you a receipt. Thank you.

YES, I want to support the Father-Menard Foundation's projects

Please advise us if you wish to sponsor one of the projects mentioned in this communiqué :

Escuela de Vida

Project Comedor

Humanitarian projects

Project C.A.L.

Project of water and hygiene in Tayakome

Evangelical Works

This is my contribution of :

10\$ 25\$ 50\$ 75\$ 100\$ 200\$ 500\$ Other _____ \$

By cheque or money order to : **Father-Menard Foundation**

VISA

Name of the cardholder : _____

MASTER CARD

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature : _____

Name : Mr Mrs Miss _____

Address : _____

City : _____ Postal code : _____

Phone Number : Home _____ Work : _____

An income tax receipt will be sent for any amount of 10\$ and more.

MONTHLY DONATION : AUTHORIZATION

I authorize the Father-Menard Foundation to remove from my bank account or credit card the amount indicated below. I may modify the amount of this contribution or put an end to the present understanding at any time by communicating with the Father-Menard Foundation.

10\$ 15\$ 25\$ 50\$ Other :\$

I want this amount taken on the 1st or the 15th of each month beginning 20...,

from my bank account. I am including a cheque specimen upon which I have written VOID.

from my credit card : VISA MASTER CARD

Name of card _____

Date of expiry : _____

Signature required

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