

Reaching Out

St Francis Xavier Beaconsfield, St Joseph's Geelong, St Kevin's Toorak, St Patrick's Ballarat, St Patrick's Launceston, St Patrick's Strathfield, and St Virgil's Hobart

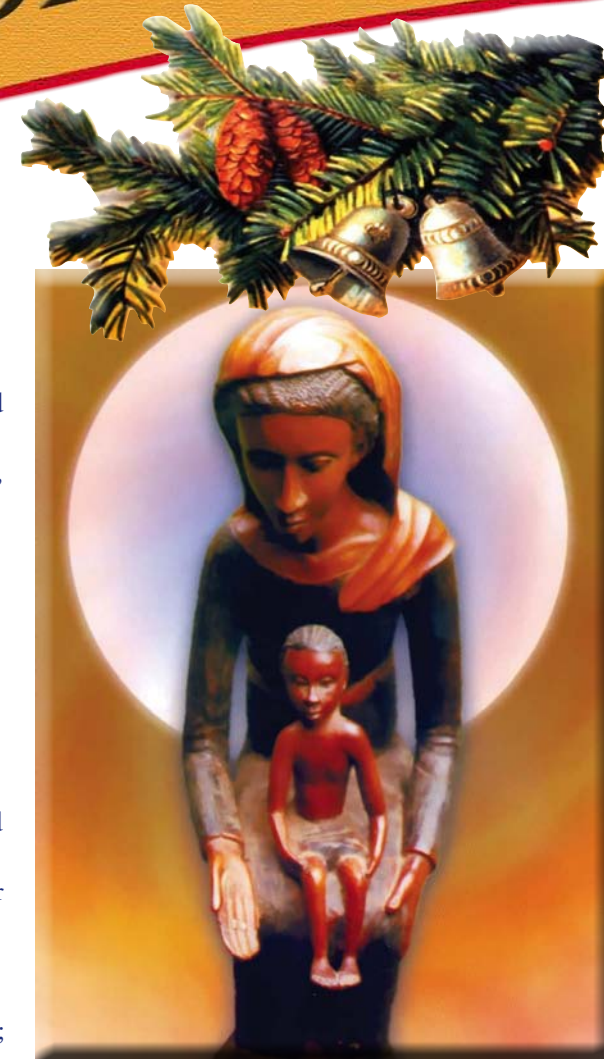
In recent weeks, Br Gerard Ellul has sent an African budget list of local communities' projects for 2011 of \$500,000. Key ongoing development activities in 2011 include the Ruben Centre and Br Beausang School at Embulbul. We are seeking your support for these projects in particular.

As you know, African and Oceania projects are dependent on the continuing generosity and care of our supporters and we are again seeking your assistance to respond generously to the needs of the poor and to work in partnership with them to alleviate poverty and create new opportunities and hope.

There will be some changes in 2011– the wonderful Br Barry Callan will retire from the Ruben Centre in December and Br Frank O'Shea will take up the position as Director. In his years at Ruben Centre, Barry has always been a remarkable friend to the Mukuru slum communities. He has been a calm and tireless worker, and an inspirational support to staff, students and the Mukuru community. We wish to acknowledge his goodness and his dedication and wish him well in his next endeavour, and to also welcome Frank O'Shea.

We wish you all the peace and joy of Christmas and a new year that unfolds with every loving gift. Thank you again for your care and support.

From the Foundation Staff.



*Wishing you all
joy and peace and hope*

*this Christmas
and in the New Year*



Christmas Appeal 2010

Dear Friends and supporters,

The Foundation Board, Trustees and staff would like again to express our warm regard, and deep appreciation, for the countless acts of care and heartfelt generosity of our many Australian donors, big and small, across the year.

Without your support, many of the important and valued projects in Africa and Oceania would simply not continue or even get underway. So, we would like to thank each and every one of you for your support during 2010. Whether attending our African Conversations; responding to Reaching Out; coming along to the 500 Supporters' Group lunches; the Rostrevor Old Boys Association; The Terrace Timor Network (TTN); Nudgee College Supporters the St Francis Xavier School community or the Zimele Foundation – thank you for that and for the many ways you reach out in support of the Foundation's work.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank our EREA and supporter schools for their help in 2010.

Contributing schools included Aquinas Perth, Aquinas Ringwood, Rostrevor, Adelaide, CBC Fremantle, CBC St Kilda, Parade Bundoora, St Bernard's Essendon, St Brendan-Shaw Devonport, St Joseph's, Gregory Terrace, St Patrick's, Launceston, St Laurence's, South Brisbane, St Edmund's Canberra,



Mums and babies waiting for vaccinations at Ruben Medical Clinic

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Please consider putting a link to our site on your website. Similarly, we will link to your website. If you need help with this, please email us at info@erf.org.au

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**Please make cheques payable to
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All Donations are tax deductible.**

Barry Callan
No Brass Bands

There is no Fijian brass band in Ruben – only plenty of bells and whistles. Barry Callan has orchestrated a thriving primary school, modern clinic and amenities.

Ruben and surrounds is his patch. With toweling hat, favourite shirt, beard, smile and greeting along with the big hand shake, he walks where angels fear to tread or drives an underpowered Subaru where guardian angels are needed.

This man of the people stood toe to toe when the job needed to be done, with no drama or judgement, just helping people grow if they had a good heart – or go if not. Teachers, nurses, children, youth and families have survived and thrived on his watch.

Now he has been called back to sort out a bigger problem – his beloved Geelong FC.

The Ruben supporters are so grateful for Barry's wisdom and committment and proud to have been represented by this great but humble man.

– Dr Daniel Doyle



Above: Br Barry Callan and police at the Ruben Police Post, donated by the Congregation of Christian Buthers in 2001, and situated just inside the Mukuru slum and adjacent to Ruben Centre

Below: Two children contemplate future housing opportunities a few hundred metres from Ruben Centre

Top right: Incoming Manager, Br Frank O'Shea, with mother and child visiting the Ruben Medical Clinic

Bottom right: Assembled students at Ruben Primary School

Unglamorous Dedication

I recently rediscovered a letter written to me by Barry Callan earlier this year thanking me for a small donation passed on to him by a visitor to Nairobi. As a visitor to Africa on two occasions, I have become aware of the work that Barry has undertaken and the efficiency with which his ministry is conducted. The Ruben Centre has thrived under this care.

A walk in the surrounding neighbourhood, highlights the importance of the dignity — in terms of education, health care and community outreach — offered to those who access the Ruben Centre. The work Barry has diligently undertaken over many years, like so many working in Africa, is far from glamorous. Barry has forged many productive partnerships with the Australian High Commission and others in order to improve the lives of those in the surrounding district.

As the principal of St Joseph's College, our community is proud to claim Barry as an old collegian. He is a fine example of one who has lived a life which has embraced the values of the Gospel. The fact that he finds time to thank others for assisting him, highlights the value he places on human relationships and helps explain why he has been able to positively influence the lives of so many others.

– Paul Tobias: Principal, St Joseph's College, Geelong



neighbors who have brought their HIV+ child for a health check and food supplements with the Lea Toto program. Finally before leaving the Centre, she visits the Police station to see if there is any progress with the investigation into the robbery that occurred at her house the previous night.

– A Centre for life-giving services for those most needing them. 2010

Slum treasure

I left Sudan at the end of June bowed, broken, bruised, bloodied and brought low by my failure to connect with the Zande people there.

As I reflect on the experience I recall other ‘b word times ‘ in my life, like learning to ride a horse in the 60s and, after falling off, hearing, ‘You’re not dead, so stop making a fuss and get back on!’ That same advice worked again for me this year, when I arrived at Ruben in Nairobi. I simply immersed myself in the experience and immediately felt lifted up and moving effortlessly forward again with everything.

Ruben Centre is the heart of a huge slum in Nairobi and an absolute treasure to hundreds of men, women and children who live there and I quote from the Ruben Strategic Plan.

A keyhole view of Ruben Centre

A Mother enters the Centre and brings her smallest child to the nursery school, the next one to the primary school, before finally delivering the oldest to the Vocation Training Centre. After completing that task, she gets a tooth pulled out, then visits the clinic for a basic health check and, for good measure, gets an HIV test and counseling.

She goes on to seek help from the social worker and then join a group to strengthen her financial capacity with MEDA micro-finance services. Then, this parent checks in on her

To all our Donors
Asante Sana
and Thank You
from the Oceania
and
African Development Projects

