

NewsLetter

■ A Publication of Pro Labore Dei ■

■ December 2012 Edition ■



Dear family, friends, and benefactors of Pro Labore Dei; I greet you all in the name of Our Lord Jesus and congratulate you for successfully making it to the final lap of this year 2012. How kind and gracious God has been for haven kept us thus far; albeit our unworthiness. May His Most Holy Name be forever Praised, Loved, And Adored throughout the world, Amen!

Many had longed to witness this new season of advent, and share in the joy of it, but are no more with us today. We pray for them all, especially the souls of departed relatives of our dear members, and some special clients like my dear son 'Tanimola', who passed on so suddenly on 19th May 2012; may they all rest in perfect peace, Amen!

This December edition of our Newsletter is indeed a joyful one for all of us, as it coincides with our advent preparations, and end of the year special Thanksgiving vigil, held every first Friday in the month of December. The second holds in the mid-part of every year- (every first Friday in June). We pray God to grant us the opportunity to witness it again in 2013.

Since the last edition of our newsletter in March 2012, the Lord has greatly increased our work; and has given us more success stories to share for His glory! May His praise forever resound throughout the earth.

The following are some of the selected stories we wish to share for your reading pleasure.

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS:

- The MLM's and PLD work to assist flood victims in Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria.

The new baby in our midst, the MLM's (Missionaries of Love & Mercy), are doing very well in their journey thus far. Their numbers keep increasing and many youths from our various international branches are seen eagerly signing in for missions with the MLM's and they've been involved in great works of mercy at their various deployment zones.

Recently, the MLM's and some PLD (Pro Labore Dei) members have been working hand in hand with some displaced victims of flood in Asaba Delta State, Nigeria, who lost all their belongings and means of livelihood to the flood. It was such a pitiable sight. We felt the need to give them new hope for the future, to put smiles on their faces again, and to lift the depression from their faces.

Fortunately, our first batch of trainees, about 198 of them, have all received their formal graduation from our skill training school and equipments related to the skills acquired. May God take the Glory for all He has helped us to impact.



Pictures of flood victims at camp

- The Odichies embark on a Post Flood Mission. Some Mother Mary's youths, The Odichies, who wouldn't like to be left out in the whole corporal work of mercy exercise; sought leave to visit some flood affected zones and to render help. The post flood rehabilitation continues till date. We pray God to bless them and uplift the Odichie's spirit everywhere their members exist.

- News From the Chief Coordinator and Her entourage's West coast mission tour

It was a remarkable tour for the chief coordinator and her six man entourage comprising of Barr. (Mrs) Ogo Chibututu, Mr Nwabuzor, Sr Lucy, Msnr Mary Frances, and Msnr Peter. Some of the places visited were cut off from civilization, with no good roads, no basic social amenities, nor portable water: It was resolved that we sink bore holes in those places, establish schools, and build a bridge to unite the people within the affected area to civilization.



Pictures of the Bridge at Togo

- PLD Headquarters takes a New Look!

For the benefit of those who probably haven't been to HQ in a long time, there's now a fountain, with a statue of our Mother Mary carrying her baby Jesus built right into it and waving a welcome sign at the people as they walk right through the gates of the compound.

There's also a new road, with the Stations of the Cross sign posts well positioned to help people make prayers of the way of the cross more solemnly.



New look of Headquarters

- Headquarters regroups members into two categories

At the just concluded members retreat in August, Headquarters regrouped the members into two separate bodies, each with its own distinct mandate and age restrictions, just to make for functionality and efficiency. They are the 'PLD Forerunners' (50 years and below); and the 'PLD Elders' (51 years and above). The PLD forerunners are expected to see to the prompt and timely implementation of all PLD policies and programs, while the PLD elders are to provide guidelines and see to it that the standards of the organization are maintained. These two groups are already functional.

PLD Mode of Greeting
Do you know the PLD greeting? it is simply -
Light Of The World!
(Response) WE SHALL SHINE!!!
Don't be let out, adopt this greeting and extend it to all your PLD brothers and sisters out there.

- Good news! First two PLD children gains admission into the University!
A hearty congratulations to our very dear Ibitola and Chidi for successfully making it into institutions of higher learning, we wish them all the best in their academic pursuits.

- Another PLD family member / friend receive Papal Award!
PLD Ibadan was agog on the 15th of September 2012 during the conferment of the prestigious Papal Award 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice' on one of our very own close associate - Rev Sr Patricia Ebegbulem, SSL. The turnout of PLD members was awesome! May God keep us forever united,



Pictures at Sr Patricia's award ceremony

- Shoprite's visit to PLD Lagos
On the 15th of October 2012, the management of Shoprite, a leading retail store outlet in Nigeria, sent a delegate to visit the children in our PLD Lagos Branch. Interesting donations were made and the kids over and above all were excited to have had the famous Shoprite Stores brought live to their door steps. Some of the children would be doing their private shopping at Shoprite very soon. That way, they get to taste first-hand what other children of the 'rich' enjoy. PLD says a fervent Thank You to Shoprite.



Pictures at shoprite's visit to PLD Lagos

- News from committee for Leppers.
Leprosaria- Eku/abraka, Ossiomo Delta State, Nigeria: - We have 6 children under PLD Educational Scholarship at Ossiomo Leprosarium, and 8 children under PLD Educational Scholarship at Eku Leprosarium.

Leprosaria - Ibusa/agwashi-uku Delta State, Nigeria:- We distributed food items, clothes and dressing materials to the PALS; Supplied water to the Leprosarium; and repaired their Cassava processing machine.

Leprosaria - Ugwuoba Delta State, Nigeria: - 3 more children (2 boys and a girl) were added to our care, bringing the total number of children in our home to 14. Also, 2 of the children are now in a boarding house at St. Theresa's College, Abor. 4 others are at St Paul's College, Eke, Enugu. Feeding is on-going and the clients receive daily dressing of wounds and eye screening.

Leprosarium - Nnewi Delta State Nigeria:- Care of the PALS continues in this settlement, and 2 children of the Pals received scholarship from PLD.

Leprosarium - Iwo, Nigeria:- We supply food items to care for the PALS in this region.

Leprosaria - Iberekodo, Sacred Heart Hospital, Lantoro, Abeokuta:- We delivered wound dressing materials, anti malaria drugs, multi-vitamin capsules, and crutches to this Leprosarium.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL COORDINATORS-

Mary Our Mother Region, Nigeria. (covering Delta and Edo State areas of Nigeria)
The Region feeds an average of 270 clients regularly on the streets. PLD Asaba has about 22 persons in the house, PLD Agbor has 6 inmates, PLD Ogwashi Uku has 6 children, while the Old people's home in Ibusa has 6 clients in it. Some couple of weeks ago, the chief coordinator took some members from the region, alongside the MLM's, to a new flood victims camp in Onitsha- Nigeria, and a total of about 200 mattresses were distributed for free to the displaced persons alongside the skill training initiated at the New Bethel camp, Onitsha. Some of the members of this region had also worked with the Chief Coordinator at the ICA camp Asaba. Also this year, a member of the region - Mrs Josephine Tolefe (PLD Asaba branch) celebrated her 80th birthday! To God be the Glory!



Distribution of mattresses to some flood victims in Onitsha

Mary Mother Of Mercy Region.
The Region comprises of Oyo, Iwo, Lagos, Ibadan, Ikire, Ife, and Osogbo Branch and actively carries out the whole apostolate of Pro Labore Dei. The Region feeds an average of 800 clients regularly in all branches; and has an average of over 30 children in all their branches, including numerous home bound clients. The region also has a government approved school in Lagos and Ibadan. The school has graduated many pupils who have now successfully gain admission into higher institutions of learning. They provide skill trainings for some clients and do hospital visitations, including reaching out to HIV patients. The oldest member in the Region, Mrs Olusanya recently clocked 80! To God be the Glory for the growth of the region.

PLD Branches hits 55!
So far, Pro Labore Dei has 22 branches within Nigeria and 33 other branches outside Nigeria, giving us an overall of 55 branches in all continents of the world!



INTERNATIONAL BRANCHES:
In furtherance to our earlier publication in March 2012, the following branches have had new developments, bringing the total number of PLD International branches to 33!

UGANDA -Kampala



Accommodation Unit: We have two more children being cared for. The two girls lost both parents and were living with their alcoholic grandfather. They have never been to school and were being eaten up by gigger in both hands and feet. They are now enrolled in our school and treated. The number of children in our care is now 13.
Education Unit: We are sponsoring one of the PLD junior secondary education



Health Unit: The children were given immunization against polio and measles. They were also de-wormed and given vitamin A at the school by PLD health team.



PLD JUNIORS UGANDA



MALI – Bamako

- PLD Branch House is now in Kanadjiguila village where our school is also located
- We shall be caring for clients in both the lepers' colony and blind settle in the area.
- We gave medical aid to displaced persons who fled from conflict in the north of Mali to the South

MALAWI – Blantyre



Accommodation Unit:

- Number of children in our house has increased from 5 to 7
- The children were baptized.

Fishing Unit: 10 more clients were fished out increasing the number of client home based to 26.

EUADOR – Guayaquil



- Education Unit: Fund raised to cover sponsorship for 25 children. Each scholarship is worth approximately \$ 200 which includes tuition, boarding school, school supplies and uniforms, including shoes.

- Catechesis in the Sector Ladrillera, we enrolled 94 children and 60 mothers. Some of our Ecuador members in the other branches there were no changes to operation in the course of the month.

BRANCHES

CAMEROON (Bamenda, Kumba & Doula); BENIN (Seme & Cotonu); MALI (Bamako); UGANDA (Kampala); MALAWI (Blantyre); BOSTWANA (Gaborone); RWANDA (Gasavo District); PHILLIPINES (Santa Pablo); CAMBODIA (Phnom Penh, Kudom Mountains, Bantey Manthey); CANADA (Guelph); TOGO (Lome); MEXICO (Mexico City); EUADOR (Guayaquil) ZAMBIA (Kitwe); SIERRA LEONE (Bo, Mattru Jong); KENYA (Nairobi); NEW ZEALAND (Christchurch); USA (Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago, Ogden, Las Vegas, Dolan Springs, Atlanta, Boston); UK (London, Luton)

UNITS OF OPERATION

FEEDING & CLOTHING

We feed either or/both beggars and House bound clients in every branch. (3 to 5 times a week feeding average of 50 clients) Clothes are given out when available to Clients both at home and on the street.



Food preparation in Mali



Feeding on Street of Bamako Mali



Feeding in Philippines



Feeding in Mexico



Feeding in Uganda



Food preparation in Uganda



Feeding in Uganda

HOME VISITATION/CARE

We have clients that we care for in their homes: Mattru Jong (26 Families); Nairobi (10 families with 50 members); Malawi (26 families)

ACCOMODATION UNIT

We provide homes for some clients; mostly children who are either orphans, abandoned or poor with no one to care for them): Uganda (13 children); Bamenda (6 children); Malawi (7 children); Lome (8 children); Bo (18 children); Cotonu (1 child); Cambodia (3 children); Kumba (3 adults and 1 child); Kenya (2 handicap and 1 homeless girl); Ecuador (5 purposely built homes)



Motherless Child now under our care in Seme Benin

EDUCATION

In this unit we are either running a school or sponsoring some of our clients' education.

Schools

Kenya (100 students), Mali (100 students), Zambia (90 students); Ecuador (28 children); Cambodia (252 students); Cotonu (21 Students); Uganda - 230



PLD Cambodia



PLD Uganda



PLD Mali



PLD Zambia Children at Independent parade



PLD Zambia

Sponsorship:

Bamenda (35 Children); Guayaquil (25 children); Doula (3 Children) Kumba (1 Child)

SKILL TRAINING UNIT

We provide some form of skill training in following branches: Uganda (Tailoring); Malawi (Tailoring & baking); Zambia (Tailoring); Ecuador (classes are giving for various skills-tailoring, carpentry, baking etc)

HEALTH UNIT

We offer health care to our street and home based clients in the following branches: Mali; Uganda, Malawi, Togo, Mexico, Sierra Leone (Bo) and Kenya



PLD Uganda Medical team in the street



PLD Mali Medical team treating the refugees

HOSPITAL VISITATION

We visit the poor sick in hospital- pray with them, keep them company and provide some necessities- Uganda, Seme, Bo

BUSINESS FUNDING UNIT

Ecuador: we have provided 3 families with a livelihood via our mini-stores
Mexico: We were able to provide two clients with little amounts to start their own business

PRISON UNIT

We make visits to prisons in some countries (Benin, Mexico, Uganda and Philippines). We provide food, toiletries, nappies etc. (100 prisoners on average helped per visit which is either once a week or month)

COUNSELLING UNIT

With the aid of professional counselors we provide counselling service for our clients in following countries: Mexico and Canada

REHABILITATION UNIT

Some clients come to our premises to use facility such as computer to look for job: Canada

FARMING UNIT

Bo Sierra Leone (Vegetable and Onion); Uganda - Piggery, Maize and Beans; Bamenda Cameroon - Maize

FISHING UNIT

Fishing for more clients is done by all branches

PRAYER UNIT

We run monthly or weekly prayer session. UK (1st Friday Vigil); Seme (Every Thursday); Mali (once a week); Ecuador (Catechism classes once a week); Bo (Catechism classes -108 for Confirmation, 115 for Holy Communion, 85 for Baptism); True-Friends (5 PM every Sunday)

FUND RAISING UNIT

Some form of business run by the branch to generate funds.
Malawi (Tailoring, Knitting, Decoration and Baking); Canada (Occasional garage sales); Togo (sales of Rosary & Sacramental); Sierra Leone Bo (Restaurant, Clothes, Ice Cream, Ice Block/water and Cowby juice); Ecuador - Jumbo sales

PLD YOUTH/JUNIOR (Kampala - 12)



PLD JUNIORS IN KAMPALA UGANDA HELPING WITH FOOD PREPARATION AND GOING FEEDING

SRSTELLA'S REMARKS.

Beloved In Christ, As the year gradually comes to an end, and a new year steadily unfolds, I encourage you to continue to do your best, seeking always to do the will of God in all things and living only for His Glory.

Everything you need for a successful mission in your various branches already lies within you. Look beyond where you are right now and see new possibilities for the future. If in any way you may have failed, you have 'today' to rise and begin again.

Matthew 25 v 31- 46 reminds us of what The Lord expects of us, His words has not changed, and would never change. The passage recount -"when I was hungry, you fed me, when I was thirsty you gave me to drink, imprisoned you visited me, naked you clothed me, etc... come and enter into the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world". And to those who failed to do all these; He banished from His presence.

It is my prayer that you spend every moment of your life on earth preparing for that eternal banquet of the lamb.

We have all by virtue of our baptism and our call to serve Him in Pro Labore Dei received an invitation to his wedding feast, all that remains now is for us to make ourselves available without excuses, and make sure we have our wedding garments intact. As Scripture says, 'eyes have not seen, nor has it entered the mind

of man, what God has prepared for those who love Him'. I pray none of us will be lost on the last day, through Christ our Lord.

Xmas Greetings

As we celebrate the birthday of Christ, let us rejoice in the birth of our Lord, our God and the spouse of virgins. Let us bring joy to others especially the down trodden, and the marginalized. Through us, may the birth of Christ have meaning in their lives, and may the coming of Christ draw nearer in our lives till its fullness is revealed. Amen!

Merry Christmas and Happy year 2013 in advance!



For enquiries, please visit us on www.prolaboredei.org

