

Floods in Africa

This school session has got off to a busy start. New school buildings are appearing all over the country and old buildings are reduced to rubble. Moving to a new building can be very exciting but is a stressful experience for the teachers involved.

Despite this many school have not forgotten the needs of the poor. Schools are sending in their donations and just In time. Africa has suffered terrible flooding from Ghana right across to Uganda. The floods have destroyed the crops people grow just to feed their families. Many children are going hungry. Thanks to all of you who have helped out. Remember you can send in your cheque at any time. We can send someone out (usually me) to collect the 'big cheque' for photographs whenever it suits you.



Flooding has also made it difficult to get aid to remote communities



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Holy Father's Praise For Our Children

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His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, has paid tribute to Missionary Children. Speaking from the Vatican on JAN. 6, 2008 he expressed his gratitude for the work of Missionary Children, and encouraged them to continue assisting others with a spirit of generosity and faith.

The Pope said this today, World Day of Missionary Childhood, which the Church celebrates on the solemnity of the Epiphany. After praying the Angelus together with those gathered in St. Peter's Square, the Holy Father said: "For more than 160 years, through the initiative of the French bishop Charles de Forbin Janson, the childhood of Jesus has become the icon for the commitment of Christian children who help the Church in her task of evangelization by prayer, sacrifice and gestures of solidarity.

"Thousands of children meet the needs of other children, driven by the love that the Son of God, become a child, brought to the earth. I say thanks to these little ones and I pray that they will always be missionaries.

"I also thank those who assist them, who accompany them along the road of generosity, of fraternity, of joyous faith that generates hope."



Missionary Day of Prayer in Czech Republic

Missionary Children is a worldwide organisation. Because millions of children are involved we are able to achieve so much. This year I was invited to join with the Missionary Children of the Czech Republic in their day of prayer on Saturday 6th October.

This was a 'Mission Congress' and was nothing like our day of prayer. Children from all over the country began to arrive at the cathedral in Brno early in the morning. Many had travelled long distances. I had been on a bus from Prague at five in the morning.

The cathedral had been re-organised to cope with the 2000 children attending. There were plasma screens in place to relay everything to all parts of the cathedral. The event was hosted by a young lady TV presenter and a schoolboy. Ant and Dec had nothing on them.

The children were organised into five groups and each one was given a 'mission passport'. The groups were then led out to one of five nearby churches, each representing a continent. Once there the children enjoyed activities and games related to the continent.

They tried archery, milked a 'goat', played games and produced art and craft work. After a while they entered the church for a 'message' and then moved to the next continent. One message involved a Native American Indian attack on the church. This was fun.

The day ended with mass in the cathedral. The liturgy was alive with music and drama. I hope to get the video of the day before the summer break. The website will have clips of the action.

Is there a need for this sort of event in Scotland? Let me have your views. E-mail me at joseph.mcgrath@missioscotland.org.uk



The Cathedral



The children arrive



All captured on video



Indian raid



The choir



The Nuncio tries archery



The tepee

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