



# For We Are God's Helpers

*Share your gifts, live your faith, change the world ... and let the world change you.*

## You Educate Second-Chance Girls in PNG

My name is Josephine. I am 25 years old, and I am a student in grade 12 at Caritas Technical Secondary School in PNG. Every day, my mother accompanies me as I walk from my village to the main road where I wait for the vehicle to pick me up and I ride for about 30 minutes to get to school. I am the oldest daughter and I live with my parents. My younger sister is now married and has a child. She chose not to continue her studies.

I started my education when I was five years old at a public school in my village. Because education is very important in order to succeed in a career, I chose to continue my studies no matter what got in my way.

One of the biggest things that got in my way was the issue of school fees. Some years my parents did not have enough money to pay my project fees (school fees). This meant I would have to stay home and help out with chores until the next school year. Also, when I finished grade 10 and sat for the National Exam, my score was not high enough for me to be allowed to continue to grade 11. So once again I had to stay home, but I really wanted to continue my studies.

I then heard that in the town of Kimbe, Korean sisters had built a private school for girls and were willing to give girls who did not score high enough on the National Exam, like me, a second chance to study grade 10. They called this special second chance grade Pre-11 to distinguish us from the grade 10 students who will sit for the National Exam this year. We are not allowed to sit for the exam a second time. The Sisters allowed my parents to make monthly payments of my tuition and that gave me



**Lay Mission-Helper Maria Luisa Garcia (left) with her student Josephine at Caritas Technical Secondary in PNG.**

the opportunity to continue my studies.

Now I am about to complete my secondary studies (high school) this year. My plan for my future is to become somebody (*a term used in PNG to indicate a person who is successful in their career*) and my dream is to become a teacher. I also would like to have the experience to study in another country, if I can get a scholarship, and better my career. I am grateful to the Caritas Sisters for building this school, and teachers like Maria Luisa, that help us to continue our studies and be success women.

Bless you for sending missionaries like Maria Luisa to teach students like Josephine, and give them a second chance at finishing their education.

# Growing Up in Mission

Quinn Johnson was nine when his family left for Kumbo, Cameroon, to serve as Lay Mission-Helpers.

Quinn, now 20, remembers playing with neighborhood kids, building forts out of clay bricks, and walking to the market to get meat for supper.

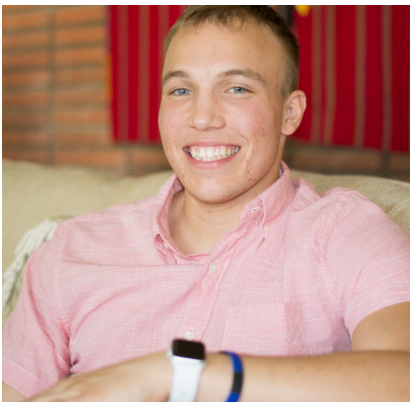
"I know my parents were moved by faith to go on mission," he says. "It was not about converting people. Faith was there. Cameroonians have a strong faith. In fact, I remember that one Easter Mass lasted seven hours!"

Quinn loved living in another culture and participating in their traditions. "Every Christmas, Cameroonian families go to a tailor and make matching outfits, so our family did too. It was fun to have shirts that all matched!"

Now a college junior at Southeast Missouri State University, he is aware that living overseas has given him a compassionate worldview.

"The experience really shaped who I am today," he says.

When you, our supporters, send families overseas, it doesn't just impact the parents, it forms a child's faith and worldview.



**Quinn Johnson and his family served as Lay Mission-Helpers in Cameroon.**



**When Rachel Sybor, Class of 2006, married Aaron Graham this past March, she asked fellow LMHer Deacon David Suley, Class of 1974, to perform the ceremony. Rachel and Deacon David met through serving on the LMH Board of Directors.**

## To Save a Baby in Cameroon

"Christina didn't want to have an abortion, so when she heard us on the radio, she called in," says Joy Newburn, a Lay Mission-Helper who served with her family in Cameroon from 2012-2015. While in mission, Joy was part of a radio show called Catholic Mums. On one show, a pro-life missionary gave out her private phone number and said that any woman considering abortion could call for help.

"Christina was in an abusive relationship, already had one child and felt like she didn't have an option," says Joy. "In Cameroon, it is only \$100 to have a baby -- to save a baby. We easily gathered the money together for Christina. I even offered her a part-time job with us, washing dishes and doing laundry."

Christina carried her baby to term, a healthy boy she named Noah. She continued to do small jobs for the Newburns after Noah was born, and she and Joy became friends. "When I said goodbye to her, she said she was determined to help empower women," Joy says.

Last year, a friend of Christina's found Joy on Facebook and told her that Christina now owns a small business and is sharing her testimony with women who are thinking about having an abortion.

Joy says she is humbled by the experience. "After serving in mission, you wonder, 'Did I make a difference? Did I do God's work?'" she says. "Even if that was the only thing I was a part of during my three years in Cameroon, it is enough. It's pretty amazing to be part of that story." The child was saved because our partners send missionaries overseas to care for God's children.



**Jessica Newburn, daughter of Joy, holds baby Noah in Cameroon.**

# Education in Papua New Guinea: A Student's Journey

By Maria Luisa Garcia, serving as a teacher in Papua New Guinea

Education is extremely valued in Papua New Guinea, but the system is very different than the United States. Although the government states that education is "Free for all," this is not true. Some fees are required. If a student cannot pay her fees, she is suspended until she can. After three months of being suspended, students are dropped from school.

These additional costs make it difficult for some parents to send their children to school, especially when most barely earn enough to provide the basic essentials for their families. Sending children to school is a great sacrifice for the entire family. Often aunts, uncles, and older siblings help to pay for younger family members' school fees, uniforms, and supplies. Thus, students feel responsible to perform well in school.

Another interesting aspect of the PNG educational system is that high school grades, called "internal marks," are kept on file by the Board of Education and used to determine future acceptance into a university. Universities here do not require an entrance exam like in the U.S. Acceptance is based on an essay they are asked to write, their "internal marks," and their National Exam scores. Students are advised to take their schoolwork seriously as all grades will follow them up to applying for university.

Unlike in the U.S., here if students fail their National Exams, they are barred from continuing on to the next grade level. Consequently, there are many students, mostly girls, who will stop their studies at Grade 8 or Grade 10, and return to live out their lives in their village. Many end up getting married and having children with little hope of fulfilling their career goals.

It is not uncommon to see students of all ages in high school. This year,

the youngest student in my Grade 12 class is 21 and the oldest is 29. I still have much to learn about education in PNG, but it has become clear that education is key to a brighter future for all. I have also come to appreciate our U.S. education system and thank God for what we have back home.



**Maria Luisa and some of her students in PNG.**

Maria Luisa's experience is not unique. It is common in many of the countries where Lay Mission-Helpers serve. Your support helps send quality teachers overseas to provide a good education.

*Making a  
difference*



**Ancilla (left) and her son, remembers being taught by LMH'ers Robert Furlong, and Terry and Doris Quinn, over 30 years ago.**

*"Ever wonder if you've made a difference?"*

While walking through the market in Kimbe, Papua New Guinea, this past June, I was introduced to the mother of a student of one of our current LMH'ers, Danita Kurtz. The mother, Ancilla, asked me if I knew Robert Furlong, and Terry and Doris Quinn, who all served as Lay Mission-Helpers in the 1980s. She was so excited when I said yes. She was their student 30+ years ago. They had a significant impact on her life that she remembers to this day."

-- Janice England, LMH Director

# Celebrating 65 years

## Lay Mission-Helpers' remarkable history

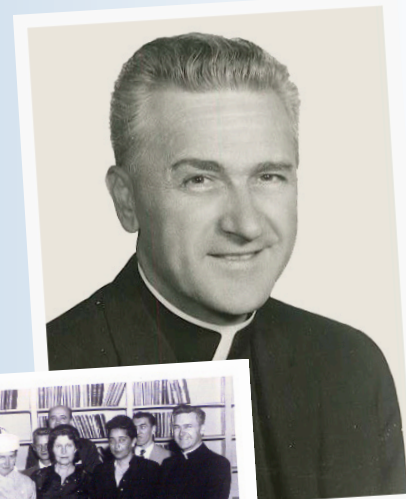
Next year marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lay Mission-Helpers Association, and because you support us, you impact the lives of people in mission dioceses around the globe every day. We are excited to share stories from the mission field, and from our remarkable history, that are made possible through your partnership.

It is the privilege of a priest to celebrate the Eucharist, catechize, preach the Word of God, hear confessions, and celebrate the Sacraments. But in 1954, when Msgr. Anthony Brouwers visited Africa, he witnessed priests burdened with other duties — providing nursing care, laying bricks, pulling teeth and repairing engines.

Msgr. Brouwers was so moved with concern that he decided to do something about it. He had an inspiration: Why not let lay people engage in mission work? Not only could they bring the Good News of Jesus to others, but they could contribute their skills as well. So he founded the national organization Lay Mission-Helpers Association in Los Angeles.

Since then, Lay Mission-Helpers has served in 36 countries around the world. Nurses, teachers, administrators, engineers, computer technicians, accountants — just about every profession imaginable — use their skills to help our brothers and sisters in overseas mission dioceses, which have very limited resources. Single people, couples and families not only offer their professional services, but bear witness to their Catholic faith. It is a rich exchange in which the missionaries both give to and receive from the people whom they serve.

Throughout the coming year, we will have opportunities for you to join us in celebrating, including at our Jubilee 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on Oct. 3, 2020. Thank you for being our partners in mission!



**Pictured: Msgr. Anthony Brouwers (top); the LMH Class of 1957; Diane Yonga serving in Ghana; Matt Kadavy with Bishop Callist Rubaramira in Uganda; Danita Kurtz serving in PNG; Karen Hunka serving in Ghana (bottom, far left); Doris Quinn, Class of 1983, served in PNG (bottom, near left).**