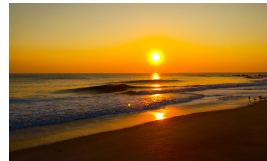


IN THIS RELEASE

- From the Exec Director
- Water for Flores, Timor
- Mission Hall of Fame
- 2022 Mission Plans
- The FOMI Designation



**SEE YOU IN THE
DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC, 2022?**



**WHAT IS A
MISSIONARY?**

FRIENDS OF THE MISSIONS NEWS

WATER IN FLORES and EAST TIMOR?

Over the last several months, Friends of the Missions has been working with our friends in Flores, Indonesia to drill a well for improved water availability and quality. As a point of reference, Flores is located near Java, due west of Jakarta. As of 2020, the population was 2.039M. The name Flores is Portuguese for “Flowers”.

The drilling and installation of the well continues to be an arduous task. Which normally takes a few weeks to complete, has been under task for over 6 months, and is still not complete. This is not the



fault of workers or the interest of Flores residents. To the contrary, work has been slow due to the rapid advances of COVID. As we’ve experienced in the US, worker availability and capability have been compromised by COVID and its lingering effects. In addition, the availability of supplies and components further plagues the project. Friends of the Missions has contributed funding to the work underway. We are pushing for the well to be operational as soon as possible. We will keep you alerted to new developments. [\(Continued on page 4\)](#)

2022 Mission Plans

Onward to the Dominican Republic?

The Board has considered numerous locations for our next mission commitment. Obviously, the make-up of our mission teams, COVID infection levels, vaccination status and overall community needs play key roles in sorting out opportunities. For example, the Honduras, one of our beloved locations which is saturated with need, is currently ravaged with COVID. While it breaks our missionary hearts not to help our Honduran brothers and sisters, we cannot risk the health and well-being of our mission teams. To help offset the lack of our presence, we have sent funding to the local church pastor to assist with local needs. We continually review the status of the Honduras for future mission visits.

Africa also remains an opportunity with Liberia the main focus. COVID is reportedly low, with the vaccine being equitably distributed among the population. In addition, Liberia's experience with prior epidemics has been helpful in preparing for and controlling the spread of COVID. Liberia is a strong contender for future missions.

Dominican Republic looks more feasible for a 2022 mission visit. San Pedro San Martin has a vaccination rate of 80%. In San Pedro, there are virtually no cases of COVID. The local priest suggested an April mission trip is the best time of the year. San Pedro is located close to the US as opposed to other possible mission locations, which makes it attractive in view of possible COVID virus interference.

No final decision has been made for 2022. However, Dominican Republic is the current frontrunner. The status of COVID will determine the final plans for this year.

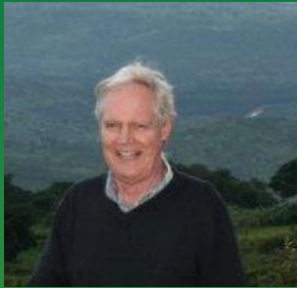
Letter from the Executive Director



Welcome! This is the first newsletter issue for Friends of the Missions St Augustine, Florida. As soldiers of Christ, we are pleased to share with you our mission vocation. We are a non-profit group performing health & dental care, well water drilling, construction and ag projects all over the world. We love what we do! Want to know more? Please visit our [web site](#).

This newsletter will be published each quarter with pertinent info and data regarding the plans and actions of Friends of the Missions. You are welcome to join in by [sending us](#) your articles of interest. Articles will be published based on content and relevancy. Thank you for your interest in Friends of the Missions, St Augustine, Florida.

*Friends of the Missions,
St Augustine, FL
Hall of Fame Inductee
2022*



*Congratulations
Jacob M. Schroeder
Executive Director
Emeritus*

I used to see a lot of cars with a sticker proclaiming “God is my co-pilot” I’m not sure that I have always even remembered that we were on the same plane. My first mission I learned that although I was coming to give my help, I usually needed it more, perhaps in a different way, from those I was aiding. After a bumpy start in 1995 featuring many small missions, Father Terry Morgan of the Cathedral parish, St. Augustine, FL opened the doors to much larger missions in 2003. Post two construction / community missions, in 2006, we decided on our first medical. It was such a popular idea that 4 weeks prior to our departure, we still had no doctor. Then, Ellen Coccitti, from Michigan, volunteered. The Honduran Consul in Chicago, asked us to PLEASE go to Yoro. So we did. We were 3 days late and over 1,000 people were waiting for us. We had her and one school doctor.

[\(Continued page 5\)](#)

The Privilege of the *FOMI* Title

Over the years, we have had many missionaries donate their funds, personal time and talents to aid others in need...without asking anything in return other than God’s eternal blessing. What is extremely impressive is that many do this year after year with no hesitation. We pray that each missionary receives God’s holiest recognition through His continual blessings of themselves and their families. It has been decided by the Board that we, as a mission organization, should also look to recognize those who continue to support mission efforts through their personal contributions

It’s no surprise that recognition and a sense of belonging can occur through group / team “titles”. For example, 3rd order Franciscans have TOR after their names, while Maryknoll missionaries have MM. Each group’s identity is distinct but clear with the common purpose to bring the love of God to others. We share in that responsibility with each mission opportunity we undertake.

Those of us who have participated in a number of missions have a sense of solidarity. We possess a unique feeling of unity with a holy pride of belonging to a team which year after year continues to make a difference in many people’s lives. As such, it is suggested that we distinctly identify ourselves as members of Friends of the Missions through a common team “title”, further nurturing this oneness, confirming each of us belongs to something very special. The Board has established “FOMI” as this title designation for us, with FOMI standing for Friends of the Missions Inc. Applying this new title, Jacob Schroeder would be identified as Jacob M. Schroeder, FOMI.

The FOMI designation is earned and awarded by the Board after an individual meets certain criteria. These are the requirements for achieving the FOMI title...in recognition that you are indeed a contributing member to God’s missionary work. [\(Continued on page 4\)](#)

What is a Missionary?

Many people ask...what is a missionary, what do they do? Are they monks, lay people, a particular faith? How does one get involved? These are all great questions. Let us explain.

Missionary people come from all walks of life. They are not of a particular faith or religion. They may not even have a particular belief. They come together to serve a common single purpose...that is to help those in need.



Missionaries do not have to possess a particular skill to effectively participate in a mission. Although doctors, dentists and nurses are needed for medical missions, many of the support staff, like dental techs, are non medically trained lay people. They are often trained by the medical teams on site.

Mission medical supplies and medicines are funded through donations. These go directly to assisting the poor. Mission volunteer/ leadership teams receive no compensation for their work. They pay for their travel and boarding as part of their missionary assignments. They donate their time, talent, money and compassion serving God's people.

[\(Continued on page 5\)](#)

The Privilege of the *FOMI* Title

- 1) You completed 3 individual missions, or
- 2) You were team leader in developing a mission effort, or
- 3) You contributed on 3 separate occasions fundraising and helping pack materials.

Once the "FOMI" is achieved, we would ask that each participant to commit to saying 3 prayers a day, of their choice...one for our overall team and leadership, one for those who support us physically and financially and one for those we support through our missions. All are welcomed to participate in achieving this recognition.

More on Flores and Timor Wells

East Timor is an island country located near Australia where we additionally have supported the installation of two wells. Well #1 is completed with almost 18 gallons per minute being provided. Water storage is being added. Well #2 will not be drilled since seismic tests do not indicate a good groundwater reservoir. However, a stream exists about 3 kilometers away, which flows during the dry season. Our local contact, Father Yohannes, has suggested a pickup be purchased and fitted with a tank and pump to transport water as needed. This is currently being considered.

Trucking is not a long term, cost effective way of moving water. The steam is about 1.86 miles (3 kilometers) from the point of need. Depending on several variables, terrain, geography, accessibility to the land, ownership, volume needed, etc., trucking may be the only viable option.

Discussion has also focused on running a pipe from the stream to the Village location needing water. However, costs for a pump to move the water, plus fuel and 1.86 miles of piping make this alternative less attractive. More to come!

What is a Missionary?

When on a mission, let's say to the Honduras, the mission teams work to a specific schedule and plan. Early to rise, the teams visit several villages, providing the services needed by local residents. A typical day is 8-10 hrs long, with travel to and from villages provided by the local mission support groups. A mission normally can last up to one week. Occasionally, after mission work has been completed, there may be a team visit to a local orphanage or hospital. There also may be a side trip to a location of special interest in the region. For example, when in Peru, a trip was arranged to Machu Picchu for the mission team...a great opportunity!

Mission work may consist of helping manage the welcome process for villagers wishing to see a doctor or dentist, documenting their illnesses and tracking numbers of patients. As dental tech support, responsibilities may likely include preparing the equipment used by dentists, assuring doctors have sterile tools and adequate lighting to complete their work. You may be accountable for providing reading glasses to patients in need of vision help. You could also be assigned to the pharmacy, counting pills and filling prescriptions authorized by doctors and the pharmacists. Finally, you could be assigned to medical doctors, helping them and patients by performing a number of support duties.

Regardless, the mission is not about the destination or the work, but a real chance to show love to your neighbor. In that regard, it's a gift and a unique opportunity. If interested in participating in a future mission, please let us know at friendsofthemissions1@gmail.com.

Inspirational



“Many people seem to worry themselves a great deal more over the things they cannot help than over the things that they can. ... This want of proportion is doubtless observable in myself. Do I think more of the accidents of birth, fortune, and personal appearance than of the self that I have created? For I myself am responsible for myself. ‘To be born a

gentleman is an accident; to die one is an achievement.’ Other things, then, I may not be able to help; but myself, I can. As I am at this very moment, as my character is—truthful or untruthful, pure or impure, patient or impatient, slow to wrath or quick-tempered, eager, enthusiastic, energetic, or lazy and dull and wasteful of time—I have no one to thank but myself ... the fact remains that I myself alone am responsible for my own character; for character is an artificial thing that is not born, but made.”

— Fr. Bede Jarrett

Hall of Fame

Dr. Cesar Aguilar closed his office, as did another physician. Seeing 300 people, we learned that we did not know what we were doing. In 2009 Greg Hemsoth managed the Yoro missions, while we expanded to Liberia. There, Terri Micolucci, a go-getter pharmacist, schooled us. By then, we had attracted the assistance of a whiz-bang doctor and spiritual mentor, Santiago Rosado, then Dr. Mike, and many stalwart missionaries. The rest is history. Most missions are medical, some construction, some water. We have now materially helped in 14 lands. What we really bring each time is love, God's love. He was always was my pilot, I just did not notice. Don't be afraid to say, "hello", to Him. He listens, He talks.

Next Newsletter out April, 2022. Don't forget to send in your articles to;

friendsofthemissions1@gmail.com.

Also please keep all missionaries and those we serve in your prayers. God bless you forever! 5