

Your prayers and generosity

Fr Chris Fox MHM has made an incredible contribution to *Mission Today* through his gift with words, not to mention the contributions he's made as a priest and a missionary of the Gospel. Here, he leaves us with a message of encouragement and prayer



This article is by way of saying farewell to the readers of *Mission Today*.

I have been writing for the magazine for some sixteen years and I feel it is time to hand over. I'm in my 86th year, having celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of my ordination last year. During those years I have seen great changes to society and to the Church but thank God, the work of Missio's APF continues with renewed strength. The one message I would like to leave to all readers is one of encouragement.

On the material side your contributions are very important. As a missionary working in Africa, I saw first hand the great help we got regularly from Missio's APF and what it meant for many developments. That reflects the myriad of contributions, big and small of countless men and women who continue to give

year after year. Even at a humanitarian level the Catholic Church is one of the greatest beneficiaries to the welfare of humanity. We can be proud of that. At a time when the Church has received a lot of negative criticism because of certain sad events, it is good to emphasise the positive. A few years ago we were grateful when Band Aid raised some seventy million pounds to help relieve the famine in Ethiopia. But we should keep in mind that the Catholic Church, through its many agencies, gives far more than that every year for the relief of poverty and the elimination of the causes of poverty and injustice.

I would also like to emphasise the importance of prayer. The two great patrons of the missionary work of the Church are St Francis Xavier, the peerless active missionary, and St Thérèse of Lisieux, the contemplative nun who died

at a young age, but who contributed so much to the welfare of the Church by her prayers and sacrifices. During some of the dangerous times in Uganda, I was very conscious of communities of people at home praying for our safety. The Church is the body of Christ.

Every prayer we say, every act of self-sacrifice and generosity contributes to the welfare of the Church at home and abroad.

The Vatican Council emphasised that by baptism each person is called to the fullness of Christian life and holiness and each one has a part to play in the building up of the Kingdom of God on earth. By your active membership of Missio's APF, by your prayers and generosity, you are fulfilling that great role.

As I say farewell, I want to thank the number of you who wrote to me over the years. I assure you of a remembrance in my humble prayers and ask that you remember me in yours. At the suggestion of some of you I have collected some thirty-eight of my articles, many published in *Mission Today*, some not, and I will publish them in book form. They should be ready when this issue of the magazine is published. I would be glad to send on a copy to anyone interested at cost price plus postage which is about £10.00.

God bless you all, Fr Chris Fox MHM

If you would like a copy of Fr Chris' book, please contact him directly at:

**Mill Hill Missionaries, Orwell Park,
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