



RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER 2016 # 1

February

**FOR RNDM'S,
ASSOCIATES,
FRIENDS,
SPONSORS &
PARTNERS**



RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION OFFICE
PROMOTES MISSION THROUGH
COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE
MISSIONARY WORKS OF 1000 SISTERS OF
OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS

Dear Friends

“Every human person is loved tenderly by God who is present in their lives. Every person is thus immensely precious and deserving of our love. If I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my own life. We achieve fulfilment when we break down walls and our heart is filled with faces and names.” (Pope Francis 'Joy of the Gospel', 274)

You will read in these pages stories of people whom you have helped to have better lives through your generosity and Partnership with the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions.

The faces of children helping children in other parts of the world who now have the prospect of an education; the faces of women who have set up a small business through micro credit programs to make herbal products and thus generate income for their families; faces of children from remote villages who now live in a hostel and thus have access to education. All of these faces now have the hope of a better and brighter future, thanks to your generosity.

Let us continue to see the face of Christ all around us. Asking God to bless you and your families.

Catherine Kneubler

Director RNDM International Mission Development Office

Partners In Mission

ARANMORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,
LEEDERVILLE, WA PARTNERING WITH ST. JOHN
BOSCO'S SCHOOL, CHERRAPUNJI, NE INDIA



Aranmore Catholic Primary School, Leederville, WA, Australia

During the 2015 school year the students of Aranmore Primary School held activities and raised \$500 for the children of St. John Bosco's . The various activities included :

- An International Dress Day
- A Sausage Sizzle
- A Money Trail Competition
- Various Classroom Competitions/Activities
- Free Dress Days



St. John Bosco's School Cherrapunji North East India



ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE AND HERBAL SOAP PROCESSING PHILIPPINES



Sr. Schola Mutua, rmdm

The cost of medicine has become too high and many poor people cannot afford it. These issues are not only experienced by poor people, other people are also feeling the pinch of high costs of medicines. All around the Philippines, many communities have returned to traditional ways of healing thus finding ways of using plants and leaves to come up with their own cure.

The women of Upper Mingading, Tumbras, Tomado, Calawag and Balong expressed a desire to be trained to develop their own products to be used in their houses and also a source of their livelihood. Such activities in the communities bring the women together and also encourage income generation with the hope of a better future.

The women in the five communities were taken for an exposure in the factory of Luz Neri, who owns an alternative herbal product shop in town. She gave the women a tour of her factory and introduced them to different kinds of leaves, plants and roots to be used. The women were provided with the materials to begin with and a hope that, with capital after they sell their products, they have a rolling fund to continue to provide for their livelihood.

Such kinds of simple and yet productive livelihood for women is appreciated and not only transforms their own lives but that of the community they live in. Their products are;

- Liniment and ointment which is used for pain relief, skin diseases and other body pains. These are made from, Malunggay leaves, Sambong leaves, Lagundi and Turmeric.
- Herbal soap made of papaya, avocado, turmeric, roots and other kinds of leaves.
- Herbal teas made from turmeric

Most of these products are found in many shops and are expensive. These women now have a great sense of joy that they can produce their own products thus, reducing the expense for those who need them and thereby increasing their own income. The women have been trained and undergone all the processes and have formed their own groups to produce these herbal products.



Grinding the cooked leaves using a hand machine to produce a granule product for the capsules

Cooking of the leaves to produce ointment and liniment

Other Impacts

At this time, the women have begun selling some of their products in the communities and will use the sales of their product as capital to reproduce more products. The groups formed will be accredited in the barangay which is recognized as part of the independent groups and can in the future receive funding from other groups. It is easier for an organized group of women like this one to avail of funds.

Out of the sixty (60) targeted women, more than twenty other women have been added into the number of those who are interested in learning the skills and the processes. Other families are benefiting from the products as well.

Increased knowledge acquired by the women of knowing about the plants, leaves, roots and what they are used for, is an activity that is generating a lot of interest among the women and some men who are also happy to be part of the group/s.

Women are interested now in taking care of their backyard gardening and planting more herbal plants. With this kind of social gathering, there is an increased sense of community, their energy is directed toward positive activities.

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, Port Kennedy, WA partners with St Peter's Orphanage, Chittagong, Bangladesh



This year our Student Leaders of St. Bernadette's decided to hold a Skipathon! As you might know, in Australia, we have kangaroos and many years ago there used to be a Television programme about Skippy, the Bush Kangaroo. We thought it would be nice if we did something with an Australian theme so you could think about all of us, here in Australia.

We asked all the children in our school to collect sponsors or donations for them to skip for a set amount of time. In the months before the skipathon, the older children were teaching younger children how to skip and children had a lot of fun learning skipping games and improving their skipping. It was very healthy too! Classes were rostered to come out to the basketball courts and our student leaders had lots of fun skipping games, activities and challenges for them. We had music to skip to which really helped create a fun atmosphere. Here are some photos taken on the day. As you can see, some of our student leaders also dressed as kangaroos which the younger children loved!



Earlier this year, some of our girls in Year 4 decided that they wanted to organise a little fundraiser by sorting out and bringing to school some of their much loved books from when they were younger and set up their own little book stall. They did this over a couple of weeks using their lunchtimes to sell the books. They made \$88.05 and decided that they wanted to send the money to you at St. Peter's so you could buy some books. We have included this money in our Skipathon money to send to you all so that you know that we love you, care about you and hold you all dear in our hearts and prayers.

Our cheque is for the amount of \$5,063.80. God bless

*Students,
families and
Staff of St
Bernadette's*



St Peter's Girls



47 girls are resident at St. Peter's Orphanage and almost the same number of little ones are cared for in St. Benedict's Creche in Chittagong, Bangladesh

CARING FOR ETHNIC CHILDREN MINH HUNG CONVENT, VIETNAM

Greetings from Vietnam, this is a warm note to express our grateful thanks for your attention and support to the project of caring for the ethnic children at Minh Hung Hostel in Vietnam.

As RNDMs, we have settled among the people at Minh Hung. We came to work and to help the Stieng and M'ngong ethnic groups. At present, we take care for 52 children aged from 6 - 12 years at our hostel. Most of the children are orphans or have only one parent.

The children have come from different villages. The farthest village is about 70 km and the nearest one is about 5 km from Minh Hung. These children were part of our tutor classes when we were promoting literacy for children, with the parents and the village patriarchs during our visits to the villages. While visiting we reiterated the need for the children to learn the Vietnamese language and the importance of school and study. The children learned a little of how to read and write and their parents agreed to send them to us for basic learning and education.

These children stay in our hostel, studying from grade 1 to grade 5 in the local elementary school. They go to school in the morning and in the afternoon they are tutored at our hostel. We help them to understand the lessons which have been taught at school because they find it very difficult to understand the Vietnamese language.

We also help them with health and hygiene and how to care for their needs and the needs of others. It is important for them to know how to interact with other non ethnic children and with each other. We teach catechism twice a week. They read the Bible and fictional stories to improve their reading skills. Apart from all that they learn domestic work and gardening so they can help their families later.

On behalf of the children in Minh Hung hostel, I would like to say thank you very much for your collaboration in this project. May God bless and protect each one of you and your mission in life.

Blessings and Prayers

Sr. Teresa Hong Xuan- RNDM



Setting out for the local school



Adolescent boys gardening



Children collecting cashews



Extra tuition classes



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