



RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017 # 2

**FOR RNDMS
ASSOCIATES
FRIENDS
SPONSORS &
PARTNERS**



**RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE – ROME**
PROMOTES MISSION THROUGH
COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE
MISSIONARY WORKS OF 1000
SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS
IN 23 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

Dear Friends

Greetings to you from the RNDM International Mission Development Office, Rome.

With deep gratitude and appreciation to each one of you for your constant support in our missionary journey, we are happy to present this newsletter. Our office in Rome is still evolving and there have been significant changes in the recent months. As a result, there has been some delay in sending this newsletter to you. Your support and financial contribution have enabled us to carry on the developmental activities for the benefit of our needy brothers and sisters in different parts of our congregation which have made a huge difference in their lives.

In this newsletter we would like to share with you four areas of our mission; Philippines, Senegal, Kenya and India. We hope that you will enjoy reading these real life-changing stories of people who are faced with challenging situations and yet are trying their best to secure a better life. Health care is one of the main focuses of our ministry especially in places where little or no health care facilities are available.

There is so much pain and suffering in our world caused by violence, war and natural calamities. Sometimes these events can drown our hope and paralyze us. But God asks us to do the best we can to bring about healing and wholeness. "We ourselves feel that what we do is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop" said Mother Teresa of Kolkata. Every little act of kindness contributes to the health and growth of someone we serve.

Once again we thank you for your personal interest and participation in the missionary activities of our congregation. We assure you of our prayers and may God bless you and your families.

Crescencia Sun

Crescencia Sun RNDM
Director

Smitha Thomas

Smitha Thomas RNDM
Assistant Director

Bringing joy, Changing lives..Kate O'Niell

JB is a little boy aged one year and three months. He is from a barrio (tiny village) which is a one hour walk from the larger village of Kulaman where the closest medical assistance can be found. Not long after his birth, his mother fractured her arm from a falling branch. Since this incident, she has had extreme difficulty in breastfeeding JB due to the pain she endures. This sadly led to under-nourishment for JB, and he has suffered from infections and allergies which have spread over his frail little body. Thanks to the generosity of your contributions to the Christmas Catalogue gift, JB was brought to the hospital and received medication. He is well on the road to recovery and continues to be provided with milk and food supplements to build up his strength. It appears JB may also be blind, and, once he has regained his health, the RNDM Dalesan Kailawan Health Team will accompany him to a more equipped hospital to refer him to an eye specialist.

We thank you for your generous gift at Christmas time which enabled us to be supported and provide ongoing care for babies like JB. Your generosity is offering life and joy to many

indigenous mothers and their children in Kulaman, the Philippines.



JB before and after treatment



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE...

The RNDM Sisters started a new mission in Kounkane, Senegal. With the support of our friends and benefactors from Holland and Luxembourg, the sisters built their new home, a well for water and a chapel for prayer.

The sisters' new residence is located some distance away from the village and electricity has not yet reached there. Our experience in Ndongol, and other more recent experiences in Senegal, is that, installing solar power as an alternative is becoming cheaper, and the quality and durability of the equipment is good and long lasting. With the solidarity support received from the congregation we installed the solar panels that supply enough electricity for our various needs.

In April, Sister Marie Rose Sène and two girls have moved into our own new home. Now the sisters have the joy of the lights and power to pump water thus making the life of the sisters and the girls easier. Since we can now pump the water from the well, we are able to plant trees and started growing our own organic vegetables. The high school girls who stay with the sisters are able to study better with the bright lights. Having the solar installed we don't suffer from power cuts and our lives have become brighter. It will slowly improve our service to the people. We are grateful to our sisters and all those who have helped us to make this project a great success.



A Thank You note from the Sisters Notre Dame Des Missions in Senegal

Dear friends,

We take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your generous support in getting the solar installation for light, pump and the refrigerator to our mission in Kounkane. Thank you for helping us to meet the essentials which have made so much difference to our lives. The girls who stay with us are able to study at night and we are glad to cultivate vegetables and grow trees in our dry land. The people too profit from our well. It is our great joy to have light without any problem.

In return we offer you our heartfelt gratitude and many blessings from Senegal.

Seria Nongrum RNDM



Solar Battery



Solar Panels

Tei Wa Ngai Programme Matuu Kenya, Thanks

All RNDM Sisters and our Mission Partners

May each one of you experience many blessings.

On behalf of the Sisters and Health workers in Tei Wa Ngai Programme and the Parents of children with Cerebral Palsy, I come to say a big **THANK YOU** for your generous gift which has enabled us to upgrade the level of physiotherapy care for the children.

In February, thanks to your generosity, we were able to employ an occupational therapist on a full time basis. Kilonzi, a young man, comes with a sound training, an experience of working on a voluntary basis with the Association for the Physically Disabled and a passion for working with children. In the same month Clinics were held in eight centers with ninety six clients being treated, sixty eight of whom have cerebral palsy. In March there were ten centers with one hundred and sixty six clients of whom sixty have cerebral palsy and twenty seven paralytic conditions. In April the number of centers will be increased.

Kilonzi also spent time sharing with our Health Workers. Their hopes were raised that he will be able to reach more of their clients and they have made some suggestions about the best way. He was also able to share much with them about different conditions they have encountered. He has a particular interest also to reach those children who are autistic and would like to have a monthly clinic for them. He has made good use of the equipment we have here in the centre and is also encouraging us to look at ways we can make it even better.

Some of the Health Workers write:

'Thank you for the Gift of an occupational therapist who is social and encourages his clients. He does the exercises thoroughly and loves very much his job. He seems to fit in with those who are normal and those with special needs and takes his time to answer their questions. He is always ready to help and is very calm and knowledgeable to accommodate everyone.'

'Thanks for giving a physiotherapist to attend the clients and do exercises. He has done well and the clients can be increased.'

'Give wonders to our clients for the employed physiotherapist who is reaching our clients. He is doing modern therapy to our clients so improvement is becoming faster than before.'

'We give thanks to God to bless the donors.'

I take this opportunity to thank you for the Christmas gift you have given us to employ a physiotherapist. He has helped our clients very much.

Margaret McInerney RNDM



Sister Jiovana and the physiotherapist helping the children to be independent

Kanti is a small district in Bihar, Central India where the RNDMs have a clinic mainly for the snake - bite patients. There are many poor villages around Kanti and since there are no other hospitals or clinics nearby most patients are brought to our dispensary, specially the poorest ones who cannot afford to go to private doctors. Summer season is the peak time for snakes to come out and find their victims when we get many snake bite cases. We had an annual record of 4500 patients who got treated in our dispensary in 2016.

Most of the victims are from remote villages and are poor daily laborers/farmers. Their houses are also very poorly made and are vulnerable to snake bites. During the summer months people sleep outside the house and are easily bitten by poisonous snakes like kraits, cobras and vipers. As soon as the patients are brought into the clinic, they are treated with snake stones that absorb the poison from the body of the patient where the snake has bitten. These stones are being changed every now and then until all the poison is fully sucked out from the person's body. Along with the snake stone treatment, the patients are also given drip and anti venom injection depending on the severity of each case. Normally the patients are kept for four to six hours under observation and continue treatment for 12-24 hours. Earlier when a number of serious patients came together the sisters were not able to accommodate them inside the clinic, but now we have made additional provision and added more beds to treat such cases.

The sisters are very grateful to receive your generous contribution of Christmas gift that made a great difference to our clinic and the lives of the patients. Your kind support has helped us to construct a waiting hall for the people and to purchase medicines and anti-venom injections for the patients. Two sisters and two lay staff serve round the clock during these summer months and feel very happy and relieved when patients return with a new lease of life and with smiles on their faces. Thank you dear sisters and friends for giving back life to the disadvantaged people of Kanti, Bihar India through your Christmas gift.



Sanjay Sharma narrates his story of new life



I am Sanjay Sharma from Siwaipati village. I was bitten by krait snake while I was removing the bricks from the field. It bit me on the right hand. People in the village thought that nothing would happen to me, so they took me to the witch crafter. For a while I felt better but after few hours, I got severe stomach pain and was not able to swallow my saliva. People took me to a private doctor who gave me some injections but the pain did not subside, instead the pain got worse. My people realized that I was very critical and was brought to Jyoti Bhawan clinic. The Sisters immediately started to administer drips and other medications and I was in the dispensary for three days. After having administered 30 vials of anti venom injection I got back

my life. Though I was not able to pay all the money, the sisters treated me well and gave me all the required medications. They stayed up day and night watching over me and I was discharged after three days. Now I am fully alright. I thank God for giving my life back and I am grateful to the sisters who treated me and brought me to a new life!

**RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
ROME**

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