

RNDM

INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLEIDER

2016 # 2

MAY

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

You will read in this Newsletter the wonderful stories of how your generosity through the RNDM Christmas Catalogue, 2015 GIVE A GIFT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE has certainly made an enormous difference in the lives of children, women, and their families.

You gave Hope to the orphan children of Bangladesh,; Health and Nutrition and empowerment of women in Bijapur, India; love and care to the destitute children at Iakring village, Vietnam; to education of children from the slums and streets of Kolkata. On their behalf I thank you most sincerely...

Sister Maureen Dwan has been responsible for preparing this Newsletter over the past five years and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Maureen for her creativity and tireless searching for the stories and articles to keep you informed of the great missionary work in which you are valued partners.

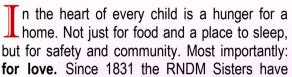
This will be the last Newsletter that Maureen and I will publish as we are retiring from the IMDO and handing the baton to Sisters Helen O'Sullivan and Smitha Thomas. We have every confidence in these two sisters and know that they will bring a freshness and new approach which we welcome.

It has been my privilege to be part of this IMDO and I am continually inspired by the fantastic missionary work of our RNDM sisters worldwide. As I have said on many occasions the sisters could not continue this great work without your generous support.

May God bless and reward you and your families.

Catherine Broberole Director, RNDM IMDO

you have changed a child's life





offered refuge to abandoned and orphaned children from the slums of Chittagong or from the hill tracts surrounding Chittagong.

Even the definition of "orphan" is complicated. Not all of these children are abandoned or have lost both parents, some are double orphans having lost both parents, others are children who have only one parent who is not in a situation to be able to care for their child. They will often return for their child when their situation changes. Most of these children are girls as they are not as valued in the society. Some have done well and have gone on to become nurses or have entered vocational training.

We the Sisters, helpers and the children at St. Benedict's and St. Peter's are a family, where God's love guides us all as we grow and expand year after year. With children ranging from babies to 17 year olds each day brings new challenges to overcome, but we are doing it. The older girls take special care and offer love and guidance to the little ones, helping them to get ready for school and wiping their tears when they fall. Lives are being changed and stories rewritten daily.

We are so grateful for your gift, love and concern for each one of us. Be blessed from God and from us!









HEALTH AND NUTRITION

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

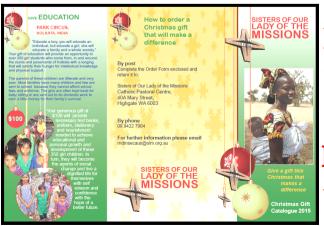
ALMEL, BIJAPUR, INDIA

Ye work with 950 women belonging to different castes and classes of life covering 28 villages. Most belong to Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribe who are considered as outcasts in the society. It is really challenging to work among these women because they find it difficult to understand and move beyond their local beliefs, customs, practices and way of thinking. Their life is lived around superstitious beliefs and it is difficult for them. to change. We organize awareness programs on superstitious beliefs, the benefits from the government, micro savings, health and hygiene, ICTC (The Integrated Counseling & Testing Center is a gate-way, a one-stop shop for a host of related services in HIV/AIDS prevention & Care.) We have 64 Women's Micro Saving Groups with 870 women. We also have a youth group and two children's' groups: we conduct regular camps and seminars to create an awareness of these situations and how they can be the agents of change in the society.



Sr. Jacinta Lasardo conversing with the women.

Thank you to all the Sisters, friends and benefactors for supporting the Mission through the Christmas Catalogue program



Renuka sharing her experience of being empowered through the Sangas

(SHG self-help group)

The arrival of Sisters in our village has brought lots of changes in the lives of people.



I was very poor and every day I was going for work in the field so that I could buy little food for my sons. Now I do not need to go every day to work in the field in a scorching sun. I manage from the savings and the interest. I also sweep the market area in the morning and get income for my family. I had lots of superstitious beliefs and other practices which were handed down by my parents since they were uneducated. I am also uneducated but the Sisters helped me to read and write once I became part of the women's group. I was elected as the animator of the group and I attended the training program which helped me to know socioeconomic taboos. I attend the training programs and the seminars conducted by the Sisters which really helped me to change my outlook towards life. I am able to stand in front of the people to speak for my rights and the rights of other women. I am not scared of what people say now. I am being taught by the sisters to do the banking and I meet with the government officials to demand our benefits. Now the Sisters have selected five other groups and have given them a goat to generate income for the group and that will help the individual women with their daily living. My group of women are really lucky that the Sisters worked with us to open a Ration Shop which brings a good income for the group and it helps us for our daily sustenance and wellbeing. I am grateful on behalf of all the women in the villages to all the Sisters and Partners in Mission for empowering us.

Thank you very much for your financial support in different ways.





US\$7,687.00 TOTAL: US\$43,766.00 2015 US\$15,

US\$15,063.00

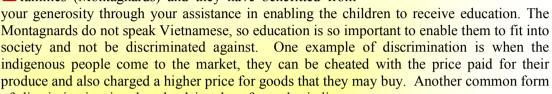
US\$12,864.00

US\$8,152.00

LOVE AND CARE ESTITUTE INDIGENOUS CHILDREN IAKRING VILLAGE, VIET NAM



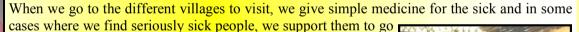
n this project we work with indigenous children and their families (Montagnards) and they have benefitted from



of discrimination is when land is taken from the indigenous people and the price paid is so small.

Many families cannot afford the school fees, let alone the compulsory uniform. There are also other costs like notebooks, pens and pencils. Without this support it would mean that the children are prevented from receiving the opportunity for their development and an education for their future. We RNDMs also provide group tutoring of the students after school, together with providing a meal as their parents are not able to provide enough for their children. For some very poor families we also provide nutritious meals for children to

eat before going to school.



to hospital for their treatment.

Some families have received money from us RNDMs to raise pigs. Two pigs have recently had piglets, and after two months

all but two will be sold. The remaining two piglets will be kept to add to the stock. The money received from the piglets that are sold will be used by the families to support themselves, pay for future school fees thereby enabling the families to become more self-supportive and better able to make decisions regarding their own future. In the coming months further pigs will be bought and distributed to families and education given

to those families on how to care for the animals.

Through your generosity, one child called Linh, was close to leaving school because her family was too poor and they could not pay school fees for her. Her knowledge was not good, but she was very bright. Linh is 13 years old and has 3 siblings. We were able to provide support for her family by paying her school fees, providing some clothes and shoes.

After school Linh comes to our convent for further tuition in important subjects like reading, writing and simple maths. Now she feels very grateful for

your help and she is better able to understand, and her English is improving. She

is also able to help her friends and her younger sister to learn as well. She tells us that in the future, she would like be a teacher to help her own people to realize the importance of education for better futures. Thank up dear

gift givers from the bottom of our heart.













EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN OF THE SLUMS PARK CIRCUS KOLKATA, INDIA



ur Lady Queen of the Missions Afternoon school, Park Circus was founded 1969 to cater for the poorer classes of people of Kolkata. Many of the children are from the Muslim community. Most of these students are from the nearby slum areas or are pavement dwellers or live near the railway lines. They do not own a house or property. The environment is harsh, the streets of Kolkata are overcrowded and swarming with many homeless people who find it difficult to eke out a living. Certainly they are not able to live with dignity or privacy. There are many health problems related to the poverty and poor living conditions and medicine is expensive. Most of the mothers work as domestic servants, as ayahs and the men folk are engaged in vegetable selling, vendors, porters in the railway stations, or pedal bicycles or are rickshaw runners. They earn a minimum wage of Rs 60/- per day.

Most families have many children and few are sent to school which is prohibitive because of the cost of school fees and uniforms. The children are often kept for baby sitting or are sent out to do domestic work in home to earn a little money for their family's survival.

The Afternoon School provides academic studies for these deprived children. The children are also given the opportunity to learn craft work, painting, tailoring, dance, play and they are given skills in leadership training.

There are eight teachers who are paid remuneration and this is being met by the morning school which is an English medium School. The girls who attend this morning school are from middle class and wealthy families and are able to pay school fees. When they vacate the school the street children move in.

While at school the children are offered a nutritious meal and are given uniforms and stationary items. Twice a year they are given a special gift like a school bag, umbrella and other useful items. The school staff visit the homes of the children regularly giving parental education and assistance. Most of the girls complete their class V11 with us and continue their studies in other vernacular schools and some of them even go up to graduate level and find employment.

On 15th of June the School will be reopened after summer holiday. The children and teachers will be very happy to come back to the school. This year the weather was very bad and unbearable. Many people died due to the extreme heat in different parts of our country. A number of children were down with chickenpox and fever. So hopefully they will be well enough to attend the class at the beginning of the term.

Dear Donors, we appreciate very much your loving concern and hard work for our children.

You will be happy to know that your help and generosity has made a difference in the lives of these little children.









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