



RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER JUNE 2018

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 22 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

Dear Friends

With joy and gratitude, we would like to share with you this Newsletter which includes some of the successful stories from different parts of our congregation.

First of all, we extend our thanks and gratitude to all our sisters, partners in mission, benefactors, associates, donors and well-wishers who have contributed generously towards the Christmas Catalogue and Solidarity fund. We truly appreciate your contributions which have made a difference in the lives of many children, students, youth and women in our missions.

In the month of April 2018, we were happy to have fifteen sisters from eight provinces who participated in the Mission Promoters' Workshop for capacity building and skills development held in Bangalore, India. The participants were enriched with new learning and we hope they will be more effective in their ministries as they put into practice the knowledge and skills they have gained.

We hope you will enjoy reading this Newsletter that gives you a glimpse of some of our activities in the missions. The words of Euphrasie Barbier, our foundress spoken in 1869 still speak volumes to us, ***"There are difficult burdens to carry in life. We can lighten them for one another by our thoughtfulness, a kind smile, a little service; often nothing more is needed to console and encourage one another"***.

As we journey together let us continue to lighten the burdens of our sisters and brothers who are in need of our help and support.

May God richly bless you with lasting happiness and peace!

Sr. Crescencia Sun RNDM

Sr. Smitha Thomas RNDM

Education of Girl Students at Pakse,

Greetings from the RNDM sisters and students of Pakse Diocese, Laos. We appreciate the financial support sent for our secondary school students for their education.

Your generosity has enabled our 10 girls to have the opportunity to attend school and for a brighter future. The collaboration and support you have given, not only helped the girls but also relieved their families' burden. Through this project we are able to provide the girls with basic needs, school fees, food and accommodation. We teach them the importance of education, personality development and other social responsibilities.

We are happy to share that three girls have finished the first year of the program at the IT College and the teachers' training at University. Three other girls have passed the final exams in high school with good results. Four others continue their high school studies. We also provide them with opportunities to learn music and dance, to do domestic works and other skills needed for life. They learn how to live with others, gain experiences and deepen the understanding of their culture. These girls feel very lucky, due to the fact that they get many chances in life. Recently one of our girls has been chosen by Pakse diocese to attend the 7th Asian Youth Day at Yogyakarta, Indonesia, fully free of cost.



Once again, we thank you for your generosity and collaboration in our mission here. Your support has given the girls golden opportunities to develop their talents and face their future with courage and confidence!

Maria Nguyen Thi Cam Linh RNDM

Greetings from St. Mary's Primary School, Mawiawet-INE

The students, staff and the sisters of the primary school, Mawiawet express their heartfelt gratitude to the RNDM Sisters and benefactors who brought tremendous relief and joy to the school students.

Water is one of the necessities of life and It is unimaginable to live in a place without water. But this was the reality of the children of St. Mary's primary school, who were facing a water problem. Keeping children in school for three to four hours without having drinking water was not easy, but many times it was the only choice. With great difficulty, we collect water from the river for drinking and for other needs.

Our students were often deprived of their class and playtime, as they had to carry water from the river during school hours. Some students had to sacrifice their morning classes in order to fetch water for cooking their mid-day meal.

Some others would come to school without even washing their faces and it was difficult to teach them basic cleanliness and hygiene, without providing the much needed facilities.



The Solidarity fund received from the French province was an answer to our prayer and a great blessing. The fund helped us to meet the expenses of making a bore well, construction of a water tank and other water facilities. Now we have sufficient water for the needs of the students and school. The students are delighted that they can now enjoy their play time without missing classes. The cleanliness of the classrooms and the shining faces of the children shows the change that has taken place through this project. Our gratitude is a prayer for all our benefactors especially to the French province, who have so generously helped us to find the refreshing water for life!

Fultinary Sun RNDM



TEI WA NGAI Programme for children with special needs -KENYA

Thanks to our many donors who continue to assist us in the TWN program for children with special needs. This year we have been blessed to receive grants from various Funding Agencies which have ensured the continuity of the programme and payment of our team of Health Workers. The money received through Solidarity has enabled us to give our clients access to the services and advice of the doctors from Kijabe AIC CURE Hospital, Kikuyu Clinic and our monthly epilepsy Clinic. Through the Christmas Gift donations we are now offering regular Physiotherapy Clinics to many of the clients.

This year the children have access to new wheelchairs. What began as an intervention by Wheelchairs for Kids in Perth Australia has led to a new access to other NGOs which are part of a wider Wheelchair Programme. Forty children have been given free wheelchairs from the above company, but the Solidarity fund met all the related costs for this program. We appreciate the contribution of individual donors who supported to the cost of wheel chairs.

Our Epilepsy Clinic continues to be very well attended. It is obvious that the clients feel welcomed, supported by the staff and they are assured that medicines are available at the lowest price. We are deeply thankful to all our generous donors who make this possible!



Jiiovanna Lozada RNDM

Gratitude and blessings



Dear Sisters and friends,

Greetings of Peace from Mariam Junior High School Natore, Bangladesh. I pray for your well being and also wish you every good wishes. Thank you for your very kind donation, which we received with grateful hearts. Your generosity has made an immediate difference in the lives of our students. I can't express my feelings in words, what your gift meant to me and to our students and your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated by everyone at Mariam Junior High School.

This School was established in 1993 and has been administered by the RNDM sisters from its Foundation. Most of the students are coming from the nearby slums around and practicing Islam or Hinduism. The people are poor farmers who cannot afford paying high fees. Though our school fees are low, the sisters and teachers work hard and give good quality education. The teaching methods of the school are very much appreciated by parents and guardians.

In 2011 we established a residential school for girls who are mostly from tribal areas and live far away from Natore. Their parents are also poor farmers who can pay only minimal fees. Your support for the purchase of computers is like a dream come true for our 150 students and 15 staff who are eager to learn computer education. The Computer lab is set up with five computers, a projector, two printers, a scanner and other accessories. Students from classes six to ten benefit much from this project. Through this project we empower and educate our students to become more confident, innovative citizens and future leaders of our country. It has not only helped the students but also our teachers; minimizing their mechanical tasks and time, helping to find information and other teaching aids to make the lessons more interesting and effective. It helps to create the database of students.



On behalf of our students and staff, I express my appreciation for your generosity in supporting our school. Your commitment helped us to reach our goal. May God bless you!

*Sister Niva Gomes
RNDM*



Financial Support for Students in Oatshippin, Myanmar



We are very grateful to receive the congregation solidarity fund that helped us to financially support 15 students for studies and other school expenses. They include thirteen girls and two boys who are studying from grade V to X. Due to the family's condition and poverty, these girls and boys were unable to join boarding schools as they could not afford to pay school fees, tuition fees and books. These students are bright and intelligent and need our support to continue their schooling. They are well accompanied by the sisters not only in their studies but also for the social, moral and personal development. Six of the girls are in the boarding school in Oatshippin while others have access to school and stay with their families.

The students are doing well and working hard. They express their gratitude for the financial support given to them, without which they would not have been able to continue their studies. They are praying every day for all the benefactors and they send their greetings to all. May God bless you in a very special way.

Josephine Moses RNDM



FLOOD RELIEF PROGRAM AT NARKATIAGANJ, N. BIHAR, INDIA

The RNDM Sisters at Narkatiaganj, in North Bihar work among the Dalits (low castes) and the marginalized group of people mostly consists of 15 villages in and around Narkatiaganj. The beneficiaries are mostly children and women from the lowest castes, namely Musahar and Dhangad groups. In Bihar, caste system plays a major role in the lives of people and often the lowest caste communities are neglected and discriminated. Education is the best instrument to change the mind set and ideologies of these groups. Our sisters have been actively involved in educating them through non-formal education in these villages. At present we have a number of educational centres and SHGs (Self Help Groups) for women who are taught to save money for their families through micro credit programs. We impart awareness workshops on the importance of education that would transform their lives for a better and dignified future.

In the month of November 2017 a disastrous flood affected various villages in the West Champaran districts of Bihar. The main four sub districts including Narkatiaganj were under water and the destruction of properties, vegetation and cattle were very severe, including loss of many lives. Some of the villages were completely wiped out with the force of the floods. People took shelter on trees, railway tracks, roof tops and so on. Many people suffered anxiety and depression, as they lost almost everything. Responding to the immediate needs of the affected people, we received some funds from our province. We distributed relief materials to 60 families. Later, with the help of the Jesuits' team we surveyed the areas to identify more victims in the interior villages. We reached out to 200 families with relief materials such as foodstuff, tarpaulins, utensils, clothes and educational kits for children.

The generous donation from our Canadian friends at this time was a great boost to our relief programme. We were able to serve more people in other villages where we work directly in our ministry. The beneficiaries of this project were the ones who did not get any compensation from the government to restart their lives. Besides the basic necessities we also distributed blankets and shawls since the winter season was getting severe. Educational kits and food items were given to school going students.



The poor villagers of Narkatiaganj are happy and grateful, for the relief materials and support given to lessen their pain and suffering. We, the RNDMs at Narkatiaganj along with the beneficiaries express our gratitude to Ms Polly Wong and her friend through the Canadian province who responded to the immediate need of the flood victims. God bless you and your spirit of generosity towards the suffering humanity!

Carmina Mascarenhas RNDM

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE - ROME

For further information contact: Srs Crescencia or Smitha Thomas RNDM
Suore di Nostra Signora delle Missioni, Via di Bravetta 628, Roma 00164, Italy

Phone: 06 6615 8400; Email : imdo@rndmgen.org

Please view our RNDM Website: www.rndm.org

