

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

FOR RNDMS
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RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE - ROME
PROMOTES MISSION THROUGH
COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE
SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS
IN 21 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

CHRISTMAS JOY AND BLESSINGS TO YOU !

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a season of hope. Hope is a confident anticipation of something yet to come. Glancing at the year 2018, we can say with confidence, that we have been journeying in hope because we are being supported by you dear sisters, friends, benefactors and mission partners. You have enabled our sisters in bringing hope, justice, dignity and sustainability to the people in the missions of our Congregation.

Pope Francis says "Today, as the winds of war are blowing in our world and an outdated model of development continues to produce human, societal and environmental decline, Christmas invites us to focus on the sign of the Child and to recognize Him in the faces of little children, especially those for whom, like Jesus, "there is no place in the inn" (Lk 2:7).

This newsletter presents some of the real stories that have brought hope and new life to the children, sick people and those differently abled.

The birth of Jesus Christ brings great hope for us all; 'Emmanuel-God with us.' May the God of hope find a dwelling place in our hearts and homes. We wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year filled with joy, peace, love and new surprises.

Sr. C. Sun *Smitha Thomas*

Crescencia Sun and Smitha Thomas RNDM



Computer literacy at Bolipara, Bangladesh

Dear Sisters, Friends and Benefactors,

Greetings of peace and joy to all. The RNDM Sisters and students of St. Francis Xavier's Junior High School, Bolipara, express our sincere thanks to all our donors for your generous contribution towards the new computers for our school. About 170 tribal students and 8 staff are benefitting from the new computer lab and its facilities.

St. Francis Xavier's School is situated in the rural and isolated area of our country, the students do not have much access to modern facilities and technologies. According to the education policy in the country, computer literacy and communication technology are mandatory for all schools. Our students and staff are delighted to have the new computers and gain new skills for practical classes. The students are very eager to learn and it has already made a big difference in their interest in studies. It also helps the teachers to present creative teaching of their lessons and make their classes more interesting. Students are encouraged to write their assessments, individual and group project works using computers. This project has brought more interest and enthusiasm in learning among our Students and staff.



Purobi P.
Chiran Rndm



Making a differenceSouth India



The Golla children of Almel, North Karnataka, are a very vulnerable group in the society. They are illiterate and their parents are ignorant about the importance of education. When the parents go to work, their children are left to themselves, they go about collecting bottles and other plastic items to earn money to help their families.

The RNDM sisters made the parents aware of the need to educate their children and to give them a chance in life. With the support of the Christmas project, 30 Golla children were enrolled in the primary school.

The sisters and staff gave them regular tuition classes and nutritious meals which have made a big difference in their lives. They are now able to read, write and are more interested in learning. This experience has helped these children to build self-confidence and look towards a brighter future with

hope. The opportunity to attend school has lessened child labour and potential school dropouts. These children are an inspiration to their younger siblings as well as to their parents. The Golla children and parents are grateful for your generous support towards achieving their dream.



Sr.Flavy Castellino

Story of Loving Service ! Myanmar

St. Theresa's Leper Colony is run by the RNDM Sisters in Myanmar. There are about thirty families of leprosy patients. They are supported by our sisters, donors and friends. The Sisters look after them, distribute daily food, medical needs, clothing, and even build houses for their accommodation.

Once a month, they are given energy drinks like Ovaltine or Milo and rich cookies. The sisters also cook some hot meals with meat and curry. On Saturdays, they are supplied with rice, fish, dry fish, noodles, eggs, potatoes and vegetables every week.

On 9 September we celebrated 'Leprosy Sunday' which is kept as the leprosy patients' birthday. We invited the headman of the

village and his team and two members from the Leprosy Medical Office. We had a prayer service for the patients and for the generous donors. We distributed mattresses, blankets and served them a nutritious meal and health drinks.

We thank our sisters and donors for supporting the needs of the patients and the mission involved. With your generous contribution, we have been able to help these needy people and reach out to them. We ask God's blessings on you as we journey together for the welfare of this community.

Sister Joana Hla Kyi
Thayet, Myanmar



Merry Christmas

Education and Nutrition to Indigenous Children, Vietnam



The RNDM sisters support about 50 poor ethnic children who come from families that could not afford to send their children to school. Some are orphans, others live in the forest or on the mountains, far away from their schools and have no opportunity to attend school.

We visit their villages regularly and make them aware of the need for education. We help them to join school and continue their studies, so that they are not discriminated in the society. Only 40 children have their birth certificates, they go to the primary school. Others are waiting to get their birth certificates and study at the sisters' house.

Their families are extremely poor. The children are provided with accommodation, food, medicine, school fees and basic needs.

We also provide meals and stationaries for another group of 20 poor students who live nearby our community. The children are doing well, working hard and are

well accompanied by the sisters not only in their studies but also in human and social development. Last year many of these girls got very good results in school.

The children are very happy and are deeply grateful to you all. We also appreciate your generous support and kindness.



Once again, we thank you very much for your goodness. God bless you all.

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

Sr Teresa Tran Thi Hong Xuan

Dream comes true for Dalit Children, Bihar-India

The RNDM sisters at Narkatiaganj, Bihar have been dreaming of educating the Musahar children who belong to the lower caste community. With the support of the Christmas project, we are able to realize this dream gradually.

We have now, over 300 children in our education centers in different villages and have enrolled about 200 of them in government schools. We are glad to see about 50% of these children are able to read and write. Our goal is to enable them to complete their primary education. The sisters and teachers work hard as a team to bring out the best in every child and reach the targeted goal. Regular tuition classes and assessments are being done to know their progress and we give incentives to encourage them to do better.

A residential programme is also organized on a bi-monthly basis. During this period, classes are conducted on various school subjects including

cultural activities, games and value formation. We are delighted to see the joy and enthusiasm of these children who have never had a chance to go to school before. They have gained self-confidence and hope for a brighter future.

The Dalit community is deeply grateful for the gradual transformation that has taken place in their community through education. Thank you to all our sisters and donors for supporting us to reach out to these less fortunate children and continue the humanitarian work among this community.



Sr. Carmina Mascarenhas

Moving towards independence... Kenya



Tei Wa Ngai (Mercy of GOD) Matuu, Kenya has the stories of many mothers who have seen wonders in their children. Physiotherapy has made a big difference in the lives of not just the children with disabilities, but also the parents and families. They now believe that it is possible for their child to walk and improve *pole pole* (slowly, slowly) even if they visit our mobile clinics once a month. A few parents who can afford a fare to Matuu, come two or three times to the clinic.

The Epilepsy Clinic is the most demanding one for our Occupational Therapist, as most of them bring their children to be seen by the doctor and get the opportunity to have physiotherapy as well. Often there are more than 20 patients and they insist the OT to do the therapy even if referred to the hospital.

The RNDM sisters and their co-worker visit regularly the differently abled children in their homes. The teachers have seen the improvement of these children in their studies and are eager to continue schooling, as they have realized that *someone* cares for them. They also know that they can get wheelchairs, crutches or artificial limbs if they are referred to Kijabe Clinic in Matuu. The children are attentive and have accepted their physical disabilities. They share courageously with their classmates and families.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve our most needy children who need physiotherapy and those who suffer from epilepsy. We greatly appreciate the support from our friends and donors and ask for God's blessings on you and your families.

Sister Jiovanna Lozada RNDM



We, at the IMDO appreciate and are ever grateful to all our sisters across the Congregation, friends, mission partners and benefactors for your collaboration and generous support to our needy missions throughout this year. Your support towards the Christmas Catalogue, Solidarity and other projects have transformed the lives of many people, who otherwise would not have had a chance in their life. God bless and reward you always!

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a grace-filled New Year



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