

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER

September 2020

FOR RNDMS
ASSOCIATES
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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 22 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

Dear Sisters and Friends,

We are in a challenging time in history as the COVID-19 pandemic seems to be the fastest moving global crisis in our world today, causing significant mortality and giving rise to daunting health and socio-economic challenges.

In the words of Pope Francis: *The pandemic has highlighted how vulnerable and interconnected everyone is. If we do not take care of one another, starting with the least, with those who are most impacted, including creation, we cannot heal the world. To grow truly, we must grow together, sharing what we have, like the boy who offered Jesus five barley loaves and two fish... yet they proved enough for five thousand people (Jn 6:1-15)*

Our Sisters and missions were affected by the lockdown in many parts, however in the spirit of the zeal of our foundress Euphrasie Barbier, they did not stop reaching out to the poor and suffering people in the missions. We are grateful to agencies, provinces and individuals who support us in these difficult times to share our loaves and fish with many who did not have any.

In this newsletter, we bring to you some of the mission reports /stories which our Sisters were able to carry on, in spite of the lockdown restrictions. It was possible only due to your sharing spirit and concern for others. It is encouraging to see how new life and hope have been created from desperate situations and people. Happy reading!

Smitha Thomas

Smitha Thomas RNDM

Rebuilding the Farm, Hogar Belan Moquegua - Peru

Behold, I am making all things new! Rev 21: 5

RNDM Sisters in Peru have a home for abandoned children and disabled people at Hogar Belén, Moquegua. Last year, a severe flood destroyed our farming area, taking away all our plantation and food for the children and cattle. With the support of our Sisters and generous benefactors we were able to recover the waste land and are happy to see how it is producing good vegetables and crops now. It is a miracle that our mother earth can be renewed with some care after such a devastation suffered from floods last year. During the lockdown, we cleaned up the land, planted trees, grew crops, vegetables and alfalfa for our children and animals. All of us at Hogar Belen are participating in this project watching over the land, sowing the seeds and seeing the miracle of life. Now, it gives us hope for the future of the Home and we are a witness to our children, to show that we can overcome the difficulties of life. Caring for mother earth is a blessing and *la Pachamama* (mother earth) provides for her beloved children. Thanks to all our friends and donors!

Josefina & Fabiola RNDM



Computer learning at John Bosco Primary school, Sohra - India

St. John Bosco Girls' Primary School Chirapunjee, (Sohra) is a premier institution run by the RNDM Sisters since 1937. This school caters to a very poor section of the children around the villages. 21st Century schooling demands computer education for all students and under Covid-19 online schooling, it is a necessity for all teachers and students. Having computers in the classrooms makes teaching and learning interesting and innovative for all. The students learn the skills and knowledge of IT, and practical experience will make them more self-confident. During the Covid-19 period our school remained closed but the children are waiting to come back when the lock down relaxes.

However, staff come to school to prepare online lessons for the students. Now with the help of the computers, they are able to work efficiently and make lessons more interesting and fun filled for the students.

We are deeply touched by the generous donation received for our Primary school to purchase PCs and laptops. The children and the teachers are excited about learning by doing and under the current pandemic situation, this gift has been a big blessing to our school. The Sisters together with the staff and students of St. John Bosco Girls' Primary School, Sohra, take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to all our

Sisters and benefactors for your generosity and support for our mission and for the less fortunate children of our society.



Nurturing young girl students for a brighter future Pakse - Laos

Laos is one of the poorest countries in the world in economy, education and healthcare facilities. In the rural areas where the ethnic groups live, it is even worse. Most of the ethnic children quit school before finishing primary level due to financial difficulty. Many of them have to work at a very young age to support their family, while some turn out to be drug sellers and even robbers.

The RNDM Sisters desire to bring light and hope to the poor children, especially the girls. Through this project, we have provided them with basic needs to attend school and help them to understand the importance of education, personal development and their social responsibilities. At present we have ten girls and among them, three are doing teachers' training, one is studying at the IT College, three are in high school and two other girls have completed their high school and basic English courses and have obtained good jobs.



Kayxon is one of the keen students who against all odds joined the Sisters' residential home and graduated from high school. Now she is in Vietnam learning Vietnamese and preparing herself for a nursing course next year. She says, "These precious experiences and opportunities give me courage and remind me always to do my best. I appreciate your generous heart and, always remain grateful to all who supported me to reach my goal. Please pray for me ! The RNDM Sisters in Laos thank you wholeheartedly for your generosity and collaboration with us in our ministries.

Maria Nguyen Thi Cam Linh RNDM

A dream dispensary in Kounkane, Senegal

RNDM Sisters in Senegal opened a new mission in Kounkane in 2016. After a long journey, in the midst of the Covid pandemic we opened the dispensary in 2020. We were delighted to welcome our first lot of patients who waited anxiously to see the doors of the dispensary opened. During the rainy season malaria is very prevalent and many people suffer from it and die. Our dispensary offers much comfort and relief to the sick who are affected by malaria, HIV/Aids and other illnesses.

It was not easy to open the dispensary during the pandemic. We had to take all the precautions, keep the protocols of the government regulations and upgrade the stock of medicines. The doctor in charge from the health ministry, came and inspected the dispensary and gave us the green signal. The Solidarity fund received was a great support in purchasing the needed medicines. A dispensary in this isolated zone has lightened the worries of the poor people. They no longer need to walk for long distance or wait for many hours at the public health center. Having a dispensary of the Sisters, is a great relief

to people and they look forward to coming there, where they find peace and relief to their pains and aches. Patients keep waiting in hope and we witness the joy on their faces as they come to get healed. They trust in the Sisters' good treatment and medicines. Mothers, children and old people are the most vulnerable clients. Along with good treatment, we hope to provide awareness classes to fight against malaria and other transmissible diseases.

Our heartfelt thanks to all our Sisters, friends and benefactors who supported us in making this dream become a reality. We ask God to bless you and protect you always!



Cyria Nongrum RNDM

Potable Water Development for Manobo Dulangan Communities in Kulaman, Philippines

The mothers in the village of Mantil had to fetch water far away from their homes using only several small containers that are available. This potable water project installation, gives great joy for many of them who previously had to walk miles to be able to have the water they need for their daily use at home.

Delesan Kailawan continues to work collaboratively with the Manobo Dulangan towards a sustainable and healthy

indigenous community. The potable water project assists as part of addressing the community's basic necessities, enabling them to practise proper nutrition, hygiene and sanitation. It intensifies health education, addresses the root causes of all kinds of illnesses. This project helped the community tremendously in sustaining life and improving their well-being. It continues to open up many possibilities for the communities, in a way that they have begun to develop backyard gardening that will assist them in providing proper nutrition for their children. during this pandemic time, the project has heightened importance with the need for frequent handwashing and disinfecting their homes. The on-going potable water project benefits members of the Manobo Dulangan indigenous people. Delesan Kailawan join the Manobo Dulangan tribe, in thanking all our friends, benefactors, RNDM Sisters across the globe who contributed financially and all those who participate in our mission.



Thank you so much for bringing living water to the Manobo Dulangan community

Delma Barrientos RNDM

Women Empowering Women -Muuo (Peace) Women's Project, Kenya

Pope Francis told Christians and people of goodwill that "until we revive our sense of responsibility for our neighbour and every person, crises will continue." Wherever we are, we are responsible beings, not only to oneself but to the whole of humanity. Pope Francis' message echoes in us a deep call for action, to move and respond with compassion to our brothers and sisters who are socially, economically, spiritually and physically different from us. As sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in Kenya, we have heard, we have seen, we have experienced and we have touched the pain of the the poor, the marginalized , as we strive to continue empowering women and widows through different activities and programs that will make a difference in their lives.

It was impossible for the women in Muuo (Peace) Women's Project to hide the joy and celebrative mood as they celebrated the success of seven young women/



mothers who graduated from Tailoring in Muuo (Peace) Women's Project and from NITA Tailoring Trade Grade III Exam, on March 12th 2020. Coming from poor families and relying on well-wishers to support them financially, these women bravely challenged the social status of their time and entered wholeheartedly to achieve their goal thus, to know how to sew and to make clothes for their children, family, others and most of all to become self-independent. Among them is Joyce Moraa Mokua, one of the physically challenged woman whose left hand and leg are partially paralyzed. Because of her situation, she was not accepted by a number of vocational training institutes. Her last hope was Muuo Women's Project. Because of her past experiences she felt that she may not be accepted but she was taken by surprise with the warm welcome she received from the sisters, the staff and other women. From then on she was so determined and eager to learn. Her physical disability did not deter her to fulfill her dreams to become a dressmaker. She has a great passion to learn, full of life, self-acceptance and enjoying every bit of her learning.

Along with her training, Joyce Moraa faced another challenge, to do the National Industrial Training Authority Exam for dress-making. She left school over twenty years ago at primary level. Poverty did not allow her to continue with her education, and now to register to do the NITA exam she cannot make it. We encouraged her and finally she agreed to do the exam in December 2019. In January 2020 she received the good news that she passed her exam and also her companions. During the graduation the Muuo Women's Project gifted Joyce Moraa with a sewing machine to enable her to continue with her sewing skills and fulfilling her passion for dress-making. She is one happy woman as she has proved to the society that ability within disability is a gift and a blessing! Thanks for your great support and generosity.



Salota Aimalefoa R.NDM



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