

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER



**RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION
DEVELOPMENT - ROME
PROMOTES MISSION THROUGH
COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE
SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS**



AUGUST 2022

Dear Sisters and Friends

Education overcomes poverty and gives dignity to people. RNDM Sisters and our mission partners across the world have been doing our best to realize this goal with your support. The personal stories shared in this newsletter are proof of this. Many of our children and families who live on the margins of society would not have had a chance if you- our passionate sisters, generous benefactors and friends, had not given your support. We are deeply grateful to each one of you!

I share here below, part of a letter I received from our Sisters in Senegal Region.

'Warm greetings to each one of you from Mboro, Ndongol and Kounkane, 3 communities of Senegal region. We pray and wish each of you to enjoy good health, full of joy and peace in your daily life and missions.'

Here in Senegal we try to do our best in our missions. The rainy season has just started in our country. Together with the people we all hope that we can get a good harvest this year as now is the best time to cultivate most effectively. Very soon the students go on holidays and they will have a chance to help their parents in the fields.

This season brings us blessings, but at the same time we face the challenges of malaria particularly in the south of the country where our sisters are, at Kounkane. We are aware of the people's deepest pains with various sicknesses in this zone. We, RNDMs Senegal, are present here to accompany the people in this land and serve them as much as we can with all our heart, care and support. With grateful hearts and on behalf of our people in this land of Senegal, we would love to express our gratitude for your love, care, support and accompaniment in so many different ways. A big thank to you all who are connected to our missions.

May God bless you always! Blessings and graces, Peace and joy to you all.'

Smitha Thomas RNDM

SmithaThomas RNDM

GRATITUDE FROM THE HEART.... NORTH EAST INDIA

I am Francisca Khongwar. I feel proud to have someone who loves and takes care of me. I do hope that you are keeping well as I am here by the grace of our heavenly Father. I want to take this golden chance to express all my gratitude to you. So, "Thank You", "Thank You" dearest Sisters and benefactors for your love and support. From the time I was admitted to St. Mary's Convent in the year 2017, I feel so happy and privileged.

I lost my parents in the year 2012. My grandmother, brothers and sisters are so grateful for your generosity and thoughtfulness. Every day we remember you in our prayers. They feel very privileged and blessed to see me growing up in the right way and managing successfully my daily life. I am number seven of eight brothers and sisters. My siblings have always encouraged me to be determined and committed in order to live a brighter future. Thanks to the help from RNDM sisters, our grandmother manages to bring us up well and gives a good education like other school children.

This year, I am attending class IX in St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Shillong. I am very pleased and happy. I enjoy my studies and daily life with my friends and class mates. With the help and encouragement of all the sisters in charge I manage to do my work and study very well. Now I promise and commit myself to keep on working hard and to give my best to achieve the best results in my work and studies. I always keep you in my prayers. God will be with you and bless your work. Thank you very much my beloved Sisters and all of you my dear benefactors. You are very dear to my heart and I remain grateful always!



**Francisca Khongwar
Shillong-India North East**

GOLDEN CHANCE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE, PLEIJUT- VIETNAM

Dear Sisters and benefactors

My name is Diep and I am studying in the seventh grade. I stay at the residential home run by RNDM Sisters in Pleijut, Gialai Province, Vietnam. My parents have three children; we are very poor and have only small land to plant coffee trees to earn money for our daily needs. Last year, my parents could not afford to pay for my studies and I felt very sad because my dream is to become a fashion designer and I love drawing. Fortunately, one of the RNDM sisters invited me to go and stay at their home. I was really happy and so were my parents! Thanks to the financial support of the sisters and the benefactors, I have done well in my studies. The sisters have tutored me in the core subjects. At the end of the school year, I had good results and learnt a lot. I am improving in my drawing skills every day. I am deeply grateful to you all for giving me a good opportunity to pursue my dream with hope.



My name is Lac and I am in grade six. My family is extremely poor and has no land to cultivate. I live in a small village of Gialai Province. My parents work very hard to support my family but they are illiterate and unable to guide me in my studies. However, their wish is that I would continue studying for a better future. Last year, an RNDM sister visited my family and invited me to study at their study centre. All members of my family felt very lucky and blessed. From that day, I feel more confident in myself, studied better and got very good results. Thanks to the support I received from all, I am well motivated to study. Hopefully, my future will be different and I will become a helpful person. We would like to express our thanks to our Sisters and benefactors for the sacrifices, generosity and support, especially for making a difference in our lives and giving us a brighter future.

Diep and Lac, Vietnam

A CARING HOME AT HOGAR BELEN - PERU

Thanks to your gift- the children of Hogar Belen are receiving health attention. Our partnership with the local clinic made it possible to get vaccines, regular visits and check-ups from the nurses and doctors. In January some children got Covid and we were not frightened, since we were able to care for them in Hogar Belen, giving them the attention needed like Covid-tests kits and medicines.



Jose Luis teaching the children



*Children receiving the health care at Hogar Belen
new Infirmary Room with Covid-facilities- June 2022*

At the moment as Covid virus is somewhat under control, part of the prevention is to call doctors for regular check-ups. Most of the children are underweight, with anemia, other diseases and suffering from psychological trauma when they arrive at Hogar Belen. It is very important for the wellbeing of these children to provide health care facilities, good food and motherly love. It is amazing to see the positive changes that happen, after being well cared for.

Many thanks from your sisters in Hogar Belen!

Fabiola Caceres RNDM, Peru

RNDMs Dare to Care for our Common Home ! South INDIA

Creating Green Spaces.....

The Congregation Chapter 2020, with the theme, Oneness for Mission invited us to renew our commitment to Earth and its resources. We, the Sisters and collaborators in India South Province took this challenge to 'Dare to Care' for our Common Home - our Mother Earth. Creating Green spaces in our communities, schools and Social Service centres sprang into action. All were made aware of creating a green space that makes the environment healthier and more liveable. If you take a walk around, one can see and taste the beauty of nature all around. Trees, plants, flowers and creepers adorn the area. Greenery in the surrounds cools the eyes and warms the heart; there is tranquillity, peace and enchantment that elevates the spirit. It is heartening to notice that all of us have become more and more aware of the responsibility as human beings to take care of our Common Home.

Trees and plants reduce heat and air pollution. Doing our part to create more green, resilient spaces in our communities and schools were new initiatives with the support of Misesan Cara. The Climate Change Innovative Project invited us to embrace nature and its biodiversity. Saplings and plants were given away to students to take home, along with resources about the benefits of green space, hence the attempt is to incorporate nature activities into school and enhance classroom learning combined with nature learnings. The teachers help to brainstorm ideas for converting the unused land into a garden, pocket park, mini-forest or green bushes. There are incredible benefits for children having a green space both at home and in school.



Green space increases concentration, improves academic performance, provides better mental and physical health.

We are well aware that the planet is under enormous stress caused by we humans. The more concern our children show to the environment, it is more likely, that they will become adults who will practise environmental care and live as good stewards of our common home.



QMS - My Alma Mater: The Afternoon School, Kolkata

I am Shabana Khatoon, one of the past pupils of Our Lady Queen of the Missions Afternoon School (QMS). I come from a very poor economic background and my parents could not afford to send me to the morning fee-paying school at Queen of the Missions School. We are staying in the slum areas of Park Circus, Kolkata and I was admitted to the afternoon school. At that time, the free school had only primary section and the thought of leaving my school after primary was very painful. But to everyone's surprise, the management decided to upgrade the school, one class every year. Therefore, I was lucky enough to study there up to class seven in my favourite school.

I can still remember my last day in school, the farewell day for the outgoing students of class seven. My friends and I were very sad to leave the school because we felt very much at home with all the sisters and teachers. I felt that I was leaving home, not the school. At that time, I had a great desire to become a teacher and that too, in my favourite



school. But I was not sure whether I would ever make it. I joined another school to continue my high school studies and I completed my class X. I still wanted to continue my higher studies, but being a Muslim girl, (our custom is to give girls in marriage at an early age), my family decided to arrange for my marriage against my wishes.



I was very upset and thought that my dream of becoming a teacher would never come true. I tried my best to explain my position to my family and begged them to allow me to complete my class XII before I got married. To my amazement, they agreed and I continued my studies and I completed my class XII and got married in the same year. Then my life went on with the humdrum of family life.

Finally, one day, my dream came true as I got a chance to teach in a local school for 3 years. Meanwhile, I had an opportunity to give my application in my own alma mater (Queen of the Missions Afternoon School) and I was appointed as an assistant teacher. I still remember the day I stepped into my school once again as a teacher..... It was the greatest day of my life as my dream came true. I enjoy teaching and being with the kids. I am very happy to be part of Queen of the Missions family and am grateful to the sisters for giving me this opportunity to become a teacher.



Shabana Khatoon, Kolkata-India



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