

# RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER

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 22 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE**



Dear Friends

I have recently returned from Kenya after visiting some of our missions where the sisters work among the poor and people with disabilities. At the Tei Wa Ngai Centre, I visited a family with disabled members – four of the six children are physically challenged and are living in the house with very little support. I met Jonathan and his brother John, two brothers who became disabled in their teens due to mal-nourishment. It is very sad to see them sitting around the house unable to move



or do anything for themselves, but Jonathan's cheery smile captured my heart. Their mother now has a pair of grandchildren of whom one is also disabled. Many parents still do not want to accept the children born with disability and they are often neglected or left to the grandmothers to care for them. It was a heart touching scene for me to see this grandmother caring for the two babies along with her sons. The Sisters help the family with food items and medication. Two boys are given wheel chairs, so that they can attend school. The drought situation in the country also makes it difficult for them to cope with their daily life. I admire the sisters' dedication and concern to support the persons with disability and their families.

I am grateful to all of you, for your support in making a difference to the lives of such people in our missions. We are able to do it only because of the ongoing generosity of you, our Sisters and Partners in Mission. We express our appreciation to you on behalf of all the people whose lives will be improved due to your kindness and generosity. God bless you!

*Smitha Thomas*  
**Smitha Thomas RNDM**

***Wishing you and your families the Joy and Peace of the Risen Lord !***

## EDUCATION FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE, VIETNAM

I am Thi Sinh. I am the eldest in a family of four sisters. When my father died in an accident on his way home from work, my mother was only 26 years old and she was alone to raise four children. We had a very small farm land and life was very difficult. My mother had to work very hard to support my family, sometimes it was not enough.

At that time, I was 8 years old, being the eldest sister in the family, I had to help my mother to look after my younger siblings.

My family could not afford to send me to school but I never stopped dreaming about it. In 2017, I met a RNDM sister and she invited me to stay at their boarding school, in Minh Hung. Since then, I have been cared for and received a quality education from the sisters. Initially, I missed my mother and my siblings very much and I wanted to return home. However, with the support of the sisters, I overcame my difficulties and focused on my studies. In these years, I got very good results. I love my class, my friends and the sisters. I wish to continue my education so that I can help my mother, my family and my village in the future.

I am deeply grateful to you all for your love, care, generous support. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to follow my dreams and start shaping my future.

***Thi Sinh***





## NEW LIVES NEEDING SUPPORT AND CARE - MYANMAR

In recent times life in Myanmar has become more and more challenging. After the military coup, people have become more vulnerable and fear there is no hope for their future.

Since the military government took over, people have to cope with difficult times, their life has become a struggle, there are fewer jobs available and no income for many families. Before the coup, the pandemic had affected the country badly and people had to face many challenges to make a living. The military coup has deeply worsened the living and health conditions of many people who are the most marginalized and live in poor areas of the country. The shortage of resources for the families' daily survival is a fact.

Livelihoods of these people have been jeopardized and farmers are unable to look after their land in time for preparation and cultivation. Humanitarian support at this time of distress has been crucial. Among the most affected people are pregnant women and their new-born children who have little or no access to healthcare services for a safe delivery.

This program was set up for 25 pregnant women and 35 women who had just delivered their newborn children. The women live in remote areas and the access to health facilities is a challenge. Thanks to many donors who generously assisted us, we were able to distribute proper food and nutrition as well as health care support.

Every woman has a different story: their common feature is that they live in very poor conditions and often do not have a permanent income. Some of the women rely on their husband's work although this is a daily work, such as farmer, oil miner or fisherman.

We are most grateful for the support we receive from across the world, from generous people who help us continue our missionary journey to change the lives of the less privileged and the most vulnerable people of our society.

**Sr. Veronica Khin Mar Aye RNDM**





## EDUCATION AND QUALITY FOOD - BANGLADESH

St Thecla's hostel is a home to the girls where the sisters give them access to formal education and faith formation. They are tribal girls coming from very poor families who live in local rural areas. The parents of the girls have no permanent jobs and struggle to make a living. Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the cost of providing nutritious meals for the girls residing in the hostel has increased significantly. Many of the girls who live with the sisters, come to the hostel undernourished, and so it takes time and resources to nurture them back to full health. At the moment the beneficiaries of this project are 35 young girls living at St. Thecla's hostel.

Thanks to the Solidarity funds received from many donors across the congregation we were able to provide quality food which allows the girls to keep healthy and carry on their studies efficiently.

We are very grateful for all the generous people who are making a difference in the lives of these girls ensuring them of a brighter future.



**Shiuly Catherine Gomes RNDM**

## CLEAN DRINKING WATER, Gwaltoli - INDIA CENTRAL

The new school building in Gwal Toli was opened in April 2022 and the new classes began. The construction was funded by the Italian Bishops' Conference and co-funded by Missio and the Australian Province. The school serves the less privileged and marginalized children and families of Gwal Toli village. One of the most recent needs was the provision of clean water for the school and the sisters' residence. Having clean drinking water and a separate provision for the school was our dream. Thanks to the generous contribution and help from the Australian province through Solidarity funds, our dream came true. The works included the digging of a bore well, the installation of two water coolers for boys and girls, one water filter (to remove iron from the water) and two aqua guards for purifying the water. The children, parents, sisters and others enjoy drinking the filtered, cool, clean and healthy water. The bore well gives sufficient water for the toilet use,



gardening, washing and cleaning the premises. Recently we managed to take the drinking water connection to the school from the residence.

The beneficiaries of this project are more than 500 and they include school children, women from English and tailoring classes, children from the tuition training centers, teachers and other staff of the school, parents/guardians of the children.

We thank the Australian province who helped us financially to improve the well-being and health conditions of so many children and families .

**Moncy Mathew RNDM**



## CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME - KENYA

“St. Francis, faithful to the Scriptures, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness.”

All the communities of Kenya province took part in the project of planting trees as a way to take care of our planet.

The school compounds, the parish church, the convents and the farmlands around Mbajone, Machakhos and Matuu were all involved enthusiastically in this very exciting project. More than



9,000 trees were planted and more

will be planted soon. The types of trees that were chosen and bought have also a specific purpose: Kajava, is a life fence and very good to keep animals away from the compound. Indigenous trees, such as Meru oak, are used for timber, and for creating shade.

We thank the donors who contributed to this project which make us all aware that we have to make joint efforts to care and protect our common home.



**Scholastica Mutua**

## ACCEPT AND COPE WITH DISABILITIES, TWN - KENYA

Tei Wa Ngai program is one of the RNDM's most successful programs for assisting people and children with disabilities.

In Kenya disabled people are very neglected and marginalized for their “socially embarrassing” physical conditions. Paradoxically, it is often the parents and family members who are ashamed of their disabled children and often hide them and leave them alone in remote places.

Tei Wa Ngai program offers not only assistance, medical care, physiotherapy and home medical check-ups to their patients, it also provides counselling and organizes seminars for mothers and caregivers to create awareness and teach them how to cope with children who need extra care and special support.

121 mothers attended the latest seminar on March 1st 2023. The rights of the children were the main topic of the day. Disabled children deserve the same rights of all children, including the right to education, right to be equally loved, right to be protected from any kind of abuse. The women sat in groups and shared their experience. We are confident that periodical seminars will bring an attitudinal change in mothers and that children with special needs will eventually have their dignified place in society.



**Ngan Ha RNDM**



*If you wish to support our projects, please contact below or visit our website*  
**RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, ROME**

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