

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER

FOR RNDMS,
ASSOCIATES,
FRIENDS,
SPONSORS &
PARTNERS

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION
DEVELOPMENT - ROME
PROMOTES MISSION THROUGH
COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE
SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS
IN 22 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE



JUNE 2023

Dear Sisters and Friends

The cry of the poor and the cry of the earth are a constant call to respond to the urgent need to address climate change. Pope Francis reminds us of this responsibility through his encyclical 'Laudato Si' and the movie - 'The Letter'. Our Foundress Euphrasie Barbier, in her time also wrote to the Sisters in Napier: "If you can plant some more fruit trees, where the soil is better, do so, and do not allow any more trees to be cut down..." (Letter to M. St. Peter, Napier 1882).

In this newsletter we share with you some of the initiatives the sisters have taken to care for our common home by responding to the above call. Your support for education of deserving but less fortunate students is also bearing fruit as some graduate and move on to taking up new careers to sustain themselves and their families.

We remain ever grateful to our Sisters and donors for supporting us to attend to the cry of the poor and of the Earth.

Smitha Thomas RNDM

Sowing the seeds of life - SENEGAL

From the beginning of the mission in Ndongol, we understood that it was essential to empower women and teach them how to fight against poverty and malnourishment. Women play a major role in the family, from feeding to educating their children. Most of the women stay in the village to look after the families and work in the fields from June to December during the rainy season. If there isn't an older man in the family, they are responsible for all the work from planting to harvesting. In the semi-arid area of Senegal where the rains are irregular, life becomes very difficult for women. Over the years we have helped women to stand on their own feet through microcredit schemes but the impacts of Covid -19 have made the prices of everything go very high and the women have not been able to buy and sell their products.

Thanks to the Solidarity funds received, we were happy to distribute the donations to the 50 groups of women. They were able to purchase seeds for planting beans and millet and in return they will contribute some of their harvest to our program of malnutrition. This has helped the women to be more independent and self reliant.

We thank all our donors and benefactors who have played a major role in making this a successful venture.



Seria Nongrum RNDM

The power of the sun - ALMEL, INDIA



I am Mrs. Tejaswini Poojari from Vibhutihalli village in Almel. I have three children and my husband is a daily wage earner. I began tailoring five years ago with a manual pedal machine. This year the sisters encouraged me to use an electrical machine powered by a solar battery. I am a member of a self-help group where I got the training, motivation and encouragement by the sisters and social workers and I am the first one to adopt the new system. I am very happy to start this new way of working faster and saving electricity, at the same time using solar energy. I am very grateful to the sisters and donors who helped me to improve my working conditions. I am happy that from today onwards I am able to stitch the clothes at any time and there is no fear of power failure. I am also happy to say that I am now completely dependent on solar energy when I work, thus a big saving on my electricity bill! Now I have increased the number of clothes I can sew and thus my earnings too. I am glad to say that my children can sit and do homework freely at night. I am proudly saying to everyone that I am using a nature-friendly sewing machine. I am very grateful for the support I have received from all our generous donors. Thank you!

Tejaswini Poojari



Making the most of nature's gift-Solar energy, INDIA

The community at Gwaltoli (Siliguri - India) made a path-breaking move by installing solar street lights on the school campus. The outdoor solar street lighting plays a key role in creating an eco-friendly atmosphere in the compound at Gwaltoli. We are really grateful and fortunate to have 20 solar street lights around our property to improve the safety of everyone by illuminating our premises; thus reducing the chances of theft and vandalism in the evenings and night hours. The street lights help us to create a secure environment for our students, teachers, staff, parents and workers who can cross the school premises safely.

The purpose of having solar street lights is to create a sustainable lighting system so that we can provide quality education for the tribal minority and the economically challenged students. The use of solar energy helps reduce the electricity bill. We are now able to organize various activities, conduct programs and celebrations of school and social work in our grounds especially in the evening hours.

The installation of solar lighting aligns with the sustainability goals, promotes eco-consciousness and serves as an example to learn about renewable energy and environmental stewardship. The solar lights offer a sustainable and eco-friendly solution to improve the lives of children and families in our villages. We are able to teach by example as to how to make the earth greener and give it a healthy and prosperous future by using a renewable energy source. ... The SUN!



We are grateful to all our benefactors and friends who enabled us to install the solar lights. THANK YOU !



Jayaseeli Soorian RNDM

New trees to save a land - LATIN AMERICA



At Hogar Belen centre for people with disabilities, our commitment is to care for human beings and creation. Our property is next to a river and in 2019 a violent flood destroyed our farm land. Overnight we had to face a big challenge to save and recover the barren desert, changing it into a green and beautiful landscape.

Initially we completed the protective stone fence next to which we have started planting the trees. We engaged a specialized company to clear the land which was mainly covered with stones.

Later we also planted 50 fruit trees while we kept maintaining the recovered land. We really hope our property will soon look attractive and eco-friendly so that the children with disability who live here can benefit and enjoy the gifts of nature.

Thanks to all benefactors who made this dream come true. We pray for God's blessings on you all.



Fabiola Caceres RNDM

Making our land a fruitful space – MYANMAR



The novitiate community in Pyay was opened in 1996 and in 1997 five acres of paddy field was bought for that community. Of this land, 3 acres is in hard soil and about two acres is just swamp. In the early years the rice we were able to grow was enough to support the community. Due to climate change the land eventually became fully filled with swamp, therefore we stopped growing paddy in the two-acre field. However, we are growing some seasonal vegetables and long-term trees in the harder soil area. Our desire was to fill this swamp land of about one acre and prepare the land for growing seasonal organic vegetables to become self sustainable. Thanks to the support received we were able to fulfil our desire.

We are most grateful to our sisters and benefactors from across the world who supported our project and enabled us to create an eco-friendly environment for our sustainability. Thank you and God bless you all.

Joanna Hla Kyi RNDM



Time to enjoy our outdoor grounds! - INDIA

Belvai, a small village 45 km away from Mangalore, is a small parish with 206 Catholic families, and about 15000 Hindu and Muslims. The sisters began offering Primary education in 2017 to the children in and around Belvai. Marian Niketan school has reached to class 5. The parents are very happy and appreciative of the kind of education and care that the sisters offer to their children. At the request of the parents we are working at extending the Primary School to secondary level.

The province has completed the construction of the school to provide the best infrastructure for the students. At present the school has 294 students from Nursery to class 6. As the number of students was increasing, it was necessary to improve the

conditions of the outdoor space. The ground was being covered with rain water and slush which the children brought into the classrooms. Thanks to the generosity of the donors the school was able to have interlocking blocks laid in front of the school building. Therefore the classrooms are cleaner and the students are able to use the paved area for practicing yoga, physical exercises, dancing, karate and cultural programs. We are most grateful for your support.

God bless your generosity in providing our students with a better ground space.



Sr. Flavy Castelino RNDM

“I have got a real job thanks to you!” - VIETNAM



Dear Sisters, friends and benefactors,

My name is Tun Xavan. Today, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all of you for your generous support during my studies over the past 4 years.

I am the second child in a family of four children. My parents are gardeners who always work hard and often get sick. In that difficult situation, I decided to quit school to work and earn money to help my family. Then, I met the RNDM missionary sisters and I was encouraged to stay with them to continue my studies. I have completed high school education and learnt some life skills. I wanted to continue university studies, but because of my family situation, I left the community of the sisters to find a job. Currently, I have a reasonably good job at a foreign company cooking for the workers. With the salary I receive, I help my parents paying for our daily needs and for my younger brother and sister's school fees. I also saved money and bought a motorbike to go to work. Life is still full of challenges, but I'm grateful for what I have been given.

Once again, I wholeheartedly thank you, my dear sisters, friends, and benefactors. I wish you good health, happiness, and success wherever you are.

Tun Xavan



If you wish to support our projects, please contact below or visit our website

www.rndm.org

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, ROME

Smitha Thomas RNDM & Silvia Mazzenga

Suore di Nostra Signora delle Missioni

Via di Bravetta 628, Roma 00164, Italy

Tel: +39 06 6615 8400 - Email: imdo@rndmgen.org

