



Frontier Fransalian

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales / Fransalians **Chad-Cameroon**
N°14, June 2009

My dear Confreres and Friends of the Fransalians,

Gratitude to God is the first sentiment that comes from the heart when we stop for a while and look back to the past for an evaluation. The year 2009 marks the 10th year of our presence in Chad. It was on 12 November 1999 that we started our Mission in Chad. The pioneering team from India consisted of just three priests. Everything was new to them: culture, people, language, food habits and a harsh climate.. In spite of the challenges rising from the frequent attacks of malaria and a very hostile climate, the mission continued to flourish.

BERO Mission in Chad is the pride of our entire Mission of Chad-Cameroon. The Mission has 28 villages, a Boys' Home and a Primary School. The Mission is also blessed with a Formation Centre catering to the entire population in the district. Three young priests are working in this mission. During this year of the decennial celebration, the Congregation has decided to open one more mission in Chad. A Girl's Home is also planned for the near future.

In the year 2000 Fr. Thomas Cherukat came over to Yaounde in Cameroon. Fr. Thomas who had been leading the South-West Province in India as its Provincial Superior for 9 years volunteered to work in this Mission. It was an important and daring step for the growth of this mission. His long experience, knowledge, courage and clear vision contributed much to the steady growth of the mission. Fr. Thomas left for Rome in February 2008 to take up his new responsibility as the Assistant Superior General of the Congregation. The Chad-Cameroon Mission is ever indebted to Fr. Thomas for lovingly nurturing this mission during its difficult infancy.

Opening a mission in the north of Cameroon was a priority for us. Divine providence led us to the diocese of Ngaoundere, from where reaching out to our confreres in Doba was easy. Mutual support, care and concern for one another paved the way for the steady

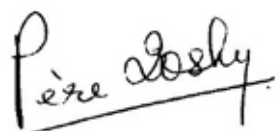
growth of the mission. In Ngaoundere, we take care of the pastoral needs of the University students at the Bini-Dang parish besides looking after the two village parishes of Berem and Mbe-Karna.

Another remarkable step in the growth of thi mission was the decision to promote local vocations and at the same time to arrange the priestly formation of some of the students from India in the Mission itself. Thus the community in Yaounde, with Fr. Thomas Cherukat as its superior, became a cradle for nurturing vocations to priesthood. As a result we have La Feuillette, a formation house of our own at Ngoya near Yaounde. The nearby Mission of Ekekkam is entrusted to the confreres at La Feuillette. Quite recently we have opened a formation house in Ngaoundere for the initial formation of the local candidates to priesthood.. Berem and Mbe-Karna Missions in Ngaoundereare attached to this community. In the Archdiocese of Yaounde, we have yet another Mission at Ekoumdoum where we hope to establish a school and a children's home in the near future.

I thank God who brought us to these two countries of Chad and Cameroon in order to help in the evangelizing and developmental efforts of the Local Churches. I thank all the confreres who have worked in this mission. Some of them are not physically present anymore in the mission. At present, there are 11 priests working in this Mission. There are 9 students including three from Cameroon undergoing theological formation.

We can never forget all those who supported us financially. We remember with gratitude our friends and benefactors in different parts of the world. We are in a very special way indebted to Fr. Thomas Cherukat and the Fransalian Associates at Moembris-Schimborn in Germany for their continued support and encouragement for our works in Chad and Cameroon. Without their generous support, the mission would not have reached up to this stage. We have many more dreams and plans for the future of the mission in Chad and Cameroon. By the support and prayers of all, we hope to accomplish them. May the Lord continue to inspire and guide us so that the Chad-Cameroon mission con-

tinues to flourish and bear fruit abundantly.



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Decennial Celebrations in CHAD

On 19th April 2009 the confreres working in the Chad Cameroon mission gathered together in Bero for the decennial celebrations of our presence in Chad. It was also the occasion of the visitation of our Superior General and the Provincial. Mgr. Michel Russo, Bishop of Doba presided over the Thanksgiving Mass. The MSFS community in Bero made all the arrangements to make the occasion colourful and unforgettable.

A large number of priests, religious and lay people participated in the celebrations. Mgr. Michel Russo thanked the MSFS and appreciated their good works and their deep commitment to the development of the Bero Mission. The beginning and growth of the mission in Chad and Cameroon during the past ten years as well as the service rendered by all the confreres were recalled with gratitude.

It was during the same Eucharistic celebration that two of our students Emile Amougou and Kujur Kul-deep made their perpetual profession in the Congregation. Emile Amougou is the first ever Fransalian from Cameroon to make the perpetual profession in the congregation.



St. Josephine Bakhita Primary School, BERO

Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world. Illiteracy is a major obstacle for the development of the country. We have therefore started a school for the poor children of our Bero Mission which has already four classes. The classes are being held in the temporary sheds. There are a lot of children, but the basic facilities for a school are not yet there. We are in the process of building the school. Thanks to the generosity of so many benefactors we hope to complete the construction of the school building soon. We dream of holding the classes in the new school building from September 2009.



Saint Francis de Sales Boys' Home, BERO

The school in Bero is primarily intended for the children from the 28 villages of the Mission. However it is not possible for the children from the far away villages to reach Bero. The Mission extends over a distance of 40 kilometers from one end to the other. There is no public transport existing, The ordinary means of transport is bicycle and that too only a few persons can afford it. Therefore, we planned to build a Boys' Home in Bero. Children from the remote villages where people could never think of sending their children to school are admitted to the Boys' Home so that they receive a proper education in our school. They do receive a god formation for life. At present we have 10 boys, who are doing very well. We are very happy about their performance. It is a great step towards forming a new generation of educated youth in a poor country like Chad. We hope to admit up to 50 boys in the Boys' Home. We are ever grateful to the many generous benefactors who have helped us towards this project.



Greetings from Pater Thomas Cherukat in Rome

Dear Friends of the Fransalians,

I wish to greet each one of you with the peace and joy of the Spirit of Christ who inspires our hearts and minds to reach out to the poorest of the poor in this world. It is the Spirit of God who unites us. It is the same Spirit who strengthens us in our resolve to be at the side of the poor in a world that ignores the poor and the needy.

During the 6 weeks from 15 April to 30 May I have been on the move in our Missions of Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa and Tanzania on official visitation. I was happy to see the tremendous work that is done by our Fransalian missionaries in all these three countries. More than 75 Fransalians are engaged in pastoral and developmental works in these countries in the most trying conditions in some of the remotest areas of Africa. Africa certainly needs our help and continued support.

Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, our Superior General has just returned to Rome after his official visitation to our Chad-Cameroon Mission. Fr. Agnelo was able to spend 20 days in the Mission. He has seen for himself the tremendous transformation that is taking place at our Bero Mission and in every Mission Centre of Chad-Cameroon Mission. He has been very appreciative of the efforts of the Friends of Fransalians in Schimborn-Moembris towards the development of our Mission in Chad and Cameroon.

In Tanzania, during a meeting of the Mission Superiors of Africa I had the opportunity of meeting personally Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam and get first hand information on the development of the Mission. There is a new sense of confidence and enthusiasm in Chad for the further growth of this Mission. Our confreres have drawn up a concrete plan of action for the coming years and they look forward to your generous help and support to implement them. Some of the major projects envisaged are:

1. To complete the school construction latest by September 2009
2. To open a new Mission directly in Doba Town by October 2009
3. To accept 10 more children at the Boys' Home by September 2009.
4. To initiate the project of establishing a school at Ekoumdoum in Cameroon as early as possible.
5. To initiate the construction of a Candidates' House at Ngaoundere in North Cameroon at the earliest.

I thank each one of you for your generous help and support for our Mission in Chad and Cameroon. May the Lord reward your love for the poor and your generosity to extend a helping hand to our Fransalian Missionaries in Africa.

With renewed greetings and good wishes to each one of you,
Yours cordially



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