



Frontier Fransalian

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales / Fransalians **Chad-Cameroon**
N°15, December 2009



Happy Christmas & a Joyful New Year

My dear Friends,

It is once again Christmas season, a season of great joy and happiness. The reason for our joy and happiness is the birth of a little child in Bethlehem 2000 years ago, in the midst of poverty and insecurity. The human family patiently waited for the coming of Jesus the Saviour. He was lovingly called Jesus.

When the little child of God was born in Bethlehem, the world did not recognise him. Though he was eagerly awaited, the world did not accept him when he was born. He was not welcome. In fact he was rejected by God's own chosen people.

Today millions of children are not cared and treated well in many parts of the world. In certain societies, their presence is altogether unwelcome. They are even killed before they are born. They are abandoned, abused and enslaved. In poor countries like Chad they are not brought up in human dignity mainly due to poverty and misery of parents. Jesus continues to be born today and challenges us to stand up for the rights of the oppressed and the deprived.

We the Fransalians in Chad and Cameroon are trying to respond to this challenge in our own modest way by focusing our attention on the large number of poor children who need timely help and support. We have been able to establish a primary school and a children's

home in our Bero Mission in Chad. We are happy that we have been able to construct a new building with five new class rooms. The children of Bero are now blessed with a decent school where they can learn with dignity and comfort.

In Cameroon too we have a project of establishing two new schools – one at Yaounde and another at Ngaoundere in the near future. We are grateful to you for the continued support and help that you extend to us for these very challenging works for the benefit of the poorest of the poor in our missions.

I wish each one of you the joy and blessings of this Christmas. May the Child Jesus bless you and your families and keep you in good health. May the New Year 2010 be an year of grace and blessings for all of you.

Yours cordially

**Father Joshy Nellimalamattam,
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A TRIBUTE TO PATER GEORGEKUTTY PUTHIYIDOM, MSFS
(*14.08.1976 - (†29.09.2009)



The untimely and tragic death of Pater Georgekutty Puthiyidom, MSFS on September 29, 2009 in Cameroon was a rude shock to the entire congregation of the Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales. The Fransalian Mission of Chad-Cameroon was plunged into grief and anguish. Fr. Georgekutty was drowned as he was swept away by violent waves at Limbe where he had gone with brother priests for a swim.

Fr. Georgekutty was born on 14th August 1976 in Kerala, India. He was the 8th and the youngest child

of his parents. He was ordained priest on 25th of November 2004 in his native parish in Kerala. Soon after the ordination he was sent to Chad-Cameroun Mission. He began his pastoral ministry as Assistant Parish Priest of St. Josephine Bhakita Church at Ekoumdoum, Yaounde for a term of three years. On 1st July 2009 he took charge as the Rector of La Feuillette, the MSFS Study House for Theologians at Ngoya near Yaounde.

Fr. Georgekutty was loved by all. His simple, unassuming, cheerful and gentle ways endeared him to all those who came in contact with him. He loved Cameroon and its people. He was the most joyful face of the Chad-Cameroon Mission. Fr. Georgekutty had just returned to the mission after burying his father who died on 8th September. He had suffered the loss of his mother only a few months ago, in March 2009. He is survived by his seven brothers.

The mortal remains of Fr. Georgekutty was transferred to India on 11 October and was laid to rest at the congregation's cemetery in Kerala. More than 250 priests and a large crowd of people attended the funeral services presided by the local Bishop and assisted by the Provincial Superior of the MSFS in Bangalore.

The sudden and untimely death of P. George is a severe blow to the mission and to the congregation at large. Fr. Georgekutty however continues to live on in the hearts of the people whom he loved. The Fransalians of Chad-Cameroon bow in submission to God's will and commend the departed soul to his eternal rest. As we pay our tribute to our loving fr george we thank him for all the good qualities that he shared with us. May his soul rest in peace.

Project drinking water: An Appeal from Chad

Chad is a country known for its extreme poverty and underdevelopment. Infant mortality is very high mainly due to avoidable diseases. Most of the diseases are



due to the non-availability of safe drinking water in the villages. In Bero Mission there are a large number of villages where

the population totally depends upon open wells for drinking water. These open wells are not cleaned or protected. They are exposed to a variety of animals and insects. During rainy season, these wells get filled with dirt and filth and people continue to drink water from the same and are infected with diseases. Children are the first and major casualty. The villages are so poor that by themselves they are not able to remedy this situation. They need some support to get these wells deepened, cleaned and protected with retention walls around them.

The Fransalians in Bero have therefore decided to assist the local population in getting these wells protected so that the



local population get access to clean and safe drinking water and thereby reduce the infant mortality in the area considerably in the coming years. The cost of improving one such well is about 300 Euro (Euro Three hundred only). The villagers are glad to contribute to the project by way of manual labour and some building material.

We invite therefore sponsors and donors for this very worthy project in Chad. We propose to take up at least one well each in all the 25 villages under our charge. We thank you for your generosity.

Appeal sent by: Pater Joshy Mangalathu, MSFS, Bero Mission, Chad

Fransalians accept a second mission in Chad

The Fransalians have just completed 10 years of their presence in Chad. The first batch of Fransalians from India had arrived in Chad on 12th November 1999.

Initially they served the Maibombay Mission in Doba for a period of three years. Later the Fransalians laid the foundation

of a vast Mission in BERO which has witnessed a steady development in the past three

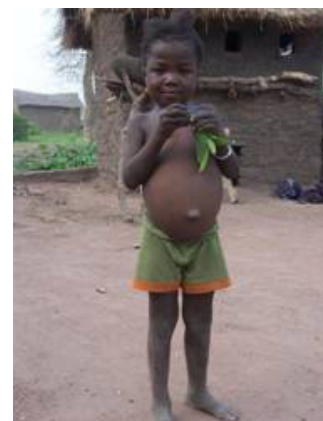


years. The bishop of Doba has therefore requested the Fransalians to take up a second mission in Doba. The Fransalians have now acceded to the request of the bishop by accepting the charge of the Comboni Parish of Doba which is one of the fastest growing Mission in the diocese. The Mission comprises 29 villages with a population of about 50,000. It has already a nursery and primary school with some 400 children. It is planned to develop the school up to a high school and junior college (Gymnasium) in course of time. Pater Scaria Kannezhathu, MSFS has taken charge of this new Mission in the second week of October 2009. Many projects are being planned for the development and self-sufficiency of this new mission.

Would you like to sponsor a Child in Chad?

The Fransalian Mission of BERO in Chad is now blessed with a newly constructed school and a children's home. There are some 200 children under the care of the missionaries. They need the support of generous people. Most of these children cannot afford to buy the clothes, books and other learning materials

normally necessary for a school-going child. We are looking for sponsors who will come forward to accept patenschaft for the poorest among these children. An yearly contribution of Euro 100.- (Euro One hundred only) will be sufficient to meet the educational needs of one such child.



Greetings from Fr. Thomas Cherukat in Rome.

My dear Friends of the Fransalians,

It is with a sense of joy and gratitude that I greet you during this festive season of Christmas and New Year. Christmas is all about life. The new born Babe of Bethlehem invites us to see God as the source and author of all life. Life is fragile, life is precious. Life is a gift of God. The Christmas-event is a sure sign that God loves us human beings as his own children because He has created us in His own image and likeness. Christmas is telling us that every human being is a child of God. All are children of God. All are equal before God. There is no partiality, no discrimination, no distinction of colour, race, tribe, caste, creed or gender. Christmas is the Good News for the whole of humanity that peace, justice and freedom are possible in a world torn apart by greed and violence. May the joy and peace of this Christmas continue to strengthen us in our faith in Jesus and help us to commit ourselves more deeply to the cause of the poor and the abandoned in the farthest corners of the world. May the cry of the poor and the suffering keep us ever alert to the challenges of the Gospel.

The death of a young missionary in Cameroon

Chad-Cameroon Mission has suffered a heavy loss when Fr. Georgekutty Puthiyidom, a very young and dynamic Fransalian met with a tragic accident at the Limbe beach in South-West Cameroon and died on 29th September 2009. . The entire Mission has been under great shock and grief. I had to cancel some of my planned visitations in India and rush to Cameroon in order to assist our young confreres there to coordinate the arrangements for the transfer of the body to India and to strengthen the bereaved community. I remained with our communities in Cameroon from 3 – 19 October. Our communities are now gradually getting back to normalcy. God has his plans. We need to learn to accept it in faith and humility. As we pray for the departed confrere, we remain in hope that Fr.Georgekutty is now in his eternal bliss and that he will obtain from God showers of blessings for the Mission he loved so much. R.I.P.

Good News from Chad

We have a lot of good news from Chad. Thanks to the continuous support of so many friends and benefactors from different parts of the world, our young missionaries in Chad are working enthusiastically for the development of the people whom they are serving. The BERO MISSION has undergone a tremendous transformation. The Mission is full of life with a new school, a children's home, a formation centre etc. We the Fransalians have also taken up a second mission in DOBA where two priests are assigned to coordinate the activities in a much larger area reaching out to more than 50 villages around.

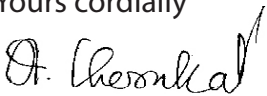
In Cameroon

In Cameroon too, we have important projects at Ekoumdoum and at Ngaoundere for the near future. The project of a school at Yaounde is a priority. The process of acquiring a plot of land for the proposed school is already initiated. We need to mobilize funds for the construction of the first phase in the immediate future.

Gratitude

I would like to place on record my deep debt of gratitude to each one of you and especially to the Freundeskreis in Moembris-Schimborn for their continued support for our works in Chad and Cameroon. With your helping hand we are able to reach out to so many needy people. May the good Lord reward your goodwill and generosity. I wish each one of you a very happy Christmas and a bright and prosperous new year 2010.

Yours cordially



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