



Frontier Fransalian

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales / Fransalians **Chad-Cameroon**
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Dear Friends of the Fransalians,

It is with great joy that I write to you once again to share with you some news from our missions in Chad and Cameroon. After the tragic death of our young confrere Fr. Georgekutty Puthiyidom in September 2009 the Mission has been going through a period of much grief and sorrow. With God's grace, the situation has changed again. The activities in the Mission are in full swing. In all our mission centres, we had very lively Easter celebrations. Jesus Christ who suffered on the cross continues to inspire us and strengthens our communities in faith. The joyful season of Easter and Pentecost is a constant reminder to all of us that we are destined for the final victory over pain, suffering and death. Our life in the Missions is a daily experience of the paschal mystery of Christ. The life here is increasingly becoming hard due to malaria and a very severe and hostile climate especially in Chad. The Risen Lord is our strength and solace which helps us to endure the hardship with joy and satisfaction.

Dear friends and benefactors, I often think of you all and pray for you. You are like Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus to carry his cross to Calvary. You are the Simons of Cyrene for us, Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales, working here in difficult situations. You encourage and support us with your prayers and financial support. We the missionaries have crossed the borders to persevere in the Mission that the Lord Jesus has entrusted to His apostles : « Go, then, to all the peoples everywhere and make them my disciples » (Mt. 28 :19). We are now 13 priests working in this Mission. In the name of all my confrères here,

I express our sincere gratitude to all of you for your spiritual, moral and financial support. May the risen Lord bless you abundantly. Please be assured of our prayers for you and for your intentions.

With every good wish
Yours cordially

**Father Joshy Nellimalamattam,
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NEWS FROM CHAD

BERO MISSION

It was in the year 2006 that a small community school was started in a thatched shed at Bero. It is now a full-fledged primary school with a well constructed building and one of the best schools in the region. Children from 48 villages benefit from this school. The construction of the first phase of the school was completed in January 2009 with 6 class rooms, a staff room, office and a store. The school has reached the CE2 level with four classes having a total of 185 children. The Fransalian Missionaries in Chad are convinced that real development is possible only through education. A Boys' Home was started in the year 2008.

It has now 20 boys from the age of 9-14 years. They hail from remote villages. The main purpose of this project is to give an opportunity of good education for children who are very poor. Two priests are working in this mission. Apart from the school and boys' home, they have the responsibility of pastoral care for a vast district comprising 25 villages.



DOBA MISSION: THE SECOND FRANSALIAN MISSION IN CHAD

The second Fransalian Mission in Chad is known as the Comboni Mission of Doba. This Mission has a history of some 37 years only. Doba, the present diocesan headquarters was till very recently a sleepy village. Due to the recent oil exploration in the region, Doba has been witnessing a rapid transformation into a small township with a sudden increase in population with constant migration from the surrounding villages. The Comboni Fathers who started this Mission had to leave Doba in June 2009 due to the shortage of missionary personnel. The Bishop of Doba therefore entrusted this Mission to the Fransalians in October 2010. The Mission has about 8000 Christians consisting of 11 Basic Christian Communities. Each Basic Community has as many as 300 members. The Mission is

divided into 4 sectors comprising of 29 villages. The farthest village is 37km from the Mission Centre. About 3000 people attend the Sunday Mass at the Mission Centre. The three Fransalian priests working in this Mission are very young, dynamic and enthusiastic. Education of the children and formation of women and youth are the priorities in this mission. Some 134 catechists and lay leaders are engaged in the faith formation and awareness programs for the people. However it is difficult to reach out to the people in the villages due to bad roads or lack of roads. The Mission has a nursery school with 60 children and a primary school with 300 children.



NEWS FROM CAMEROON

Ekekam Mission: A Multipurpose Hall
 Ekekam is a village in the diocese of Obala in Cameroon. The Mission was established in the year 2006. The Bishop of Obala has entrusted this Mission to the Fransalians. The total population of Ekekam is around 1500. It is situated about 35 kms from Yaoundé, the capital city of Cameroon. Though it is a short distance, it takes nearly 1h30minutes to reach there. There is no proper road, electricity or other basic facilities. During the rainy season some 15 kms of road is very bad. There are nine villages

under this parish.

A Multipurpose Hall equipped with a Solar Panel is planned for this Mission. The project is chiefly aimed at helping the children of our villages to study better in the evening hours. There are two primary schools run by the State in this region. But the nearest High School is some 9 kms away. Children have to walk the whole distance and return to the village late in the evening. As there is no electricity in the village, children are not able to do well in their studies. A Multipurpose Hall with a Solar Panel and a Generator will be of great help for the children of the village. It will be used regularly to conduct some formation programs for the women and youth of the parish especially with regard to hygiene and AIDS awareness etc. Meetings, seminars and courses are to be organised for the benefit of the entire local population. The regular meetings of catechists, animators and lay leaders are now held in the existing small chapel. The proposed building is a multipurpose hall of 20 meters of length



and 9 meters of width. Sufficient land is already acquired for the proposed project. The total cost of the proposed hall is estimated at EURO 12 000 (twelve thousand). Half the amount has already been mobilised from various sources and from the

local people. A sum of Euro 6000 is needed to complete this project. The people of Ekoumdoum look forward to your generosity and solidarity.

Ekoumdoum Mission

The Project of a School and a Church

Ekoumdoum Mission on the outskirts of Yaounde city is one of the most flourishing Fransalian Mission in Cameroon. The Mission has a very large population but no church or presbytery. Mass is celebrated in a make-shift shed. The priests are residing in a rented house since several years now. The local people have mobilized some funds for the land and for the construction of a church. The work is in progress. The project of a school is also in progress. A good piece of land has already been found.

Ngaoundere Mission

The Fransalian Mission of Ngaoundere in North Cameroon consists of three main centres namely Bini-Dang, Mbe-Karna and Berem. Four Fransalian priests are engaged in various pastoral and developmental activities in the three centres. A house for aspirants is planned. at Gada Mabanga in Ngaoundere town. A large number of children from the rural areas continue to attend our two schools at Mbe-Karna and at Berem.

La Feuillette

Life in La Feuillette at Ngoya has changed considerably. Fr. Manoj Arackal, a very young and dynamic priest has taken the place of late Fr. Georgekutty. There are 9 students in their philosophical and theological formation including 5 Cameroonians. One more young priest from India has joined the community.

GREETINGS FROM PATER THOMAS CHERUKAT IN ROME

My dear Friends,

It is always a great joy for me to greet you through the Frontmission. In the midst of my many responsibilities at the level of our Congregation, I do take time to be in contact with our Chad-Cameroon Mission. Thanks to your generous support and encouragement, our young missionaries in Chad and Cameroon are able



to continue with so many projects for the development of the people. New projects are being taken up. They look up to friends and benefactors for continued support and help.

I take this opportunity to thank each one of you, our friends and well-wishers for your generosity. I thank the members of the Freundeskreis in Schimborn for their deep commitment and support for our work in Chad and Cameroon.

An Appeal for Patenschaft

We have now a large number of children in our schools in Bero, in Doba, in Mbe Karna and in Berem.

Most of these children come from very poor families. They need financial help. A sum of Euro 100 per year will help them to continue their education. I will be very happy to give more details on this project to anyone of you who is interested to sponsor a child.

Thank you for your love and concern for the poorest of the poor.

With every good wish
Yours cordially

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