



# FRONTIER FRANSALIAN

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales / Fransalians  
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CHAD-CAMEROON



Dear Friends of the Fransalians,

Greetings and good wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year. Once again I have the joy of presenting to you our Chad-Cameroon mission through this Christmas issue of the Frontmission. In spite of the many hardships and trials that we experience daily in the mission, I am happy to inform you that the work in all our centres continues as per plan. We thank God Almighty for his loving care and protection. We also thank God for the many friends and benefactors who support us with their prayers and financial support.

When Jesus came into the world, He did not look for easy ways to proclaim the will of the Father. He did not run away from the difficulties and hard realities of life. By carrying the cross to Calvary, He revealed to the world how important it is to follow God's will without compromise. He came with a mission and He accomplished it perfectly. The disciples too, who continued the mission of the Lord in the world, did not have an easy time. They went ahead courageously even unto death. The mission of the Lord was more important for

them than their own lives.

The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, who went from France to India in 1838 were daring men. They worked hard in a land unknown to them, they brought faith and hope to a large number of people in Central India. Today, we the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales from India are called upon to continue the same mission on the African Continent. The challenges are similar. The mission has already suffered the loss of a young and dynamic priest. We remembered our beloved Fr. Georgekutty on 29th September 2010, the first anniversary of his tragic death on the shores of Cameroon. However many are the blessings that we have received in the past year. Two more priests have joined us. Three of our students are ordained deacons. Hence the Mission continues to grow.

As we are about to celebrate Christmas, the joyful feast of God's love for each one of us, I would like to wish all of you a Very Happy Christmas. May the joy and blessings of this holy season be with you all throughout the New year 2011. I thank each one of you for your prayers and financial support. A special word of thanks and appreciation to our friends in Kahlgrund who are very close to this mission. May the Lord reward your love and generosity.

With renewed greetings and good wishes

**Father Joshy Nellimalamattam,**  
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## More Fransalians from India arrive in Chad-Cameroon

It was in 1999 that the first batch of three Fransalians arrived in Chad. An year later, in November 2000, Fr. Thomas Cherukat had arrived in Cameroon. The Mission began to grow year by year as new batches of Fransalians were sent to this Mission in successive years. The Mission was in great need of a more experienced missionary when Fr. Thomas Cherukat had to move to Rome in 2008 as he was elected the Assistant Superior General of the Congregation. Ever since, the province in India was looking for a senior priest to replace Fr. Thomas. At last the Mission is blessed with a senior priest when Fr. Mathew Kavithazha from India came forward to join the Mission. Fr. Mathew is 62 years old. He has been a pioneer missionary in the Philippines for 10 years where he had helped to establish an ever flourishing Mission. Fr. Bipin Kishore Xess another young priest from India has also joined the Mission recently. We thank God for the gift of these two missionaries to our Mission and wish them a joyful ministry in the service of God and His people. Two more students from India are already designated to the Mission. They are expected to arrive in the Mission in January 2011. The entire Mission rejoices over the new arrivals and wish them much strength and courage to meet the challenges ahead.



## More local Fransalians in Cameroon

Right from the inception of the Mission in Chad-Cameroon, the Fransalians have been making every effort to promote local vocations to priesthood and religious life. Deacon Emile Amougou Amougou from Yaounde is the first ever Cameroonian Fransalian. He is due to be ordained a priest in 2011. There are two more Cameroonians doing their theology at La Feuillette in Ngoya besides another two young Cameroonians pursuing their philosophical studies in

Ngoya and 4 Candidates from Cameroon undergoing a pre-novitiate programme at Ngaoundere. The Mission is therefore all set for a steady growth in indigenous vocations.

## Mr. Isidore Alarane from Bero obtains Diploma in General Nursing

Mr. Isidore Alarane (27) from Bero Mission in Chad has been awarded the Diploma in General Nursing by



the Catholic University of Yaounde. Isidore hails from a remote village under Bero Mission. He was sent to Yaounde in Cameroon for his graduation in General Nursing at the initiative of the Fransalian Mis-

sion in Bero. The three year programme of studies for Isidore was sponsored by Dr. Claus Schubert of Gelnhausen through the "Verein zur Förderung von Völkerverständnis und Kulturaustausch e.V. Gelnhausen". Hearty congratulations to Isidore for the successful completion of his studies. Isidore is expected to return to Bero soon and help to strengthen the various health care programmes in the Mission. We wish him all the best. We thank Dr. Claus Schubert for the generous scholarship offered to Isidore.

## New Projects at Ekoumdoum

**A Primary School:** There is some good news from Ekoumdoum in Yaounde. The project of a Fransalian school at Ekoumdoum is in progress. It has been a long wait to get the necessary funds for a piece of land. At last we have been able to acquire a piece of 3500 sq.m. land of which 1000 sq.m. is a donation from one of the parishioners. We plan to establish a primary school on the newly acquired land as early as possible. The process of acquiring another piece of land at AFANOYA 10 kms away is going on in view of establishing a secondary school in course of time.

**A Parish Church:** The parish of Ekoumdoum does not have a church or presbytery. The Fransalians began their work in Ekoumdoum in 2005. Since then daily Mass is celebrated in a make-shift shed on a rented property. The priests stay in a rented house nearby. One of the parishioners has donated a piece of land measuring about 4000 sq.m. for the construction of a church. The foundation stone was



laid on 18 December 2009 by the Archbishop of Yaounde. The parishioners have already mobilised enough money so that we were able to construct an underground hall. The hall is already being used for catechism classes and the various programmes of animation in the parish. The work on the church building continues but we need more funds to complete the project.

## News from CHAD

### Bero mission

Our Mission in Bero has gone through a lot of development during the past three years. The newly started S.F.S. primary school and the Boys' Home are indeed a great blessing for this Mission. About 200 children attend our school including the 33 boys from the S.F.S. Boys Home. There is great demand for admissions. The search is on for some religious Sisters to establish a dispensary and a Girls Home in the near future.



### Doba mission

Doba Mission has become the hub of a lot of developmental activity. The primary school run by the Mission is perhaps the best school in the entire diocese. Doba is a growing town now due to the oil exploration in the Region. The population has increased considerably. So too the challenges of this Mission.



## ***GREETINGS FROM PATER THOMAS CHERUKAT IN ROME***

Dear Friends of the Fransalians,

Greetings and good wishes to each one of you. I write these lines from India. During the past two months I have been travelling through the length and breadth of this vast country visiting around 80 Mission Centres including some 23 schools. I had personal meetings with some 200 priests working mostly in remote areas besides attending so many meetings of great importance for the Missions in India. India is experiencing a big economic boom but there is still much poverty everywhere. The Fransalians in India have 6 Provinces with about 800 priests working all over India serving a large number of mission stations and social service centres including more than 120 schools. Most of our missionaries are very young and there is much enthusiasm and dynamism seen everywhere.

It is from India that the Fransalians went to Africa some 20 years ago. Today there are more than 150 Indian Fransalians wor-

king in 8 countries of Africa. Our Chad-Cameroon Mission is one of the youngest Missions. I am happy and deeply grateful to you for your continued support to our Missions in Africa. We thank God for you and for our many young missionaries in Africa. We thank God for the increasing number of our young African Fransalians.

I hope to be back in Rome for Christmas and New Year. I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a Bright New Year. May the joy and peace of this Christmas be with you throughout the new year. I assure you my prayers and good wishes for each one of you, for your good health, for your families and for all your hopes and aspirations. May God bless you.

Yours cordially



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