



# FRONTIER FRANSALIAN

## CHAD-CAMEROON

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales / Fransalians  
N°18, June 2011

Dear Friends of Fransalians,

It is with sincere sentiments of joy and gratitude that I write to you once again to keep you informed of some news and information from our mission centres in Chad and Cameroon.

We have just celebrated Pentacost, a feast which gives us much hope and confidence. The disciples of Jesus were afraid and were closed up in a room. They were afraid to move out due to fear and uncertainty. The descent of the Holy Spirit suddenly changed everything in their lives. They became courageous. They started speaking about Jesus the crucified who rose from the dead to give new life to a humanity that was subjected to sin and evil. It was the beginning of the Church. And the disciples took up the Mission of the Church seriously: „Go out into the whole world and proclaim the Good News”

Today, Jesus depends on each one of us in carrying out His mission on earth. We are His instruments. In Chad and Cameroon, the Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales make great efforts to carry out this mission in a humble manner. We are present in Chad and Cameroon for the past 12 years. There are 13 priests, 4 deacons, 6 seminarians and 2 aspirants who make up our present team.

I am very happy to acknowledge your support in various ways. Without God’s caring hands and your generosity, we could not have gone ahead. Every time, you come to our aid, we feel your presence with us. Though you are far away, you are reaching out to us to help the poor and needy in Africa. We are immensely

grateful to each one of you. We are grateful to the “Freundeskreis” in Kahlgrund for devoting their precious time and energy to mobilise funds for our projects.

Dear Friends, you are God’s generous and providential hands for us.

May the Spirit of the Lord be upon you and strengthen you.

With prayerful good wishes,

**Father Joshy Nellimalamattam,  
MSFS**

Mission Superior  
B.P. 185 (c. 394 )  
Yaoundé, Cameroun  
Tel. 00237 99 03 96 90  
e-mail: joshynelli@yahoo.com  
www.agape-tschad-kamerun.de  
www.fransalians.com  
www.msfsouthwest.org



### **NEWS FROM CHAD**

The two Fransalian Missions of BERO and DOBA in CHAD are flourishing day by day. The developmental and educational activities in these two missions are bringing the much needed solace and comfort to a population that has been neglected for a long time. The missionary team consists of four young Fransalian priests from India. All of them had their priestly training in Africa and therefore well versed in the language and culture of the people they serve. The two missions of Bero and Doba together has a population of over 50.000 people scattered over some 60 villages. Both these missions are catering to the educational needs of the poorest of the poor. The two schools are well attended and efficiently managed. The new school in Bero has some 250 children on its rolls. The SFS Boys’ Home in Bero has 31 boys receiving the

best education possible in this war-torn country.



### Urgent appeal for help

#### 1. Construction of an additional class room:

The school at Bero with its 250 children is already making a good impact in the entire region. The school secured 98 % results in the last academic year. There is now need to have one more class room to have sufficient space for the increasing number of children. Your generous contributions are earnestly solicited.

#### 2. Extension of Boys' Home:

Father Paul Raj who is in charge of the Bero Mission has appealed for financial assistance to expand the present Boys' Home in order to be able to admit 50 boys at a time. There is an increasing demand from parents in the far-flung villages to have a possibility of good education for their children. Your contributions to this worthy cause is gratefully acknowledged.

#### 3. Sponsors for the Boys' Home:

Fr. Sandeep Tirkey, the Director of the Boys' Home is making an appeal for more sponsors for our children in the Boys' Home. A sum of Euro 100 per year will be sufficient to take care of the educational expenses of a child in our Boys' Home in Bero. We are grateful to you for your generosity.

## NEWS FROM CAMEROON

### Ngaoundéré Mission

Four Fransalian priests are engaged in a variety of ministries in and around Ngaoundere in North Cameroon. The University Parish at Bini-Dang is full of activities as there are more than 1000 students who regularly attend Mass and participate in the various

activities of the Parish. The two rural parishes of Bero and Mbe-Karna are also served by the Fransalians from Ngaoundere. The project of a formation house at Gada Mabanga Djalingo has already been initiated.

### Project to provide drinking water : An appeal from Mbe-Karna

Mbe-Karna is a Fransalian Mission, situated at 74 kms north of Ngaoundere in North Cameroon. The Mission has some 11 sub-centres. The majority of the population including a large number of migrants from the neighboring Chad are illiterate and depend on seasonal agriculture for their livelihood. The rains are scarce in these northern regions. There is a serious shortage of clean drinking water for large sections of the population. Fr. Sathish Abraham, the Parish Priest of Mbe-Karna writes: "There is acute shortage of drinking water in our sub-stations such as Mbe, Gop, Demsa, Gamba and Marouware. More than 600 families are very badly hit by the water scarcity. The outbreak of cholera is quite frequent in this region mainly due to the absence of clean drinking water. I would like to help these families to dig a number of wells where the prospects of finding good source of water are indeed quite good. The cost of digging such a well in this region is estimated at Euro 700.00. I appeal to our friends and benefactors to come to our help".



### An Ecumenical "Live-in Program" for Children in Mbe-Karna

Around 140 children – catholics and protestants – were brought together at Karna from the various centres of the parish for a three-days ecumenical programme under the guidance of the catholic clergy and the pastors from the different protestant denominations. The programme was held 20-22 November 2010. The programme included various sessions of instructions, animation, music and sports. The entire village was in attendance for the musical evening. The first ever ecumenical programme

for the children of this rural parish was indeed an unforgettable event.

### **Blessed John Paul II Chapel in Nkongmessa Inaugurated**

On May 7 2011, Bishop Sosthene Leopold BAYEMI MATJEI of Obala, Cameroon, blessed and inaugurated the newly constructed chapel at Nkongmessa and dedicated it to the recently beatified Blessed John Paul II. Probably this is the very first chapel in Cameroon



dedicated to Blessed John Paul II. Nkongmessa is one of the sub stations of the Saint Francis de Sales parish of Ekekam III entrusted to the Fransalians. The new chapel is situated deep in the tropical rain forest in Central Cameroon. It has been the long-cherished dream of the 500 strong community of Nkongmessa to have a decent chapel of their own. The entire community was actively involved in mobilizing funds and to complete the project. Bishop of Obala paid glowing tributes to the Fransalian Missionaries for their dedicated service in the diocese of Obala.

### **La Feuillette, Yaounde**

With much joy and eager expectation the Fransalians in Chad-Cameroon look forward to the priestly ordination of four of its students in Yaounde. The four students includes the first ever Cameroonian to be ordained a priest in the Fransalian Congregation. La Feuillette, the Fransalian Formation House in Yaounde has at present 9 students doing philosophy and theology including the two scholastics from India who joined the community recently.

### **Ekoumdoum waits for its new church and school**

The construction of the parish church is in progress. The parishioners are eagerly waiting to move into the

new Church after years of “worshipping on the way-side under a make-shift shed”. If everything goes well, the church is expected to be inaugurated by the end of this year. The parish of Ekoumdoum is gradually becoming part of the capital city of Yaounde due to the rapid expansion of the city and the influx of migrants from the interior of the country. The project of a primary school within the parish limits is planned for September 2011. The process of acquiring the land for a secondary school at Alfanoyo, 8 kms away from the parish is nearing completion.



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

Dear Friends of the Fransalians,

Greetings and good wishes to you from Rome. It is always a matter of great joy for me to greet you and express my deep appreciation and gratitude to each one of you for the way you come forward to help our work in Africa. I have just returned to Rome from Africa after some important meetings and visits in Tanzania. The entire General Administration of the Congregation along with the Superiors of our African Missions met in Arusha, Tanzania 10 – 15 May 2011 to evaluate, plan and deliberate on the various projects and programmes for the Fransalian Missions in 8 countries on the African Continent. In Arusha the Congre-



gation has recently established an Institute by name Lumen Christi Institute. It is a new venture of the Congregation for the whole of Africa. It is an Institute designed to be a university in course of time. Formation for transformation and total development is the leitmotiv of the new Institute. The new Institute was formally inaugurated on 14 May 2011.

“Foster Life & Fight Aids” is one of the programs already initiated by the new Institute in collaboration with a partner organization from Gelnhausen under the direction of Dr. Claus Schubert to whom we are ever grateful. It is a program designed for the training of trainers (TOT) in creating awareness about the dread-

ful disease of Aids among the African population.



A school of philosophy with 12 students in the first year has already been functioning since September 2010. Several other programs are envisaged for the coming years chiefly aimed at training of lay-leadership and empowerment of women in Africa.

Our Chad-Cameroon Mission is one of the units of the AFRICA MISSION FORUM and as such an active participant of the new project at Arusha. The news from our missions in Chad and Cameroon are always encouraging. The steady progress that we see there is a living testimony of the love and concern that each one of you have for the work of the Fransalian missionaries in this fledgling mission in a distant region of the African Continent. I assure you my prayers and wish you God’s blessings for your generosity and love.

With warm regards,

**Rev. Dr. Thomas Cherukat, MSFS**  
Assistant Superior General  
Via delle Testuggini 21  
00143 Roma, Italy

Tel. +39 06 500 51 50  
Mobil +39 32 91 61 20 20  
Fax +39 06 99 70 69 57  
e-mail: tcherukat@gmail.com

