

21 July 2014 – FED Basic Course for 7th Batch started with 20 new educators.

29 July -9 August 2014 – Corinna and Mark with her cousin and auntie came to conduct courses for the FEDs.

8- 12 August 2014 – Sr. Theresa Seow and Sr. Rose Low accompanied a group of alumnae from IJ St. Joseph's Convent for a visit to Canossa Home. They presented ukuleles to the FEDs and children. Agnes Mah gave introductory lessons on the playing of ukuleles.

4-7 September 2014 – Ms. Selvathi gave a course on discipline to the FEDs.

4-5 October 2014 – Vocation Camp for the Formation of Educators was held at Canossa Home. The theme was God's Call and Our Response in the Canossian Institute.

11-18 October 2014 – Canossian Mission Trip (Maintenance Works) at Thanlyin

19-22 October 2014 – Papango Mission Follow-up Trip

7-6 November 2014 – The Inter-congregational Formators' Meet 2014 at Catholic Religious Conference Myanmar

18-20 November 2014 – Health Education Week in Thanlyin was conducted by nurse trainers, Rita and Susan, from Singapore.

Dear Friends,

Greetings of Peace and Joy! As the year draws to a close, let us share some of the highlights and pictures from our mission in Myanmar with you.



FED 7th Batch (July 2014 – April 2015)

FED 7th Batch started their Basic Course at Canossa Home, Thanlyin in July 2014. The past five months had been enriching for these educators. Their learning experiences were further enhanced by the presence and contributions of overseas volunteers.

From these generous volunteers, they have learnt a variety of skills including art and craft, musical and life skills such as listening and communication. They were also taught educational games and basic hygiene practices from the two nurses during Health Education Week. These important skills and knowledge will be passed on to the children they will teach at their boarding houses. In October, they were given the chance to learn basic maintenance skills from a group of volunteers who fixed and painted Canossa Home in Thanlyin as well as spruced up their garden.



Inner growth is tantamount and is emphasized in their journey as FED educators. Aside from their daily prayers, the educators were given chances to reflect on Bible passages and to share with one another. Their sharing was enhanced by the participation of volunteers. One volunteer from the Canossian Mission Trip (Maintenance Works) made the following remark:

"The morning gospel reading and sharing blossomed into a mini-retreat, deftly led by Janice. Everyone embraced the session..."

The FED educators will be having a break in December and this will be followed by a six-week practicum at the boarding houses until 12 Feb 2015. Let's continue to keep them in our prayers.

Latest Bytes from Yangon

21-24 November 2014 – 500th Jubilee Year Celebration of the Presence of the Catholic Church in Myanmar.

22-23 November 2014 – M3 Fund-raising at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Singapore.

29 November 2014 – Sr. Jacq & Sr Marion conducted Vocation Animation Session for Educators at Canossa Home.

1-13 December 2014 – Sr. Janet conducted a course on saints and spirituality. Nelly Soh gave sessions on cooking & line dancing.

6-14 December 2014 – Sr. Jacqueline and a team of five volunteers went to Pekhon to give Christmas cheer to the children in the boarding houses & poor families in a village.

11-17 December 2014 – A group of sixteen M3 volunteers went to Canossa Home in Thanlyin & Br. Felicé's Orphanage/Boarding House in Taunggyi Diocese to conduct sessions for the educators & children.

12 December 2014 – Fr. Muthu celebrated the Sending-off Mass for FED 7th Batch.

24 – 28 December 2014 – Visit of Selvathi & a few friends to the children & educators in Canossa Home.

14 February 2015 – Classes for FED Basic course will resume.

BYTE 1: After serving in our Home for 6 years, two of our Leaders have left us to move on. Julia & Luisa, Thank you & God bless you! Julia (Pic 1) is now working as an assistant teacher for upper primary school children at an International School in Yangon. Whenever possible, she continues to help to co-ordinate missions to Thanlyin.



Pic 1: Ma Julia

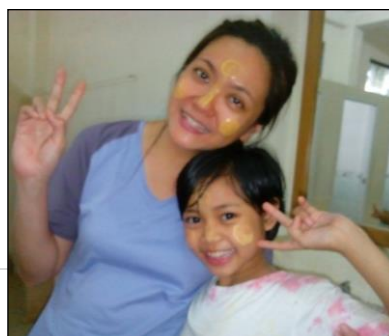


Pic 2: Ma Luisa

BYTE 2: Louisa (Pic 2) has been assigned the role as a co-ordinator and nurse in the village of Donokhu. She met up with the members of Papango Mission in October with Loikaw coordinator Agartina, Martina who helps in Loikaw and Sr. Angela. They shared resources and networked with Dr Mya Lay Sein, who is a local health practitioner. Louisa was equipped with basic medical supplies and resources by the Papango Mission Team. A trial project of supplementing the daily diet of the village children with more protein and fibre has started in Donokhu. Louisa will be monitoring its progress. In December, Louisa accompanied 2 little children and their mothers to Yangon General Hospital for surgery. A summer camp in early 2015 for Donokhu and Dorukhu is now in the pipeline. Fr Philip Aung Nge from the village of Dorukhu is happy to be involved.

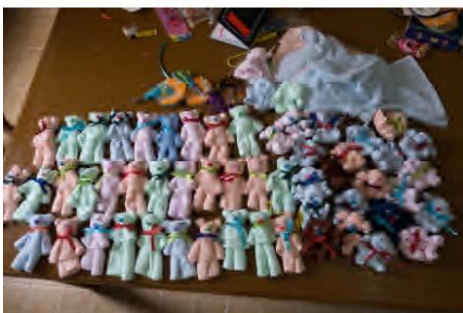
BYTE 3: Pia, from the FED 6th Batch is teaching English to the 7th batch trainee educators in Canossa Home. Lucia (4th batch) has been appointed leader in charge of our 18 children, assisted by Sophia, Martha (5th batch) and Monica (6th batch).

BYTE 4: Six cases of chicken pox were reported among the children at Canossa Home. With medical treatment & tender care, all of them have fully recovered.



"It was moving to see the FED trainees so full of eagerness to learn and produce the craft items, once they learnt that these would be sold to buy food and medicines for the villages. After the teddy bear session, we arrived the next morning to find a table full of teddy bears that the FED trainees had made during the night, for fund-raising."

~ Papango Mission Team teaching livelihood crafts in Thanlyin.



"It was good to wake up to the sounds and smells of a village, using well water for washing and bath, having simple meals with Sr Angela & Sr Joana and most memorable of all, living with the young educators and children who welcomed us and made us feel at home." ~ Susan Loh and Rita Gan, trainers for Health Education.

BYTE 5: Mrs. Karina Shim who is an experienced Anglican Sunday School teacher from Queensland came to share her teaching experiences with the FEDs. She taught the educators and children simple songs that she had composed and a Bible lesson on Gideon. She also presented her book 'Bible Stories for Big Kids' to the community. She was delighted with the welcome and found the educators ready to learn. She found the FED programme, "a good programme to make Jesus known and loved."



BYTE 6: Sisters Jacqueline and Marion conducted a Vocation camp in Canossa Home from 4-5 October 2014. They decided to conduct follow-up sessions once a month beginning on 29 November.

BYTE 7: Sisters Marion and Jacqueline attended the Inter-congregational Formators' Meet at the Catholic Religious Conference in Myanmar. There were 17 congregations present at the meet. From the meet, two groups (Upper and Lower Myanmar) were formed. The groups will meet twice a year.

BYTE 8: Catholics from all over Myanmar celebrated the 500th Jubilee Year of the Presence of the Catholic Church in Myanmar from 21-24 November. On 23 November 2014, the Eucharistic Celebration was held at Thuwana Stadium officiated by the Papal Envoy from India - His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias. An estimated crowd of 60,000 attended the celebration. Religious representatives from the Buddhist, Islam and Hindu faiths were present at this historic occasion.



BYTE 9: Sr. Jacqueline joyfully celebrated her Silver Jubilee of Religious life as a Canossian Sister with the small community of Sisters and searchers at the Formation House in Myanmar.



A Collage of Smiles ☺



Pic on the left: Dominic, Alan, Michael, Don, Simon, Wilson, Christopher, Janice, Nancy, Jing, Lydia, Angie formed the Canossian Mission (Maintenance Works) Team and gave much needed assistance and support to the environmental needs of the Canossa Convent in Thanlyin. They have passed on knowledge and skills to the FEDs.

Pic on the right: Papango Mission Team visited twice this year, in March and October. The follow-up mission in October saw Jill Wong, Jo Aeria, Magdelene Yip, Colin Lauw and Wilson Wong reconnecting with friends in Thanlyin and Donokhu.



Pic on the left: Nurse trainers, Rita and Susan, conducted a Health Education Week with the FEDs at Thanlyin. Topics included knowing one's body-basic anatomy and physiology; human sexuality; how diseases are caused and spread, how to prevent and control the transmission of infectious diseases; first aid and home nursing skills.

Pic on the right: Joseph Tham, Patrick Yap Sandra Wong, Anne Siew & Cecilia V. travelled round the Pekhon Diocese to give Christmas Cheer to 334 children in 10 Boarding Houses and to 25 families in a remote village.



Future Projects: We are in the process of building our own Canossian Formation House and two Kindergartens in Myanmar.

We thank God for the gift of 3 novices from Myanmar: Maria, Antonia and Heza, who are undergoing formation in Singapore together with Adeline from Singapore and Jennyfer from Malaysia..

***Thank you for your continuous and generous support. May God bless you!
Have a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!***

Myanmar Mission Team,

Sr. Angela, Sr. Joana, FED Leaders, Educators & Children (Canossa Home)

Sr. Marion, Sr. Jacqueline and Searchers (Myanmar Canossian Formation House)

Sr. Janet & Volunteers (Singapore)