November 14, 2016

Dear Friend,

I’m writing today to share an exciting update and prayer request with you. It has to do with 2,827 precious children and families in rural India.

They are praying for a Christmas miracle… and you can help!

I just returned from a trip to eight remote villages in the region of Daman, India. These villages are close to my heart. Catholic World Mission has partnered with the local mission there for several years… serving some of the poorest children and families I have ever met.

This mission is one of the purest examples I’ve seen of God’s love in action. It was such a joy to see it with my own eyes – to walk amongst the people and to see the need with Fr. Seby, our dedicated mission partner, first-hand.

In the years that we have partnered with these missionaries in the mission of Daman, we have made great progress. Not only have we had the joy of helping serve hundreds of children in need, but we have helped many families become self-sufficient, providing tools, resources, training, and support to make a better life for themselves.

Yet there is still much work to be done – many children still in desperate need. As I walked the villages, I saw these children. I spoke with their families. I heard their dreams.

Amazing Progress – For God’s Glory

Two years ago at this time, supporters like you answered my plea to help deliver a simple, beautiful Christmas Day dinner to the local children. It wasn’t much… yet to these children it was a true Christmas miracle!

Last year – friends like you answered the call once again. And because of your generosity, we were able to expand the reach and serve even more children. I had the joy of meeting many of these children on my

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recent trip. They still talk about the wonderful Christmas celebration – and they are so looking forward to it this year!

These precious children are counting the days until Christmas and their special treat.

I don't want to crush their spirit.

That's why I'm writing to you today – to ask for your help, once again, to bring this Christmas miracle to these children.

A simple meal may not sound like much. A little fruit. A little chicken. A small Christmas gift to show how much we care. But for these children – whose daily meal is often a basic plate of rice and watered down peas – this special dinner is an amazing blessing!

Since last year, word has spread. The story of your Christmas gift has brought hope to other children throughout the region. I heard from them personally. Many asked if they might experience the same Christmas miracle.

This year, with your continued support... we hope to expand this special Christmas program to more than 2,827 children throughout the region!

A Lifeline for Children & Families in Need

Last year's Christmas appeal also helped purchase a vehicle to serve the children in the village of Khanwel, providing desperately needed transportation in one of the most remote places you could ever imagine. I was just there. I traveled the roads. I can't imagine having to travel them on a daily basis.

This year we have a similar need in the remote village of Dudhani. This is where your support of Catholic World Mission touches the lives of 312 boys and girls in village schools and more than 750 Catholic families.

One of our dedicated missionaries, Fr. Seby, spoke to me while I was with him in Dudhani and humbly asked that I share his Christmas wish for their region:

“As you well know by now, the village of Dudhani is very special. Although the terrain is very difficult and closed off at times, the people are so open to the Gospel and excited to learn about our

(please keep reading...)
Lord. Yet sadly, transportation is a real issue.

“Our current vehicle is very old. Our local priest, Fr. Tony, has been patiently nurturing it along, with a prayer on his lips and the toolkit in his hands every time he heads out to serve. But too often, the problems are beyond his expertise and the jeep is stuck at the mechanics shop.

“We would be very grateful if Catholic World Mission would help us with a jeep for this mission. It is a real need.”

For just $12,615, you and I can help provide this jeep for Fr. Tony and the children in Dudhani. You can ensure they will be able to continue serving this region, no matter the distance or terrain!

An Urgent Request… Young Girls in Need

There is one last request that is heavy on my heart. I feel the Lord prompting me to share it with you. This is a request for the young girls in Dudhani.

Many of the children you help in Dudhani live and study at the mission and go home only once a month when their parents are home from their distant jobs.

Because of the generous support from friends like you, we have been able to build a quality bathroom and a dining hall for the boys in the village of Dudhani. I wish you could see them in person. I had the joy of touring the facilities on this last trip. They are first-rate.

Yet, the girls are still in desperate need of a dining hall where they could eat meals together, study, and play – especially during monsoon season.

Right now the boys and girls eat together during the day in the cramped boys’ dining hall that was built last year. But it is far from the girls’ dormitory, hard for them to access during terrible storms, and has proven to be too small for the growing number of children we serve.

The proposed dining hall is no small request. We estimate the total cost to be about 1,800,000 rupees ($26,864 in US dollars). I know it sounds like a lot, but it’s a small price to pay for these girls to have a safe place to eat, play, and study. Because the dining hall is multipurpose, we could also accept more girls into the school.

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Your gift today will help build a dining hall for young girls in Dudhani.
We feel it is a necessary addition to serve these children well. And with your partnership today, we can see this vision realized.

**The Most Special Gift You’ll Make This Year**

I’ve enclosed three vouchers. I’m praying you’ll think of these as three very special Christmas presents for our children in India.

Your partnership makes a big impact. I pray you know that. As you give a gift and return one of these vouchers, you’ll be delivering the love and hope of Christmas to these precious children. And here’s the great part – your partnership not only meets these urgent needs, but helps these communities for the long-haul, ensuring they become self-sustaining.

I would ask you to pray about doing something extra special for this very important appeal. Maybe God is calling you to return two or even all three of these vouchers.

**Your gift today will not only serve these desperate children and families in India. You’ll also be helping ensure our ministry partners all around the world are able to serve those in need. What greater gift is there this Christmas?**

I’m so grateful for your support of Catholic World Mission. I thank God every day that you sacrifice to keep Christmas hope alive for these children all year round. We couldn’t do this work without you! And I can tell you first-hand, these children are so thankful. I heard their words. I saw their faces. I had the joy of receiving all their hugs.

I wish you and your loved ones the most holy and joyful Christmas ever. Please know that you hold a special place in our prayers this Christmas and every day of the year. There are so many children in need around the world – and you have the opportunity to reach them in a special way as you partner with Catholic World Mission.

And remember – your gift today will be an instrument of God’s love in action, ministering to children in desperate need.

God bless you this Christmas and always,

Deacon Rick L. Medina
Catholic World Mission, Executive Director

P.S. Please choose one of the enclosed vouchers and return your very special Christmas gift as soon as you can. As I left our brothers and sisters in Dudhani and Daman just a few weeks ago, I told them I would send word when I heard back from my friends in the States. They are eagerly awaiting word so they can begin planning for this very special Christmas celebration.