December 1, 2015

Dear Friend

I’m praying today that you’ll help me make a Christmas miracle happen for some of God’s neediest children in India.

A miracle that starts with a simple nutritious meal on Christmas Day…

Believe me, the small gift of freshly sliced apples and some roasted chicken on Christmas Day, served with love by our missionaries and sisters, goes a long way. It will mean the world to these children at the Mission of Daman in India who have so little…

**A Christmas Meal - A Priceless Gift**

Last year at this time, supporters like you answered my plea to help deliver a simple, beautiful Christmas Day dinner to these same children. The joy and hope of the season came alive in the boys and girls that day. They offered thanks to God and prayed for YOU because you cared enough to share with them. They were so excited and so grateful!

Since that time, the children have been counting the days until this Christmas and their special treat. Please, we cannot disappoint them!

Fruit and a little chicken may not sound like much to you and me. But for children whose daily meal every day of the year rarely varies from a basic plate of rice and watered down peas – this special dinner will be such an amazing blessing!

Because our Christmas Day meal was such a precious gift for the children last year, word spread quickly and other requests started pouring in. So this year, with your continuing support, we hope to expand this special Christmas program to five other surrounding schools – a total of six schools and more than 2,342 children!

As you sit down to celebrate with your loved ones this Christmas, our children, missionaries and sisters at the Mission will also celebrate as a family – and they’ll offer prayers of thanksgiving for your kindness. Through your gift today you will be with them in spirit… the true Christmas spirit of

(over, please...)
new hope and joy in Christ!

**Please, will you help make this small miracle happen by sending your most generous Christmas gift now?**

When they gather together to eat, the children’s faces will brighten. There will be laughter and a feeling of hope. And these children, who have suffered so much, will remember they are loved – by you and by Our Loving Savior. They will come to better understand the mystery of this child, born in a manger to bring hope to a broken world.

I wish you could be there in person… you’d see what I mean and why I call it a miracle. To sit with these children at Christmas dinner is to be reminded of what love really is.

*Can you see why your Christmas gift is so important?*

Please know you will be doing so much more than sharing a meal with the children. You will be sending a visible sign of Christ's love to these children at a time when they are just learning about Jesus and our Catholic faith!

Your gift today will make this miracle happen, providing many children with their first real Christmas. **Just $50 can feed 100 children!** This is just one way your Christmas gift today can help...

**A Lifeline for Children in Need**

Last year’s Christmas appeal also helped us obtain a “jeepney” to serve the children in the village of Veluganv, providing desperately needed transportation in one of the most remote places you could ever imagine.

We have another urgent need this Christmas in the remote village of Khanwel, where your support of Catholic World Mission touches the lives of 220 girls and boys in village schools there. One of our dedicated missionaries, Fr. Seby, spoke to me recently and humbly asked that I share his Christmas wish for the children:

“We are in desperate need of transportation. Khanwel is the center of all we do at the Mission, but right now we have so many difficulties transporting the children for medical care, or for our missionaries and sisters to pick up medicine at clinics that are too far for

(please keep reading…)
“I pray every night for a vehicle so that we don’t have to see the pain on the children’s faces when we can’t get them to a doctor or get them the medicine they need quickly enough. I know it may seem like a lot to ask for a jeep, but to us here, and for the children, it would save us so much hardship. I trust in God and I pray you and your friends can help us.”

With a Christmas offering today, you can help us provide a jeep that will be a lifeline for Fr. Seby and the children in this remote village. We’ll be able to get food and medicine to the children, and get them to the doctors whenever they need immediate medical attention. For just $13,800, we can purchase a used, but reliable jeep for the school!

An Urgent Request… The Children’s Safety is at Stake!

Or your gift today can provide help in schools Catholic World Mission supports in the Mission of Daman. Many of the children we serve here live and study at the village schools (called hostels) and go home only once a month when their parents are able to return from working at distant factories.

The children sleep literally shoulder to shoulder – 160 in the hostel in Sindoni alone – which also serves as their place to study. It is a beacon of hope in a desperate area, but it is also in need of urgent repair!

Immediately, we need to replace old flooring and update the entire electrical system which is faulty and a danger to the children at the hostel. I’m on my knees praying that friends like you will take swift action and respond to this urgent request. We, you and I, must look out for the safety and well-being of these precious school children! The total costs for these critically needed repairs is $14,383.86.

Thanks to your generosity, last year we were able to provide children with a safe place to sleep. Please, will you bless more children with a gift of a safe and secure home this Christmas?

The Most Special Gift You’ll Make This Year

I’ve enclosed three vouchers, which I’m hoping you’ll think of as three very special Christmas presents for our children in India. These vouchers represent the hope you’ll be bringing to the children, many of them celebrating their first real Christmas. Your kindness will enable us to provide

(over, please…)
them with food, shelter, clothing, and an education – and will allow us to meet other pressing needs. It will be the most important Christmas gift you give this year!

I am very, very grateful for your support of Catholic World Mission. I thank God every day that you sacrifice to keep Christmas hope alive for our children all year round. We could not do the work we do without your help!

With a gift today, you’ll be an instrument of God’s love in action, ministering to children in dire need. These are kids who, at first, just can’t conceive of a God who loves them. How can they possibly believe after knowing mostly suffering since being born into this world? But if, as followers of Christ, we can show them love in His name, something powerful can happen in their lives.

I will never be able to thank you enough for the hope you bring to life through Catholic World Mission. Your partnership and selflessness is one of the great blessings in my life, and the lives of our children, lay missionaries, priests and sisters. 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.

God bless you this Christmas and always,

Deacon Rick L. Medina
Catholic World Mission, Executive Director

P.S. Christmas Day comes only once a year, but the miracle of our work with children in places like our Mission in Daman is a 365-day-a-year event. It is the love and generosity of people like you who make that possible!

I’ve enclosed three vouchers… one to help provide a special Christmas Dinner to the kids; one to provide resources for a jeep that will be a lifeline for our missionaries serving children in a remote region; and a third to make urgently needed repairs to decaying flooring and faulty wiring to keep the children safe!

If you could return at least one, or maybe two or even all three of these vouchers to deliver the love and hope of Christmas to our children, I’d appreciate it immensely (this is a critically important appeal – so please, please help if you can!). God bless you!