



# Mission Awareness 2018



SOCIETAS  
SACRATISSIMI  
CORDIS JESU

*Bétharram*

Once again, a year passed, and a new year has arrived. So here are a few snapshots of the fruitful year just gone: 2017. It was eventful with God's abundant blessings and his providential care for us all. Let us thank God for these and all other blessings received.

Again we ask God to Bless the Mission of the Church and also we ask Jesus for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life.

Thank you for all your prayers and work you do for Our Missions and that of the Church. May God bless you with many graces during the New Year.

### **A GIFT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

Yes just £25 per week is the cost of supporting each student in India preparing for the priesthood and living the life of a religious of Betharram. This £25 includes their tuition fees, stationery and books, travel for the tuition etc. Then there is their Apostolic Ministry. They travel to help the poor people who have little or nothing of this world's goods. Then again there is their fare to the parishes at the weekends where on Sundays they teach the young and prepare them for the Sacraments.

Will you help them with a monthly gift?



### **Contents**

<b>Mission in North East India</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Simaluguri a Land of Hope</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A panorama of the South Indian Mission</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Snippets from Holy Land</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Down memory lane...along the silk road</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>A new Springtime in Vietnam</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>A Missionary who discovered Betharram.</b>	<b>10</b>

# Simaluguri a Land of Hope

Simaluguri is situated in the Nagoan district of Assam a vast and fertile landscape for agriculture and with beautiful tea estates where they produce some of the best tea in the world. This place includes various indigenous and ethnic groups like Garos, Bodos, Tivas, Karbis, Adivasis, Assamese, Bengalis and also a good number of migrants who came across the border from Bangladesh. Traditional ways of agriculture and cattle rearing are the main occupation of the people and several people work in tea gardens too. For generations people in these areas did not have much opportunity to acquire proper education; therefore, they are very keen to educate their children. But unfortunately, there aren't many schools in the villages, so the children have to go to faraway schools many miles away. As a result, some parents hesitate to send their children to distant schools.



Fr. Pascal Scj, Br. Joseph Scj on a pastoral visit



Fr. Pascal with students and staff

So, to answer this need the thrust of our mission in this area is to provide a quality education for these tribal children. Recently under the leadership of Fr. Pascal we started a new school in this village of Pramila with a temporary bamboo structure. Soon we will add other more permanent school buildings with necessary equipment to ensure a good standard of

education. We also need to look to their social and economic development by introducing them to modern and scientific agricultural methods and give skill training to the unemployed youths, so that their family will be economically stable and self-sufficient, an important aspect of development. To reach these goals, we rely on the work of our Betharram religious, their many devoted local collaborators and also the generous support of the good people who support our mission financially.



## A panorama of the South Indian Mission

By comparison with North India, South India is more Christian-friendly region where a good percentage of the population are Christians. In a state like Kerala, Christians comprise 34% of the state population, and Christianity was there well before the advent of European Missionaries. Their Christian tradition goes back to St. Thomas the Apostle who came to this region in AD 52. Christian Missionaries have played a significant role, not only in faith aspects, but also in the socio-economic development of the region. But in the state of Karnataka north of Kerala the picture is very different.....



Blessing of a newly erected cross in Talmadi

**‘Dare to go, where no one else will dare to go’... St. Michael Garicoits**

As early as 1982, Mangalore diocese with a great missionary spirit adopted Bidar, the northernmost district of Karnataka for evangelisation. This mission venture was popularly known as Bidar Mission. Until then, Bidar district was a part of Hyderabad archdiocese and the entire district did not have any trace of catholic presence before. Under the able leadership of Bishop Robert Miranda, today we have 6425 practicing Catholics. As it is devoid of industry, it also figures among the most backward regions in the country.

At the invitation of Bishop Robert Miranda, Betharramites began a new mission in Talamadgi. They nurture and sustain the faith of the people who have only recently embraced the Gospel. They educate them for social development and motivate the young generation in nation building.



Inspired by the example of both St Michael Garicoits and Don Bosco, Fr. Sathish Paul Scj and his team reach out to the children and young people of the village, empowering them in various aspects of their life using the language of the young people. As pastors, they look after faith formation and animate BCC (Basic Christian Community) prayer groups are the major task of the missionaries.

## **A Home to Learning, loving and caring: Xavier Care Home**



Xavier Care Home children out in the park

This mission of Betharram in India has started in May 2013 with the blessing of Archbishop Emeritus Ignatius Pinto. It is a humble beginning of Betharrmites in India aiming to uplifting the Poor and under-privileged children of the aria. “Xavier Care Home” is a Home for the children of single parents, alcoholic parents and orphans. At

present there are 20 children from 5 to 13 years of age. We offer these children necessary facilities, so they can receive integral care and formation like other children in society and so become a blessing to the society. We collaborate with two nearby schools, where our children receive their primary education. We are

confident that this ministry will be shared and supported by people of good will, who share our compassion and concern for the unprivileged children of the society. Poverty and lack of parental care are the disadvantages the children suffer. Otherwise, intellectually and emotionally they are no means



least among their peers in the society. So we invite those who share our vision to share what they have with these children.

## Snippets from Holy Land

**A**s part of Betharram's commitment to the building up the Local Church, Fr. Jose Kumar Scj has been assigned to work with Hebrew Speaking Catholics in Israel. This community consists of a small number of Jewish Catholics and a large number of Catholic migrants from countries like Philippines, India and Sri Lanka, as well as a few African nationals. These migrants live in a Jewish and Hebrew milieu and the Local Church (predominantly Arabic speaking) struggles to welcome them (for historic and cultural reasons). Fr. Jose Kumar Scj works as the director of the Centre where we take care of migrants' children.

**Our First task** is to provide Day Care for babies whose parents (mostly single parents) have to go to work leaving their babies at home or elsewhere. We offer a quality day-care for these babies who are from three months to three years old. **Secondly**, we organize an After-school programme for school children. The children return from school by noon even though their parents have to work till evening. We invite these children to our centre where they have their meal, finish their studies and homework as well as spend time in sports and games. If we simply left these children alone, they would be roaming the streets and vulnerable to all sorts of exploitation.

**Thirdly**, we also provide a boarding facility for a few children whose parents cannot care for them. We offer a very homely atmosphere to these children in a house where a devoted man and woman acts as guardians. Pastoral care is an important dimension of our mission. At the weekend, Fr. Jose Kumar gives catechesis to Hebrew-speaking children and offers pastoral care to various Christian communities. All these are possible because of good will of many people who generously contribute to this noble work. We pray, that God will bless you for your prayers and support.



## Down memory lane...along the silk road...

With the arrival of communism in China and the expulsion of Christian missionaries, some of the Betharramites found refuge in Thailand, hoping to go back to China as soon as possible. But at the end of 1951 Mgr. Louis Chorin, Bishop

of Bangkok assigned Chiang Mai as their habitat, asking them to learn the language and study the local culture.



Working with M.E.P<sup>1</sup> they helped building up the local Church among the Northern Thai people in Chiang Mai, Viang Pa Pao, Muang Phan and Lampang.

in 1952-53 others joined the first group. As they came to know of Karen and Lahoo peoples in the hills South-West of Chiang Mai, (similar to the Katchin they knew

in China), they started to make contact with them and learn their language.

**Betharram mission soon received Vatican recognition** and the M.E.P. returned to Bangkok. The priests soon opened new posts: Chomthong, Maepon, Maesariang, Maetho, Maechem from where they could radiate to the Karen and Lahoo villages up in the mountains. Later they came to know the Akha in Chiang Rai province who came from Burma. Conditions made ordinary community life impossible, but the missionaries followed the advice of Fr. Joseph Mirande Superior General and gathered in Chiang Mai every 2 months to spend time together, praying, relaxing & sharing.

**The 30th Anniversary of Ban Betharram- Sampran** shows us how ‘God can write straight with crooked lines’. After 30 years of working selflessly to build up the local Church, Betharram decided to admit some young Thai people who had been knocking on our door, as aspirants to our Congregation. But the missionaries greatly experienced in tramping mountain jungles, struggled to adapt to this specialised work of formation. So, God gave us Fr. Terence O’Malley Scj from County Mayo as the ‘anchorman’ for this ministry for 14 years. Fr. Terence scarcely spoke a word of Thai but his love for the people transcended language barriers. God had his own way for Betharram in this ‘land of smiles’.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Missionnaires Etrangers de Paris* - Paris Foreign Missionaries



## A new Springtime in Vietnam



Vietnam is a most enchanting country in north-east Asia. North Vietnam has been ruled by communist governments since 1947; the South since 1975, so religious freedom is limited though the south is more relaxed. In both there is a vibrant and growing catholic community, and as a result, as a result, an increasing number of

vocations to priesthood and religious life.

In 2011 the XXVI<sup>th</sup> General Chapter decided to research the possibility of a new mission in Vietnam, after Vietnamese Christians had made overtures to Fr. Jean-Luc. The visit bore fruit, and soon afterwards 2 young men joined Betharram. In 2015 the Congregation send 2 young missionaries Fr. Yesudas kuttappassery Scj from India and Fr. Alberto Saat Scj from Thailand to Ho Chi Minh city. For foreign missionaries, it is not easy, as in Vietnam they have to be *semi-incognito*, forbidden to openly practice any ministry because of the political restrictions on foreign religions.

As pioneers, they are helping 6 young men who aspirants for Betharram, the first stage of discernment for the religious life. The two young men already mentioned joined our community and are doing their philosophy studies in Thailand, while another two more are in India for their Novitiate. God's mysterious ways are visible through these young men.

**"A Betharramite is a Spiritual Commando, who is ready to go for any mission, where no one else dares to go". (St. Michael Garicoits)**

Do you want to be part of this Spiritual Commando?... and work for God in United Kingdom and abroad?... Please contact:



Bro Andrew Ferris Scj  
Holy Name Presbytery, 9 Cross Lane  
Great Barr, Birmingham,  
United Kingdom-B43 6BL

Ph:01213571351, Email: [br.andrewscj@holyname.org.uk](mailto:br.andrewscj@holyname.org.uk)



# **A Missionary who discovered Betharram.**

I am Br. Iran Lima da Silva. I was born on 22nd February 1981 in Pombal -Brazil. I spent my childhood in the countryside in a place called “Mont Joyeux”. Born and educated in a very humble family, I learned the simple characteristic of the inland populations.... Yes, I am a child of the interior countryside of Brazil. It was in this place, in this family, in this



environment that I took my first steps in faith. And it was here that at the age of seven a vocation was awakened in me.

I knew the Congregation at the age of 20, thanks to Fr. Jair Pereira, who was originally from the same region. It was through him I learned to know the Betharramite charism. Deeply touched and attracted by the charism, I decided

to deepen it. Indeed, I was fascinated by the simplicity, the availability and the life of Saint Michael, because it connected with my own roots; I identified with him, his story, his way of being. From that moment on, I never ceased to cultivate the desire to be an apostle of the Sacred Heart in the family of Betharram. Everything I have experienced as part of my initial formation has been important especially the time of the novitiate.

At this stage I drunk from the living source and the richness of our spirituality. In the Spiritual Exercises, I experienced in depth the presence of God in my history, which helped to confirm all that I had experienced so far, as well as the call to be a definitive member of the Betharram family, through religious profession.

As a consecrated person, with the help of the grace of God and the accompaniment of my brothers, I wish to serve people and be a good Betharramite... I am on the road, in discernment, in the learning phase, which includes falls and restarts ... allowing me to be formed; I let myself be moulded in the hands of God so that my devoted service to the Church and the Congregation may be the work of God and for God. May God be all in all, always! Always Forward, *Fiat Voluntas Dei*.

## Banker's Order Form

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS.

£30    £25    £10

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	or £.....
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-----------

(Name and Address of your Bank)

The Manager.....Bank

Address .....

.....Postcode.....

Please Pay:    SACRED HEART MISSION  
                    Account No. 07114570  
                    at LLOYDS BANK, WORCESTER  
                    sorting code 30 99 90

The sum of £.....monthly  
until further notice, by debiting from  
my / our account.....

a/c no

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Starting on.....

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Signature.....

When completed please return to: Fr. George Mathew SCJ  
Sacred Heart Mission Office  
The Friary, St Bernard.s Road  
Solihul, B92 7BL



**The Congregation of the  
Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of  
Betharram**

**Sacred Heart Mission Office  
Olton Friary, St Bernard's Rd,  
Olton, West Midlands. B92 7BL**

**Registered Charity No. 233335    Ph: 0121 7063654**

### **A Gift Aid Declaration**

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Title..... Forename(s).....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

I am a UK taxpayer and would like the Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers of Betharram to treat all donations made from date of this declaration as a Gift Aid Donation until I notify otherwise. My tax bill this year will be more than my gift.

Signature.....	Date...../...../.....
of donor	of Declaration

**Note:** Donors must be UK tax payers who pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax reclaimed by the Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers of Betharram on the donations each year. You may cancel this declaration at any time by writing to us.

Please advise us of any change of name or address while this declaration is in force. **NB:** designated Charity address is: Holy Name, 9 Cross Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham. B43 6LN



## Thoughts of St. Michael Garicoïts.....

- To abandon ourselves to God's will for us will bring us happiness
- This is how Jesus lived on earth, following His father's will
- This will lead us to share in the cross of Jesus but to do so with joy
- We will bring this same joy to our brothers and sisters around us.



Donations to help our Missions in India  
Should be send to:  
Fr. George Mathew SCJ  
Sacred Heart Mission Office, Olton Friary,  
St. Bernard's Road, Solihull, B92 7BL  
Tel: 0121 7060505.

Please make cheque payable to:  
Sacred Heart Missions.  
our website [http:// www.betharram.net](http://www.betharram.net)  
Reg. charity no.23335