

Christmas Letter

December 2012

*May you find this Christmas inner peace
Equal to the patient love you give,
releasing all the pain you can release,
renewing all the grace with which you live.*

My dear friends of SALESAN

**Christmas - the feast of peace and joy is not far away
May the new born child Jesus bring peace to everyone**

Today we can see the blue sky, the sun is shining and the soil is covered with snow. What a beautiful picture.

My health does not allow me yet to take out my cross country skis and walk up the nearby hill. But I am really looking forward full of hope that beginning of next year I will be able again to go skiing.

During the past year my physical condition was not very stable. Instead of being present at the booth on the spring fair, selling cakes I was lying in bed with fever. In May I was not able to go continue the pilgrimage due to a light pneumonia. And beginning October I was in hospital with a severe pneumonia. But now I feel much better and I am able to pick up the work again for the SALESAN Association.

My family supported me during this not easy time. I also want to thank for all the prayers from the sisters and fathers in Africa, India and here for a fast recovery.

Thanks to Hildegard, Bettina and Janine, who were a great help, together we kept SALESAN alive.

On January 22nd the Annual General Meeting was held. Our special guest was Sister Syi Narikulah from the community of sacred science, founded by Fr. Anthony. She explained some of the bible texts in a new interpreting way.

In March I was invited to the inauguration of the secondary school in Tabora. The new building came out well and to our surprise already over 100 students are bringing this school to live. A great thank you goes to Fr. Samy Chiappan and Fr. Joe Vellachalil, who have organised the event.

At the same time Fr. Thomas Chozhithara and I were privileged to lay the foundation stone for the new boy's hostel.

An important step was made during my visit in June with the introduction of the Fransalian Development Board at the primary school in Mkuza. The board consist of religious and lay members. The mission of the board is to define the future of the school and it's financial stability. Such a board should be introduced also to other MSFS institution.

A real highlight at my last visit in August was the school sport day at the Katani integrated primary school. The event was perfectly organised and the children top motivated to perform at their best. The parents were happy to see how well their kids were doing. Even the school and district manager was full of compliments. A great appreciation to Fr. Sunny and the teachers which organised the day. This was a super promotion for the school, replicating is highly recommended.

Now we are already in the middle of advent. Hildegard has already started with baking Christmas pastry. The advent reminds us to prepare ourselves for the great feast of the new born child Jesus. It also remembers us to reflect the past year for what we have done for the poor and needy.

Last but not least I would like to refer to the book "In his outstretched arms" by Rev. Fr. Kurian Kollapallil and the verse by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Our hearths grow tender with childhood memories and love of children, and we are better throughout the year for having in spirit, become a child again at Christmas

With this thought we close this letter and all our friends a blessed Christmas time; for the coming New Year good health and success in all your doings. May our Lord bless us all with peace and good health in our daily work.

With best wishes

Werner and Hildegard, Bettina and Janine

