



Immaculate Conception Church

Namtu, Northern Shan State, Myanmar. Ph.082-87010

30th September 2015

Reference: A humble and earnest request to our generous friends and benefactors to assist financially our Don Bosco boarding in Namhai village for digging an artesian well, purchasing a combotar engine and compressor for pumping water and setting up a concrete water tank.

I am Fr. Peter Louis SDB. I was ordained in 2011. After my ordination I was posted in Hsibaw, Don Bosco Seminary. After two years I got transfer to Nazareth Minor Seminary in Anisakan. After four years of my services in formation houses, this year I am once again sent to Immaculate Conception Church in Namtu, Northern Shan State. Right now I am helping Fr. Lucas as an assistant parish priest here.

Fr. Lucas Manaw SDB, the parish priest of Immaculate Conception Church asked me to help him in taking care of the five villages namely Panwa, Namhai, Aung Nan, Khai Au and Namsung. In general there are about fifty Catholic families under me. I am helping them in their Spiritual, Education of children, Health Care and other Family developments. Of course the Education of children, Health Care and Family developments are not limited only to the Catholics. There are very many non Christian villagers from near by villages come for help concerning their children's education, health care and other financial supports for their families' difficulties.

Last seven years back my predecessor priests Fr. Andrew Yan Naing Win, Fr. Peter Myo Khin and Fr. John Lasam had run a boarding house in Namhai village for the education of the children. It is called Don Bosco Boarder. It is now under me and I am still running it. Now there are seven boys and thirteen girls who are residing in our boarding house and schooling in government basic education middle school. All children here are very (very) poor. All their parents are farmers. They are coming from three ethnic groups - Shan, Kachin and Palaung. All Kachins are Christians (Catholics and Baptists), Shans and Palaung are Buddhists. Since they are poor and cannot afford for the education of children, I am taking risk to look after them. Otherwise the poor children won't get chance of proper schooling. This is what my former priests and I myself am experiencing it.

Out of the many needs of our Boarding, I would like to appeal to you to assist our Don Bosco Boarding of Namhai village with the digging of an artesian well, a combotar engine with compressor for pumping water and setting up of a tank to reserve water.

We have a small stream nearby our boarding house which we use for drinking, bathing, washing clothes, cooking and other cleaning purposes. When there is rain the stream becomes muddy and we find it very hard to make use of it. There are also domestic animals like cows, buffaloes and horses used to come to bathe themselves in the water. Sometimes we find it very difficult to get clean and pure water for drinking and cooking. I am quite certain that water itself is also not good for the good health of our children. Because the Namhai village area is highly affected malaria zone and the use of water (especially for drinking and cooking) has to be very cautious. Most of my children often get sick and mostly they are affected by malaria. Because of this reason, it is a very important matter to have a good water resource. And the only answer to solve out this problem is to dig an artesian well inside our compound and build a concrete tank attached to it so that we could pump and reserve water in it.

The Namhai village area is an insurgent area. There are three main groups Shan, Kachin and Palaung who often have fights (war) with Burmese military. This year from the month of June till now there has been often firing with Burmese military and Palaung group. The impact of war causes people of that area to be unsafe, worried, frightened and sometimes misfire and death of the civilians. Because of the rough road and risk-taking journey the transportation expenses are higher. The prices of the foods, other materials and all the expenses are costly. Therefore hiring experts from the town to Namhai for digging an artesian well and carrying the machinery etc... will cost more than ordinary expenses. The digging of a well and building a concrete tank therefore is 4,500,000 Kyats in local currency. And it will come to about 4,500 US Dollars.

Dear friends and benefactors, getting clean and pure water is the most urgent need for the smooth running of our Boarding. If this request is carried out my poor children will be surely benefited in their health care, sanitation and dignified living. For this reason, may I earnestly ask you to assist us financially with the above-mentioned request.

May the good Lord bless you and all the benefactors. I assure you of my prayers and of my children.

Fr. Lucas Manaw

Parish Priest

Fr. Peter Louis

Assistant Parish Priest