

ESPERANZA

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MESSAGE

A young man was intrigued by this question: what language does God speak? He asked people around, what is the language of God? And no one was able to offer him a satisfactory answer. So the young man undertook a journey going in search of the answer to his all important question. His first stop was a village. He asked the people there: what language does God speak? No one of them could answer the question. "But", they said, "there is a holy man who lives on the hill outside our village who perhaps has the answer to your question". So the young man went to the holy man. The holy man said, "Look around you. See the beauty of creation: the glistening sun, the romantic moon, feel the gentle breeze... Yes, this is the language of God". The young man stayed there enjoying the beauty of creation, but he was not satisfied. After a few days, he said goodbye to the holy man and went on his way.

Along the way, the young man came across a group of very wise men. He told them of his journey and his search. They said, "God speaks the language of your heart. Sit and meditate. You will hear Him". That is what he did. He sat. He meditated. Day after day. He came to discover many truths about himself, God and about his relationships. Yet he was not convinced that his question had been answered. He had not experienced the voice of God tangibly. So he continued his journey.

After some months of search, he reached a holy place where he saw a bearded man seated by the window trying to read from a scroll in the faint light. "Sir, the young man asked him, "what language does God speak? The holy man looked up and said, "This book is the Word of God. Read this and you will hear the voice of God". The young man began to read the holy book. It was really enlightening, it was as if the message came from God himself. Slowly he began to discover that there were some errors in the writing, there were some particularities of that culture and language. So he felt his question was not answered yet.

He continued his pilgrimage. He reached a city. It was getting dark. He went around looking for a place to spend the night. There was no place in the inn. So he was directed to a cave in the outskirts of the city. When he entered the cave, there he saw a young couple with a new-born babe. As the young man stood hesitantly at the entrance, her mother welcomed him in. She showed him the little babe and said. "This is the language of God, the language of love, hope and peace for the humanity and his name is Jesus".

Christmas is the celebration of love, hope and peace where we look for a better world in which there is no place for hatred, war, hunger, poverty and other social evils.

Pope Francis reminds us the following in his last Christmas message. "Certainly, it is not easy to leave the comfortable warmth of worldliness to embrace the stark beauty of the grotto of Bethlehem, but let us remember that it is not truly Christmas without the poor. Without the poor, we can celebrate Christmas, but not the birth of Jesus. May we not let this Christmas pass without doing something good". The celebration of the birth of Jesus becomes meaningful when spread the fragrance of Jesus to all irrespective of caste, and religious barriers. FidesIndia Society, one of the branches of the social wing of the Southwest India province, tries to extend its helping hand to the needy and marginalized in the society, especially women and children.

During this Christmas season we would like to acknowledge and thank you all for your generous contribution and support for joining with us for realizing our dreams and endeavors. May the child Jesus continue to protect and guide our families and all of us.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Fr. Thomas Thekkekarote, MSFS
Executive Director

NEST (Nurturing and educating for social Transformation), one of the unique projects of FIDESIndia Society, is an effort to promote the well-being of marginalized children, especially orphans and children from broken families, in all dimensions: Physical, Intellectual, Social and Spiritual. The idea is to nurture them and bring the best out of them through quality education which otherwise would not be available to them. NEST is a village meant for children, providing a HOME i.e., a nurturing environment where they are helped to grow and bloom to their full potential. The home helps them leave their unfavorable past behind and it also facilitates their integration into mainstream society. These children are constantly watched, guided and motivated to attain their goals.

NEST

At present Nest home caters to the need of 32 children in the campus besides 27 students who are either doing pre-university, university or other higher learning in and around Bangalore. They are given the best care possible for their integral growth both in the Nest campus and in the place of their respective study. We are glad that 12 of our children have started working and have started to settle in life. For them too NEST always remains as a family where they can step in any time. During the past 19 years, NEST also has served as a nurturing environment for twenty-eight children who opted to return home, for various reasons. May God bless all of them.

Hearty Welcome

We welcome Fr. Joseph Kannadam, who joined us as the Village Master. We are sure that with his wide experience and knowledge he will take the NEST family to further growth. We wish him all the best and a pleasant stay.



A warm welcome to Fr. Saju Jose, who has joined to the NEST community. He is the newly appointed principal of St. Francis de Sales Public School, Kengeri. We are sure that he will take the school to greater heights as he is a man with lot of wisdom and vast experience in the field of education. Hearty welcome dear father.



Hearty welcome to Sr. Thresia and Sr. Christy who joined as staff to the NEST Family. They belong to the congregation of Josephine Sisters, Villunni, Kerala. We wish them all the best and a pleasant stay with us.



Gurukula Animators Meet

The Gurukula Animators Meet took place on 15/07/2023. Gurukula Tuition Centres, one of the Supportive Educational Initiatives of FIDESIndia Society continues to offer free tuition to rural poor children. After the covid pandemic we have started again these centers and at present we have 6 Gurukula Tuition centres where almost 120 poor village children benefit from it. Fr. Thomas Thekkekarote, along with Mr. Annaichar, the social worker of FidesIndia Society visited village tuition centres run by FidesIndia and evaluated their progress and functioning.



Heartfelt thanks to Fr. Thomas Mekkatt

We are grateful to Fr. Thomas Mekkatt, who served as the Village Master for the last two years. He has made an impact on the NEST Family through his selfless service. We wish him all the best and God's blessings.

Visit of Spanish team

The team from the University of Burgos visited FidesIndia society to learn and collaborate with its various projects. Under the leadership of Fr. Jesus Maria Alvarez Martinez this year the team consisted of four members, namely, Saray, Maria, Estella and Alfonso. They are fondly known by the NEST Children as the 'Spanish Team'.



They stayed in the NEST home from July 18, 2023 to August 18, 2023 in order to participate in the various activities organized by the FidesIndia Society. They conducted lot of activities for the children, including various games, teaching songs, dances and especially accompanying the children all the time. On July 25th on the feast of Santiago, the patron saint of Spain, a Spanish Day was organized in which the children were able to participate in lot of fun activities and were able to taste Spanish food. A basic Spanish course for the children of SFS Public School was organized by the Spanish Team. We thank Fr. Jesus Mari, the director of pastoral University of Burgos and the team of friends from Burgos for organizing the Spanish Team of this year and their continued collaboration with the FIDESIndia Society.

Rakhabandhan Celebration at Tejas



Seminar organized by District Child Protection Office



Visit of CWC team to NEST



Visit of Swedish students from Gotenburg, Sweden



Spanish Day Celebration





Colour Fest programs

Colour Fest programs were conducted in various government schools. Through this program Government School children get an opportunity to display their various talents in sports, cultural activities and receives value based education



Visitation of Superior General

On October 2nd, Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvelli, Superior General of MSFS Congregation visited FIDESIndia family. He was appraised of the various activities of FIDESIndia Society and he appreciated and thanked all the members for their hard work and commitment.



13th October, Justice Varadaraj. B visited NEST Campus. He visited the installations of the NEST Campus and was highly appreciative of the work done by FIDESIndia Society.



We are grateful to our dear friend from Spain, Saray Lopez Manero, for making a Library for NEST. She has taken a lot of struggles and efforts to make it possible. We thank her sincerely for all her efforts in making it possible. Muchas gracias.



On a regular basis SHG (self - help group) meetings are held and at present we have 16 SHG which caters to the needs of rural women. All these SHGs function well and many women in the rural areas benefit from it.

Children's Day Celebration



Deepavali Celebration



Onam Celebration

Health Check up by Dr. Biji P. Balan



Picnic to Electronics City



St. Francis de Sales Public School



SFS Public School, Mailikallu, Kengeri, Bangalore, was established in 2013 by the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. Having started as a small, informal school in 2005, catering to an initial strength of 6 students of NEST, a home for orphan and semi-orphan children, the school now has close over 450 students from classes pre-KG to 10. The school shifted from its humble and basic premises to its large, new campus in 2018. The new campus boasts of state-of-the-art facilities such as library, full fledged laboratories, smart boards etc. In addition to offering coaching for various sports, the school also offers a multitude of co-curricular activities such as yoga, music, dance, karate etc. This academic year Rev. Fr. Saju Jose MSFS, an experienced and seasoned education-alist has taken charge as the new principal. With his vast knowledge and experience in the field of education we are sure that the school will achieve further heights.

This academic year too the school was blessed with an amazing result, where the second batch of CBSE board exam students came out in flying colors and made the school proud. We are grateful to all especially the principal and all the teaching and non-teaching staff for their dedicated services to our beloved institution. The aim of our institution is to inculcate in our students values and responsibilities which would enable them to meet challenges in all walks of life. The focus is to develop sound moral, intellectual and physical capabilities so that students realize their responsibilities as citizens of a progressive, democratic country. As is rightly said, the school believes that 'the destiny of our nation is shaped in our classrooms'.



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