

# Sr Janet

Serving with: Canossian Daughters of Charity  
(FDCC)

Location: Thanlyin, Myanmar



I was always attracted by St Magdalene's love for the poor, in whom she saw the image of God, the "face" of Jesus on the Cross. The poor and the suffering are the "crucified" today. I joined the order so as to serve the poor of today and share God's love with them.

## Mission Trips

I normally give sessions when I go on mission trips: English language workshops to teachers in China, formation sessions to youth and trainee educators from villages in Myanmar. When in Singapore, I coordinate the preparation and movement of volunteers to our mission in Myanmar.

Volunteers are very important on mission trips. They help to build up the mission, improving the life of the poor children and youth. Some help to conduct camps for children and youth. Others share life skills with the young adults, or provide physical work like maintenance and painting of the orphanages and homes. Some also give financial support, contributing towards the upkeep of the children and trainees, or giving Christmas cheer to the children in the orphanages and homes.

The most important is the love and care the children and young people experience when our volunteers go to live among them and share their knowledge and skills with them: building friendship and goodwill that go beyond differences in language, culture, religion and race, breaking prejudices and dispelling stereotyped views.

## My life as a missionary

Mission trips have certainly enriched my life. I experience the joy of:

- sharing some of the good things I have received from God with those who are in greater need,
- empowering the children and youth with self-confidence, knowledge and skills through education and the formation of the heart.

I have also come into contact with so many kind and generous people who are willing to sacrifice their time and resources to collaborate with us in our missions in Myanmar and China. For this I feel deeply grateful to God and to all our mission partners who are willing to collaborate with us on a long-term basis.

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## Why are mission trips important?

My experience in spearheading our Order's International Canossian Voluntary Service Programme has shown me how important it is for youth and adults and even families to have experience of short- and long-term voluntary service in developing countries in Asia, South America and Africa.

These experiences help eventually to build a better world, where all people see themselves as brothers and sisters, where there is mutual respect and collaboration. There is a crying need to break man-made barriers that divide the peoples of the world, to foster better relationships and harmony among tribes, ethnic groups and nations. Our people, especially our youth, need to come into contact with poor people living in the so-called third world countries, so as to appreciate the good things they enjoy in life and learn to share with those who are less fortunate. Many also realise that it is in giving that they receive. In actual fact, they receive more than what they give or share.

First-hand experiences of service and sharing the life of the poor during mission trips can lead to changes in our outlook on life. In fact, some youth are even motivated to take certain career paths and make courageous choices in the direction they take in life.

I see that God works miracles through the readiness of the volunteers to serve with love, generosity and dedication, creative courage and enterprise.