



# The Bethlehem Call

DECEMBER 20, 2012 Message



Inside this issue:

January 13 Letter	2
Lenten Project 2012	3
Donation Info	3



My dear friends in Jesus Christ.

These greetings from Zimbabwe are well overdue.

May the Lord born in Bethlehem bless each one of you at Christmas, during the forthcoming year and always.. You are close to my heart. I am beginning to settle in but it is not easy. When I arrived here I suddenly felt fatigued to an extend that for two solid

weeks I was sleeping most of the time. It is only from yesterday that I am going out to see where to get the things I need to be connected to the internet at home. It will take me some time to get back to normal.

Zimbabwe is hot. People are busy in the fields. I went out to see what's going on on our farm. Sr. Tendai is doing a good job. She has several hundred chicken in 8 rooms. The big barn is empty. It needs renovation. Someone is coming to help us know what we need to make those renovations. Right now we need to continue with what Sr. Tendai is doing. We need to buy more chicks, buy chicken feeds, pay all bills and give farm helpers pay packs for them to go home and make their families have reasonable Christmas cheer.

Their families especially children expect new clothing. Farm helpers are poor. My heart aches when I see the work they do and what they get in remuneration and yet the sisters cannot give more. I am going to give them what ever I can to cheer them . The Lord has sent me for a purpose. We must increase production so as to increase sales so that we can pay the farm helpers better. This Christmas, NO CAKE NO DESERT for me. That is Great!! I want those around me to have as good cheer as possible. My own family is OK. It is the people here at the farm.

How are you all? I am using CARITAS OFFICES I hope to be able to work from home soon.

Love

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Sr. Theresa Camillo SJI

## January 13, 2012 Letter



Dear friends.

I hope this finds you in good health and hope you have started the New Year well. I wish each one of you God's choicest blessings and protection throughout this year and always. I think of you and treasure your friendship and your support all the time I was with you.

I know that you want to know what is happening here and what I am doing. I am living in a community of 4 sisters and 9 postulants. These 9 young girls will stay with us for one year then they will go to the Novitiate for two years before they make their first vows. The year of Postulancy and the two years in the Novitiate are formation years. I am in the house of formation. Sr. Epiphania is in charge of Formation.

Sr. Tendai, Sr. Blandina and myself are working in the farm where this formation house is and where the school is going to be built. On this farm is a huge barn which used to house thousands and thousands of chicken for meat and more so for eggs to supply the city. The barn needs a lot of renovation. We have to do some small projects to survive even before we can think of working towards the main thrust to work towards meaningful fund raising for the school.

When I came here The truck that transport the postulants was down, the second truck which we use to sell farm produce was dangerous to drive.

I used what I had to have the two trucks somehow function, but the police are closing an eye because both trucks, ie it were there, would not be road worthy. I used the money I had to get a little something for farm helpers and to pay school fees and school uniform for a little boy from this farm. I have to close an eye to the needs around because it is very stressful. The Lord let me taste what it means to be really poor. We need to start the chicken project right now - in a small way, for that is the only way of survival Sr. Tendai is currently raising 900 hundred chicken. From the sales of these we buy feeds, we order new ones, we pay utilities, we pay salaries. we buy fuel etc. There was nothing to repay the cars, Right now it is not enough to live from hand to mouth. I will have to risk borrowing money in order to raise at least 1000 chicken for meat and another 1000 chicken for eggs. The 1000 chicks for eggs will start giving eggs after 20 weeks. I am going to look at the Green House project today to supplement the chicken project. The chicken project proper will hopefully house several thousand chicken for meat and again several thousand layers, only then can we talk of maintaining the farm, maintaining the formation house and setting aside money for the school. Unfortunately people do not see it this way, they want the school today! We have some building material there which is far from enough. Right now I am in a dilemma. I do trust in God's Providence.

Local people will help a little with the school project to start it.

We take part in parish work. Our postulants take part in church choir and they give religious instruction. We visit people in their homes and take part in funerals etc. I am happy although very busy. My computer is not yet set. I am using the Caritas office to send you this news letter. I love you and pray for you all.

## EASTER EGGS FOR BETHLEHEM—A LENTEN PROJECT FOR THE BETHLEHEM FARM

Here is an excerpt from Sr Theresa's most recent letter:

Our main project is the CHICKEN AND EGG PRODUCTION. There is a huge unused barn which used to hold thousands and thousands of chicken for both meat and layers for eggs. Eggs have an unlimited demand, and layers have to be booked months in advance. Right now we are busy cleaning the barn We will start with chicken for meat.then we will go for layers. I am kept busy, but I am happy.



The goal is to pray for participation from 150 families to contribute \$15.00 per week during lent: \$105 total. This will result in a much needed boost to this program.

When I think of the poor I often think of the slums of India or even the barrios of Mexico. In viewing a recent video made by a journalist with a hidden camera, one thing really stood out about the level of poverty: In India or Mexico you could see where there was food to steal; in Zimbabwe, there isn't any food to steal.

If you would like to help, please contact Carmen or Anthony at 970-215-8488

### HOW TO DONATE

Donations can be sent in either the name of SJI Sisters or Sr. Theresa Camillo, SJI to:

c/o Anthony Cisneros  
2230 Steamboat Springs Street  
Loveland, CO 80538

Funds are deposited in the account in Loveland and then arrangements are made for funds to be transferred to me.

*Thank you to all who contributed while there and to all who continue. Sr Theresa*

You can also donate online at [www.sjisisters.org](http://www.sjisisters.org)



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My Life is in Your Hands

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We're on the web:  
[www.sjisisters.org](http://www.sjisisters.org)

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# CONFERENCE CALL WITH SISTER THE- RESA

**FEBRUARY 18, 2010**

**12:00 P.M. MST**

Conference Dial-in Number: (605) 475-4850  
Participant Access Code: 1093897#

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