

Making the Difference in India!

A Salesian Lay Missioner from SUO present among the most needed



My experience....wow....I've only been here for almost 3 months now, so this is just the beginning of my mission. Things have been good, challenging but good.

I am teaching 7 classes, 5 every day: 4 drawing classes, 2 computer classes, and a spelling class. My students range from 4 years old to 23 years old (yes, older than me!). Learning sign language at the same time as teaching is challenging. Since the kids are also learning sign

language, sometimes I know a sign that they don't know, so teaching them has been rather interesting. The school here is just really short of teachers, so we are better than having no teachers. A lot of time it's been a lot of charades and acting and spelling out what I want to teach in class. It's been a struggle, but every day I feel like this is where God wants me to be, and I believe that the struggles have made me realize even more that God didn't put me here to "save the school" or make everything better for the kids, but just be here to let Him work through me...and that is all I can pray for. It's been a very humbling experience to be sure.

The kids here are so loving and affectionate. They just come up to you and give you hugs and they always want your attention, understandably so. They are children, living far from home, far from their families. They always want your attention, and a lot of times they cry to get it. So, yes I am almost always trying to comfort a crying child. Sometimes, I feel like going just a little crazy. The kids don't just cry, they wail and scream.....But then after they finished crying, they'll smile at me and laugh and then I feel like I could get through the day. Going to mass really helps. Sometimes in the everyday struggle I overlook His presence in my life. But being here God has been really more prominent in my life. I guess it is also because things are hard; I turn to God more often (actually all the time now). His presence has helped me to this point in my life and looking back I can see His many blessings for me. Being here with the kids I feel closer to God because I feel like this is where He is calling me to be. A very wise person once told me, well actually two very wise people once told me that I cannot do God's will if I do not care to listen to His words. So, going to mass and hearing the gospel readings almost every day has really helped me continue to discern His calling. And it continues to support me in my time of confusion and weariness that this is where I should be. And being with the children really helps get me through the hard days too, because they are the reason why I am here.

Wrote by: Minh Mai
Salesian Lay Missioner