

NM 1037 / 2018 / 8
Helene Stenersen
Sandaker VN 232
0473 OSLO
NORWAY

Frontline

KALYAN CHAUDHURI
Special Correspondent

11, GOVERNMENT PLACE EAST, CALCUTTA - 700 069

14.3.92
1

OSLO, 14th March 1992

SR.M. PRISCILLA
MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY,
54 A, ACHARYA
JAGADISH CHANDRA BOSE RD,
Calcutta - 700016,
West Bengal INDIA

Dear Mother Priscilla,

My friend Kalyan Chaudhuri, who is a special correspondent in Frontline (From the publishers of the Hindu) Address :
11, Government Place East, Calcutta 700069.

Telephone. 282984/285219/207780, FAX NO. 91-033-285219,
wrote to inform me that he had been having a detailed talk with you on my behalf. Kalyan Chaudhuri told me to get in direct contact with you, as I was welcome to do Voluntary service for the Missionaries of charity, founded by Mother Theresa. Thank you!

I shall look forward to hear from you and will reply your letter rapidly.

I am 34 years old and live in Oslo, Norway.
I have my own flat and a job in the catering industry.

My life is materially speaking pretty safe, however modest. I have two sisters, 4 and 5 years younger than myself and we get along well. My youngest sister who is married, has a 18 months old son and is now expecting twins. She is healthy. My other sister has just returned home to Norway after a 4 months visit to Cyprus with her husband. They enjoyed a happy time together. My mother who is 60 years old is still working full time, as a leader of a medical library. She is very wise and clever, and I am proud to tell anyone that she took her 3-year degree at the age of 53. My father who is 59 years old is working as a bank assistant director. My parents went separate ways in 1971. I wasn't raised in a religious home, but we did our evening prayer at bedtime. Somehow, I always felt that there was a higher order and that I ~~was~~ led & guided throughout the turmoil of my youth.

I believe in a purpose with my life and that God has a plan for each one of us. I know that we are given a free will and thus can distort GOD'S plan. I must therefore learn to become more humble and listen to the inner voice.

I need to obtain spiritual completeness,

c).
as I feel empty and unhappy inside.

I believe, that if you seek, you shall find,
if you ask it shall be given, and if you
knock the door shall open!

I also strongly believe that in MY FATHER'S
HOUSE THERE ARE MANY MANSIONS. !!

I have for a long time been drawn towards
Mother Theresa and Calcutta, and strongly
feel that I am led by God to do this trip
and to do Voluntary Service.

This has to do with inner growth and personal
evolution, and to obtain a deeper understanding
and love towards myself, people and
life itself.

I am asked to exert myself and told that
the outcome will be very important
to my life, Quality and that of other people.

I am not especially strong or brave, I am afraid
of the unknown and I often hesitate to meet
demands. However on this subject I have
made up my mind. I will go to Calcutta
and I ask of you to do 30 days of service.

I understand of Kalyan Chaudhuri that you can arrange
accommodation for me in Monica Guest Home near the
Missionaries of charity for 7 us dollar, including lodging
and food. That will be fine!

I expect to do Voluntary Service from the 20th of October. I will provide you with exact timing nearer the date. At this time, I am still on the look for the cheapest air fare. I shall spend about 3 weeks with Kalyan Chaudhuri and his family, before I come to you, as they will introduce me to Calcutta and help me to become acquainted to a new and different way of life.

I shall do the work you ask of me and hope to learn a lot. I shall bring all that I learn with me back to Norway! I am very focused on death and dying. I would like to learn the service of comforting those who are terminally ill. I would like to learn how to help someone who is dying. I would like to know how to support anguish (That is physical pain and mental distress) and sorrow.

I believe that I am led by God to learn on this subject and that this work will be put in my way, in the future!

In my country, not many people relate to death and dying, most people avoid the subject all together.

The result is that many people are dying alone, and afraid, this is very sad to me. This is also against the divine will!

I believe an intermediary is needed: between the terminally ill and death itself! It is the same when we give birth to a baby, we need someone who is an intermediary in order to deliver the birth properly. Human beings are not meant to be alone in either process. (A process is a natural phenomenon marked by gradual changes that lead towards a particular result and a go-between is needed as an intervening agent.) An intermediary is needed to aid the terminally ill in dying and to communicate the fact of affairs to relatives and the patient, as well as aiding a proper ending between the dying and the relatives. A death in a family, without an open communication may lead to untold unhappiness and blameful feelings in years to come. This can be avoided to a degree. I suppose many of your terminally ill patients are dying without a farewell to their family, the more need to meet their longing for contact with respect, concern and love.

There are also in my country many people, who through personal reasons, have lost contact with their family all together. No need to say that they are left alone with their thoughts and fright.

I would like to learn about death and dying and share the outcome with those God put in my way.

Kalyan Chaudhuri is my spiritual link and has been placed in a most strategic position! You may ask how we met and he will tell you. It is my deep felt opinion that this trip of mine, is laid out to the smallest detail by an authority on high. I therefore know that everything will be fine and in accordance with the plans pre-arranged for me.

However, I do have butterflies in my stomach and have a hard time digesting the implications of being led to do this trip. I can hardly believe it is me who feel this way.

I am really not much, in many ways very basic. I have also lived a life of many situations and I have not exactly been a church goer. I therefore do have moments of hesitation, perhaps I'm imagining things.

I shall look forward to hear from you!
Let me include Kalyan Chaudhuri's card.
I am sure that he will stay in touch with you and pass on to you information.

My warmest regards,
yours

Helene Stenersen