



Children's Gram Sabha, Kokkanur, Davangere



Fr. Nestor with Fr. Bimal Lakra blessing a micro tea estate of a tea garden labourer, Assam



Children with solar lamp, Thanu, Uttarakhand



"I am grateful to Don Bosco for the education I received. I appreciate their efforts to educate the children of the poor in our country." **Vishwanathan Anand, World Chess Champion**





Editorial

What Pope Francis learned in a Don Bosco school !

It was just for a year – 1949 to 1950 - while he was in class VI. That single year in a Don Bosco institution transformed the life of young Jorge Mario Bergoglio. The education he received made such a deep impact on him that, forty years later, he was able to remember the name of every Salesian who had taught him.

In a letter to a Salesian priest in 1990, he listed some of the things he had learned in that one year with Don Bosco. Among them was “The importance of looking out for the neediest”. He wrote, “I remember I learnt there to deprive myself of certain things and give them to people poorer than me.”

By the time you have this issue of BoscoNet in your hands, the Salesians of Don Bosco will be holding their 27th General Chapter. This is our world ‘parliament’ that meets once in six years. Every ‘province’ of the Salesians sends two to three delegates to this world assembly. They study the work accomplished by the congregation in the last six years, analyse the youth situation today and set priorities and targets for the next six years.

This time, the Rector Major has asked the entire congregation to “go back to our roots”. The delegates will make a profound reflection on the original charism of Don Bosco (our founder), his values, priorities, target group, methodology, etc., and study how relevant these are in today’s circumstances. We will refresh our roots as nurtured by Don Bosco, but adapted to the actual needs of today.

Bill and Melinda Gates have written in their annual letter to the world that by 2035 there will not be any ‘poor country’ in the world. Even the poorest country will, by 2035, have a per capita income higher than that of India today.

That is not saying much. The economy of India has grown four-fold since 1990. In this same period, the difference between the rich and the poor doubled. A very large number of people are still below the ‘poverty line’ because the distribution of wealth is so unequal. Hence, in 2035, even with every country in the world having a per capita income higher than that of India today, there will be millions, in India and elsewhere, who will still be poor. “The poor will always be with you,” said Jesus.

Pope Francis has, by his words and shining personal example, called upon all priests, Christians and people of good will to “to deprive myself of certain things and give them to people poorer than me”. It is the right time for the Salesian General Chapter. It is the perfect moment for us to rededicate ourselves to the original target group of Don Bosco – needy youth. Join us!

Fr. M.C. George Menampampil sdb

e-mail: mcgeorgemenon@gmail.com

Facebook: M C George Sdb OR George Menampampil

Call: +91-9910619556

Chief Editor

Fr. M.C. George Menampampil sdb

Sub - Editor

Ms. Angel Zimik

Design and Lay-out

Mr. Sijo Mathew

Circulation Team

Ms. Biji Reji

Ms. Paosiiru Rosemary

Mr. Sanjay Kerketta

Mr. Rajeev Varma

Visit us:

www.bosconet.in

www.facebook.com/BoscoNet

Published By:

BoscoNet

B-33, Street No.7, Dashrathpuri,
Palam - Dabri Road, New Delhi - 110 045

Tel: +91-11-25390585

Email: info@bosconet.in

Web: www.bosconet.in

Toll Free :1800 300 200 50

From Labourer to Owner

- Bimal Lakra



The beneficiaries of the tea project welcome Fr. Nestor, Provincial superior, to bless their new micro tea plantation

“If this Bosco Tea Project had started a few years ago, our people would not have lost their land unnecessarily,” says Mr. Ramesh Tanti of Abhojam village.

Bosco Tea Project was launched under the sponsorship of AIDA (Development wing of the Dimapur Province of Don Bosco) to bring about change in the lives of tea garden workers in Assam. In 2008, we started out with just one sponsor and 50 beneficiaries. Today, with support from 5 donors, we reach out to 700 families. They have gained in “self-confidence”. They have a sense of “dignity” that was long suppressed. Today, former tea garden daily wage labourers have become owners of their own small tea gardens.

On 5th January 2008, Rev. Fr. Tony Pellissery, the then Executive Director of AIDA, wrote in his project concept paper - “The districts of Golaghat, Sibsagar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia have a large number of tea estates. Traditionally the Adivasis work in these gardens as casual labourers and generally in a situation of poverty, helplessness and a sense of captivity from which, they do not seem to be able to find a way out.

“Though they own their own plot of land it goes uncultivated for various reasons. They mortgage their land for small loans in time of financial crisis. Unable to repay the loans, they forfeit their lands. It is possible to motivate these landowners to turn their land into mini tea gardens.”



Mr. Clement Kullu’s family had lots of free land but he never made use of it. Bosco Tea Project helped him realise how this piece of land could be his sustainable source of income. Today he has a tea plantation in his own land. “Thanks to Bosco Tea team,” said Clement Kullu.



Production of tea need not be the prerogative only of rich people. Even daily wage labourers can become small scale producers with a little initial help

Mr. Lawrence Kerketta, Letekubasti, Murpholoni, Golaghat



“I received 1900 saplings in 2008-2009 and planted them. 1400 of them survived. In 2013 I harvested 960 kgs of leaves, worth around Rs. 18,000, sufficient for my daily needs like vegetables for the family, and stationery for my son’s studies, such as note books, pens, pencils, etc.

“This project has been a great help. I could not have afforded the initial investment. Don Bosco motivated me to have my own tea garden instead of only working in someone else’s garden. I will expand my garden and encourage others to tie up with AIDA to start gardens of their own.”

Mr. Mathias Soreng, Follongoni, Golaghat, Assam

“AIDA has worked a miracle. I got 3800 tea saplings in 2008-2009. Today I get around 50 kgs of green leaves every week. Earlier I depended on money lenders for credit for my house hold expenses. I never had money in my pocket. Today, I have cleared my debts and there’s money in my pocket. Thanks to AIDA.”



To support this programme send your donations to: Director, AIDA, Don Bosco School Campus, Circular Road, N N Gaon, P.B. 02, Dimapur – 797 113, Nagaland
 Acc. No. 1188010011145 The Federal Bank Ltd., Dimapur Branch, IFS Code: FDRL 0001188
 To support similar programmes in any part of India, donate to BoscoNet

STREET CHILDREN – How Many are They?

- Rita Serto



Amit Kumar Singh inaugurates the workshop at the release of the 16-city survey of street children.

Two million children on the streets of India ! Statistics of this sort are frequently quoted by NGOs in order to draw the attention of donors and the government. Don Bosco has been working for street children since four decades. To have a more accurate picture of the reality, we did a Rapid Assessment Survey in 16 of the 92 towns where we serve street children and child labourers.

Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk conducted a two-day workshop at New Delhi on 16 and 17 January 2014 to share the results of the study. The participants included our staff from these 16 cities. There were inputs from experts and

open discussions among the participants. The survey report concluded with recommendations for each city and at the national level.

It is consoling to note that the number of street involved children is smaller than what is often cited.

Delhi holds the unenviable distinction of hosting the largest number of them (69, 976). Mumbai comes a distant runner-up (16, 059). The three cities with the smallest numbers are Trivandrum (127), Imphal (851) and Shillong (872). The numbers are lower than some years ago. The work of Don Bosco and of numerous other NGOs is bearing fruits!



Amit Kumar Singh

Don Bosco Ashalayam and visited the institution 10 to 15 times. Finally he took up courage to ask whether he could stay there.

After some special coaching at Ashalayam, Amit joined school again in the 9th standard. Having completed high school and higher secondary, Amit is now a student of journalism in NRAI. His ambition is to become a film director one day.

Amit Kumar Singh presided over the function for the release of the Survey. He is 20 years old and lives in Don Bosco Ashalayam, New Delhi.

Born in U.P., when his father expired, Amit was taken in by his grandmother. He attended school, but had to help in making and selling alcohol. When he was in the 3rd standard his uncle took him to Delhi promising him a better education.

His uncle sent him to school but also made him do all the household work. He was severely punished even for minor mistakes. When he was in class VI they stopped his studies and sent him to work in a two-wheeler workshop. He heard about

Begging Outsourced

- Panthackal Rubin



Children during the street march against child sexual abuse, Davangere, Karnataka

11-year old Mallamma was a beggar. Her sister-in-law had outsourced this work to her with a daily target of Rs 50. On top of that she was expected to do the entire household work. If she failed to meet her target she would be beaten up, denied any food and made to sleep outside the house. Her brother once admitted her to school but her sister-in-law pulled her out. Today she studies in Don Bosco School. She dares to dream again.

Salesians work in 3 of the 6 taluks of Davangere district. More than 45% of the population are landless labourers. They are scheduled castes or scheduled tribes and are highly exploited. Many migrate to find work in the coffee estates of neighbouring districts. Their children drop out of school and become child labourers. They work in agriculture, brick kilns, seed crossing, rag picking, begging, etc. Child marriages, child trafficking and children gone missing are prevalent.

Steady Progress

- 1994 Don Bosco Child Labour Mission (DBCLM) launched by Fr. Kuriakose Puthenpurayil
- 1996 Institution opened at Davangere
- 1998 Opened Don Bosco Suprabha, an residential school for child labourers
- 2000 New building at Vijayanagar extension
- 2002 A second rehabilitation centre, Don Bosco Sujyothi at Aluratti
- 2006 Homelink and missing child bureau
- 2010 Childline project for the entire Davangere District
- 2012 Open shelter for urban and semi-urban children and Child Rights Education and Action

To support these services, sent your donations to: Fr. Kuriakose Puthenpurayil, Don Bosco, 1st main, Vijayanagar extension, Kondaji Road, Davangere, Karnataka - 577006

A/c No: 0235053000002903 South Indian Bank, Davangere, IFSC Code : SIBL0000235

To support similar works anywhere in India, donate to BoscoNet

Over the past 16 years DBCLM has rescued and rehabilitated 1833 children. Of these 174 are pursuing their college studies. 3 of them are doing Bachelor of Engineering and 2 MSW. 104 are already employed after their qualification.



Inauguration of Child Rights Club, Goverahalli, Davangere

DBCLM works in close collaboration with Government bodies. Our model of education through Child Rights Clubs is now being replicated in ten district of Karnataka. We prevent child labour by training Gram Panchayat members, SDMC members, SHGs, and other stakeholders. We also promote SHGs, financial literacy, self-employment, skill development, etc.

Success in 2013

- Rescue of 71 children – admitted to our Residential Bridge Course Centres at Sujyothi and Suprabha
- In June 2013, admission of 97 children (71 Boys and 26 Girls) of our bridge course into main stream schools
- 17 training programmes for Gram Panchayat members – 1107 participants
- Formation of 23 task forces in 23 Gram Panchayats for prevention of child labour – total of task force members -1010
- Formation of 67 Child Rights Clubs for empowering children to be protagonists of their own rights; 1005 members, and 11, 738 children trained
- 31 follow-up trainings of Child Rights Clubs
- A training for Government School Teachers on Human Rights Education – 35 participants. These teachers in turn train children.
- Supplementary Education for 1254 school going children in 30 villages of Harapanahalli and Harihara Taluks
- Advocacy and lobbying: our Director is a member of various Government bodies like the CWC, DCPU, and District Child Trafficking Prevention Committee. Hence, he influences the policies and action of the Government at the District and State level.
- 49 training programmes for SHGs – 2074 participants



Somakka, daughter of a cattle grazer, used to go around begging. One day Fr. Kuriakose met her and admitted her in 5th standard. She excelled in everything she attempted. She passed B.Com with distinction and, today, she is in her first year of M.Com. “If I have come so far it is because of God’s grace, the support of so many people, and perseverance. Life is what we make it.” says Somakka.



M. Hanumantha

M. Hanumantha, Manju and Thimmesh are brothers. Their mother fell mentally ill. Chandrappa, their father, borrowed Rs. 18,000/- and “bonded” his three sons to caring for the pigs of his money-lender.

They were ill treated. They suffered physically and mentally. They worked from 4:30am till 9:00pm but received no proper food. They mostly ate leftovers.

When their father died, Manju escaped, and approached DBCLM for help. The director of Don Bosco and a Police Sub-Inspector went to the spot and released the children.

Manju started working. His two younger brothers studied in Don Bosco, Alurhatti. Hanumantha completed his studies and works in Shah Infra Towers PVL as an Electrical Maintenance Manager and earns Rs.8000 per month. Thimmesh is still a student with us.



“This is a highly significant Salesian work. It has developmental, preventive, curative strategies and programmes. It has institutional care and also community-based activities, thus bearing witness to the love of God. I Congratulate Fr. Kuriakose Puthenpurayil, the pioneer and the founder-director, other Salesians and all the staff for the immense good that is being done for God’s last and least children, both boys and girls.” - Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga sdb, Salesian regional superior for South Asia



Press meet by children of Child Rights Club, Davangere

Main achievements through Childline:

Prevention of 62 child marriages

Rescue of children (from Beggary, Child labour, Rag picking, Abandonment etc.)

Boys	Girls	Total	Home Placed		Institution Placed	
			Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
93	40	133	28	04	65	36

Main achievements through open shelter project:

No. of Children Recued from risky situations	Home placed	Institutional placement (CWC)	Mainstreamed	Continuing education at Don Bosco
119	48	29	19	23

Main achievements through Missing Children's Bureau:

No. of Missing Complaints Registered		Total	No. of missing children traced				Boys	Girls	Total
			Home placed		Institution placed				
Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			
62	23	85	29	06	09	04	38	10	48

BoscoNet Shares its CSR Expertise

- Angel Zimik



The Executive team of BoscoNet with local Patner

The parliament has recently passed a bill requiring enterprises to use a percentage of their profits to benefit the community around them (CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY). Two of the staff of BoscoNet – Mr. Debangshu Ganguly and Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta – were members of the group that worked on preparing the notification of the law and the rules for its implementation. This has given them total expertise on the law and the nitty-gritty of falling in line with it. BoscoNet is now putting this expertise at the service of businesses that may need it.

In collaboration with Sidcul Manufacturers Association, Press Club, and Quality Circle Forum of India, BoscoNet organised a half-day programme

to introduce the new law to those that will be affected by it. This interactive training that took place on 20 January 2014 at Hotel Park Grand, Haridwar (Uttarakhand), benefitted 150 industrialists and members of the community.

Valuable inputs also came from Mr. Arvind Chauhan, Manager-HR, Wipro Ltd., and Mr. Prashant Mahadik, Chairman, QCFCI, Haridwar Chapter and Head of ITC Ltd. Pankh from Rishikesh made a presentation of their valuable work in Uttarakhand and Fr. George, our director showcased the work of Don Bosco around India.

BoscoNet is now placing this expertise at the service of any enterprise anywhere in India.



Fr. George motivating corporates for CSR Partnership



Representatives of corporates at CSR meet

Visit of the first lady of Germany

Daniela Schadt

- George Payyamthadathil



Ms. Daniela Schadt with the children of Bosco, Bangalore

The President of the Federal Republic of Germany came to India in February 2014. The first lady - Ms. Daniela Schadt - visited Bosco Mane and the office of CHILDLINE (1098) at BOSCO Bangalore.

She had fun with the children. She chose to sit on the floor along with them, and interacted with them. They were smart, free, and friendly. She asked one child to narrate his story. Abhisurya recounted his personal experience in BOSCO. He explained that all that he is today is because of BOSCO. He proudly proclaimed that he is currently the class leader of St. Joseph's School, Chamrajpet and plays hockey in state level tournaments. He now considers Bosco as his true family. Ms. Schadt was happy to hear that Abhisurya has a true home now. She told him to be a model for others

who may easily give up when challenges or difficulties come their way. Seeing her cheerful nature one student suddenly popped a question, "Do you like our home"? "What's your favourite food"? She took time and answered every question in simple English.

Ms. Schadt appreciated the services that helpline offers to vulnerable children 24/7. She said it broke her heart to know that children are getting married at a very young age. She also visited the child rescue booth of Bosco at the Bangalore City Railway Station. There she was welcomed by Mr. Anil kumar Agarwal, the Divisional Railway Manager. She was told how they identify run away children at the earliest. She was made to understand how important it is to rescue children as soon as they land in the railway station and before they



Interaction with children of Bosco, Bangalore

hit the streets. She requested the railway officials to extent their collaboration in all ways possible to assure every child a safe childhood. Despite her busy schedule she did not forget to thank the staff who work day and night at the railway station.

She was very much impressed by the work done by BOSCO in Bangalore. On behalf of the needy children she thanked Don Bosco. In her simple and unassuming style she thanked and took leave of the staff and children who had received her.



Fr. Edward Thomas SDB

Fr. Edward Thomas, of the salesian province of Bangalore was in July 2012 appointed a member of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR).

BoscoNet April - June 2014

A post graduate in social work, his career of service started as a student of theology, in the year 1996. He was the secretary of the Social Service Guild in Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore. He worked for the empowerment of children and women.

The past 6 years he has served as the executive director of BOSCO. He is a powerful and effective voice in favour of the Young at Risk and was given the Kempe Gowda Award. It may be recalled that Fr. Edward had already served as a member of the State Selection committee (under JJ Act 2000), the Juvenile justice fund, the appointment committee for Karnataka state JJ functionaries, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Bala Bhavan Society, Karnataka. At present he is a board member of Caritas India and the Vice president of FEVOURD-K.



Brand ambassador and regular donor Bombayla, Bosconet campaigner Ranjan and two other donors participated in the Asian Grand Prix Archery Tournament at Bangkok, 10-16 March 2014.

On 14 January 2014, Laishram Bombayla Devi, winner of 24 international medals, Arjuna Awardee (2012), two-time Olympian, was declared the 2nd best woman archer of the year in recurved division and awarded a cash prize. She is a regular (monthly) donor and brand ambassador of BoscoNet.

Ranjan Waribam, Archery coach of the services and national coach for archery, was declared the best coach of the year in compound division and received a cash prize, as he placed the maximum number of his trainees among the top 8 in the country in compound division. Ranjan is a regular donor and constantly campaigns among his family, friends, trainees and contacts to turn them into donors, too.



Archers from the Army Sports Institute, Pune, who are all donors to BoscoNet, many of them on a regular basis. May your aim always be true!



Fr. Philip Parakatt SDB

Fr. Philip Parakatt SDB was born to late Brigeet and Varkey Parakatt on 4th February 1967 at Nellikutty, Kannur District, Kerala. He completed Masters in Social Work and was ordained a priest in 1995. He joined the Salesians of Don Bosco and worked as the Assistant Director of BOSCO, Bangalore for three years. In 1999 he was appointed Director of the renowned NGO, Don Bosco Veedu Society, Trivandrum. He took leadership in establishing the first CHILDLINE network in Kerala in 2000 and was its Director till 24th May 2012. He initiated the Missing Child Search and Child

Protection Homelink Network, Kerala, in 2007.

He thought up programmes such as Success for Success, Child Rights Promotion, Child Development Educational Training Programme, and the formation of a team of trainers. Thousands of students, teachers, parents and other stakeholders have benefitted. His contribution as a child rights activist, campaign organiser and interlocutor with the media have strengthened causes like eradication of begging by children, elimination of child labour, etc., in the state of Kerala.

The State Government nominated him for the Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva National Award and National Child Welfare Award. The Government appointed him a member of the State Selection Committee for Juvenile Justice Boards, Child Welfare Committees, ICPS Governing Board, State Planning Board, Rules and Policy Drafting Committees and Task Forces. These posts enabled him to contribute significantly towards the promotion of child rights and the development of a child friendly atmosphere in the State.

HOW TO DONATE

Direct bank to bank transfer can be made to:

BoscoNet

SI	Account Name	A/c No	Bank Name	Branch	IFSC Code	MICR Code
1	BoscoNet	0359053000013067	The South Indian Bank	Janakpuri, New Delhi	SIBL0000359	110059006
2	BoscoNet	15450100015254	The Federal Bank Ltd	Dwarka, New Delhi	FDRL0001545	110049018
3	BoscoNet	32070038412	State Bank of India	Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi	SBIN0011564	
4	BoscoNet	911010068009441	AXIS Bank	Janakpuri B Block, New Delhi	UTIB0001147	110211087
5	BoscoNet	50100015733818	HDFC Bank	Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi	HDFC0000132	

Bosco Aid Trust

SI	Account Name	A/c No	Bank Name	Branch	IFSC Code	MICR Code
1	Bosco Aid Trust	15450100013903	The Federal Bank Ltd	Dwarka, New Delhi	FDRL0001545	110049018
2	Bosco Aid Trust	32151140958	State Bank of India	Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi	SBIN0011564	
3	Bosco Aid Trust	912010016238760	AXIS Bank	Janakpuri B Block, New Delhi	UTIB0001147	110211087

*Donors to BoscoNet may deduct 50% of their donations from their taxable income under **80 G**. Write to us for the required documentation.*

BoscoNet

B - 33, Street No.7, Dashrathpuri, Palam - dabri Road, New Delhi -1100 045, Ph: +91 - 11-25390585,
E-mail : info@bosconet.in, <http://www.bosconet.in>, **Toll Free:1800 300 200 50**



*Looking
for
Corporate Partners
for
Spreading more
Smiles*