

bosconet

Vol. 2 No. 3 April - June 2012



am
grateful to
Don Bosco for the
education I received.
I appreciate their
efforts to educate
the children of
the poor in our
country."



Vishwanath Anand World Chess Champion In Mumbai, the alumni of Don Bosco Matunga lend a hand to children in need!

In Bangalore a street child becomes a movie-star!!

In Kolkata Don Bosco goes to prison!!!

Editorial ...

Suresh was a happy man. He had a small plot of land and a little house that was not much better than a hut; but, he had a loving wife, three beautiful children who were doing well in the local government school; there was enough food for all. He was grateful to God for all his blessings.

Everyone in the village was in a similar situation. They were all hardworking small-scale farmers. Most families had their little plot. The rains were good and the soil was fertile. The town was not far away. They sold their goods there and did their shopping. All were happy. There was peace, happiness and prosperity in the little village.

A large enterprise came up in the town nearby. Its human resources manager scouted the area and found this village perfectly suitable for the quarters for the com-

staff.

acres

farm-

land

pany's

several

road.

These

enough

He offered a

very large sum

to the farmers

and bought up

of land adja-

cent to each

other and abut-

ting the main

ers still had

left over to

cultivate. They

also had a large sum of money

to invest and

Soon they had

a large, flat

TV, a car in the

garage, an air-

conditioner in

and a fridge

bedroom

consume.

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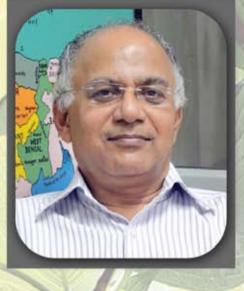
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in the kitchen. Their children were admitted into the English-medium school in the town.

Suresh was no longer the happy man he used to be. He realised how poor he was and how better his life could be. He had not become any poorer; but, the discontent came from the sight of those doing better than he did.

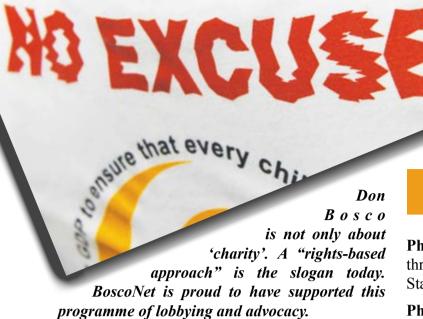
A few years ago, the salaries of the top 10% of the employees in a company in India were about five times those of the lowest 10%. Capitalism and cutthroat competition pushed up the income of large investors and top-level employees. They did not allow the earnings of the poorest to rise. Today, the top 10% earn 12 times the lowest 10%. The difference between the rich and poor grew at a faster pace in India than in any of the other BRIC nations.

No doubt, our economy is growing and flourishing. Unfortunately, its benefits are unevenly distributed among the people.

There is a limit to what the government can do to promote economic equality. The collapse of the Soviet Union is proof of the failure of state control. Improving the lot of the poor is, more than ever, the task of every individual. It has to be voluntary.

BoscoNet is happy to be helping people to meet this responsibility. Don Bosco is your reliable, transparent and accountable partner in helping the weaker sections of the population to stand on their own feet.

We invite you to visit any of the Don Bosco institutions in your neighbourhood. Ask them about their services to the poor. These are not always so evident to the casual onlooker. We could even arrange a tour for you to several of our centres at your convenience.



Phase Two focussed on the role of the government through surveys conducted at Bus Stations, Railway Stations and other public spaces.

Phase Three of the campaign had two parts to it: Data-collection on infrastructural

it: Data-collection on infrastructural entitlements under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan; and a Signature campaign-cum-cycle yatra from Chandigarh to New Delhi. Children's Score Card on entitlements covered 3677 schools and 3820 anganwadis.

NINE

Thomas Pallithanam

Reni Jacob

The **fourth phase** of the "9 Is Mine" consisted of a Rail Yatra by children to New Delhi, the national capital. Three groups of children travelled 9 days, through 9 cities and 9 states. They raised 9 demands besides the demand for 9% of the GDP for Education and Health.



"It is also my dream to be able to allocate 9% of the GDP for Education and Health. But please appreciate my constraints."

- Pranabh Mukherjee, Union Finance Minister

"Nine Is Mine" is a children's campaign to create awareness of the need for increasing the budget for Education and Health. It aims to bring pressure on the government to keep its promise of allocating 6% of the GDP for Education and 3% for Health. The campaign also links this commitment to the Millennium Declaration & Millennium Development Goals.

The **first phase** of the programme was a Signature Campaign in November 2006. Although the target was 100,000 signatures, more than 400,000 were collected.



"Now I know I can make a difference."
- Sarguna Pandian, 13 yr old from Salem, TN

"You children make me proud. It is always a pleasure to interact with you."

- Shanta Sinha, chairperson NCPCR

The Yatras

One group of 9 children with disabilities, supported by 9 other children, started out from Shillong. They travelled through Guwahati, New Jalpaiguri, Patna, Lucknow, Una, Ambala and Chandigarh. Another group travelled from Thiruvananthapuram along the West Coast, via Kochi, Kozhikode, Mangaluru, Goa, Panvel, Vadodara and Jaipur. The third route was from Kanyakumari along the East Coast, via Madurai, Chennai, Rajamundry, Bhubaneswar, Kolkotta, Ranchi and Kanpur.

Each group underwent a period training before the journey. A variety of NGO's organised grand functions at their points of departure. At every stop on the way groups of children and adults received the yatris, held public meetings and collected signatures.

Programme at Delhi

The children spent the 20th November – Child Rights Day – in a workshop at New Delhi to discuss the main issues to be addressed in their advocacy efforts.

On 21st November there was a Public Hearing at Mavlankar Hall. The event as attended by Rajya Sabha M.P., Shri. Oscar Fernandes, and members

"As president of one of the largest teachers' unions I understand what it takes to make education accessible for all"

of the Delhi Minority commission led by its chairperson, Mr. Safdar H. Khan. In the afternoon 40 children met H'ble Minister of State. Sudip Bandyopadhaya, floor leader of TMC.

A delegation of 30 children met the Chief Minister of New delhi, Smt. Sheila Dikshit on 22nd November. The same day they also visited the parliament. Ms. Agatha Sangma, the H'ble minister of Youth Affairs, made it possible for the delegation of children from the North-East to have an interaction with Members of Parliament Navin Jindal. Sandip Dikshit and Varun Gandhi in the Parliament Annexe, and later have a lunch with them.

"I had to leave my home state after the Kandhamal riot and come to AP to pursue my studies. Others have not been lucky like me."

- Jerubbabel

In the afternoon a delegation of 45 children visited H'ble Minister Krishna Tirath, Minister with Independent Charge of Women Development and Child Welfare

On 23rd November – the rallyists from the East Coast lobbied Sri. Jagdish Takor, MP from Gujarat, Chairperson of NCE. A delegation from NE, East Coast and Delhi-over 60 children







Don Bosco in Prison!

Technical schools in prison, and many other services

Fr. M.C. George

on Bosco, over 160 years ago, believed that no person is born a criminal, neither is he an outcaste. He spent time in prisons helping the young people there. The Salesians in Kolkata follow in his footsteps. Don Bosco Prison Ministry (DBPM) was conceived in the year 1998 to bring JOY BEHIND BARS. Its mission is to rehabilitate legal offenders, in particular the young ones. Fr Scaria Nedumattathil was, and still is, the heart and the brain behind this service. Presently it provides services to prisoners at Lalgola Open Air Jail, Midnapore Central Jail, Dum Dum Central jail, and the Central Prisons at Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Dumka.



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D. O. No. 2963/16/11

Dated: 23.12.2011

To Whomsoever It May Concern

Don Bosco Prison Ministry, Berhampore has remarkably brought meaningful changes in the lives of inmates both during their incarceration and post-release by imparting vocational training to the inmates of Berhampore Central Correctional Home. The organization takes initiative in different educational and recreational programmes inside the correctional home.

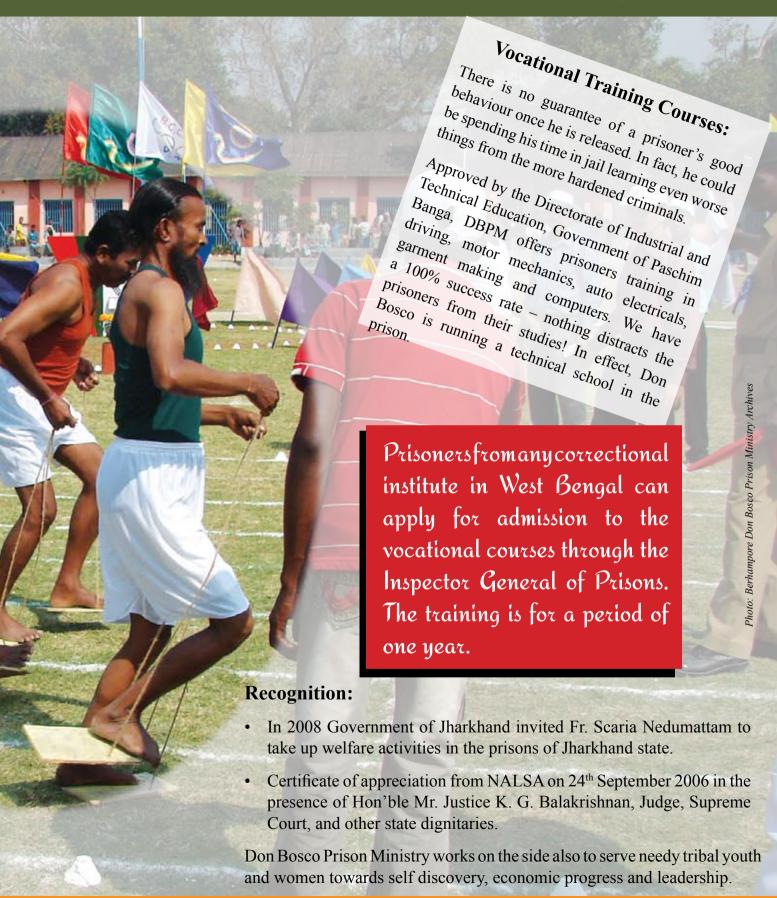
I wish them all success in all their endeavours.

(Ranvir Kumar, IPS)

Fr. N.T.Scaria

Don Bosco Prison Ministry
Berhampore

"Never give humiliating reprimands, never inflict corporal punishments." - Don Bosco



Prisoners Family Welfare Scheme:

DBPM helps the families of prisoners to repair their houses and marry off their daughters. They get help to improve their earnings through the purchase of rickshaws and opening tailoring shops.

Micro **Projects** for Income Generation:

Don Bosco's micro projects create an income that the prisoner can use as capital when he returns home. A Shopping Complex, Rickshaw/Van Transporting System, Cultivation, etc., are in full swing. DBPM is helping to set up a cooperative society in collaboration with the Prison Directorate of West Bengal. Don Bosco Chandradeep at Hariharpara does the same for released women

> prisoners, women deserted by husbands and destitute women. They learn sewing, embroidery and doll making.

Fr. Scaria hoisting the flag on Sports Day

Legal Assistance and Counselling:

Sharing the vision and the mission of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), DBPM ensures that 'even the weakest among the weak does not suffer injustice arising out of any abrasive action on the part of the state or private person'. DBPM gives information on legal matters. It also educates people about what is to be done when a person is arrested.

Sports and Games: Music and Entertainment

A Salesian house without music is a body without a soul – Don Bosco

Sports, games, music and entertainment form an integral part of any Don Bosco activity, ven behind bars! There is even a music band ining course for prisoners in collaboration with Murshidabad District Police.



Jeevan Asha: Project for Prisoners' Children Back Home

Jeevan Asha helps children of prisoners. It sees to their education, and physical and mental well being. They overcome shame and the stigmatization, and reshape their lives. Holy Child Home has 125 girls, all children of female prisoners and commercial sex workers. It is a joint venture With Prison Directorate, Government of West Bengal and Sisters of Charity of Sts. B. Capitanio & V. Gerosa.

Don Bosco Prison Ministry depends totally on donations for its various welfare activities. The budget for 2012 is as follows. Please sponsor an item or contribute your mite to it.

1. Vocational Training courses:

SALARIES : Rs. 6,70,000.00 Materials : Rs. 5,61,000.00

Equipment (Computers, used motor vehicles, sewing machines, motors etc.)

Rs. 5,80,000.00

2. Rehabilitation of released prisoners: Rs. 10,00,000.00

3. Legal assistance for needy prisoners: 5,00,000.00

4. Educational support for Prisoners' Children Back Home – 1500 students : Rs. 24,00,000.00

5. INFRASTRUCTURE (to add concrete roof to an old tin shed which is used as auditorium by Don

Bosco Prison Ministry) : Rs. 32,00,000.00

Send your donation to : Don Bosco Yuva Jyoti , Berhampore,

P.O. Boaliadanga, Dt. Murshidabad Paschim Banga, India – 742102.

Email: scaria11@bsnl.in; dbpmberhampore@gmail.com

Tel: M-00919434394141

Website: www.donboscoprisonministry.org

Society Reg. No: S/87729 of 1997-98 Under West Bengal Act XXVI of 1961.

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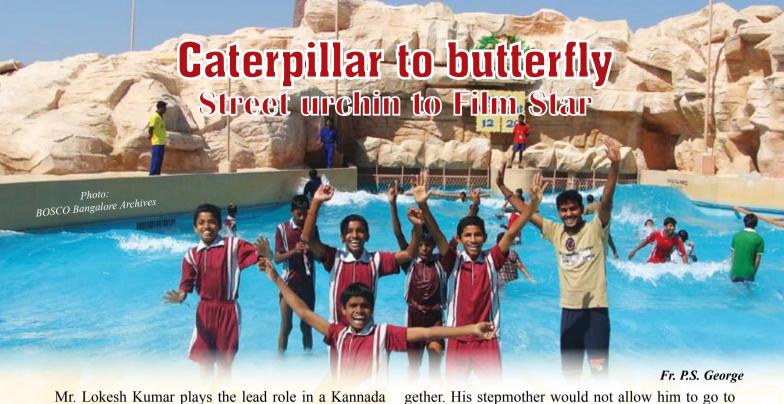
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Financial help given out by BoscoNet and Bosco Aid Trust upto 15 January 2012

	Financial Assistance given	Amount	Account
1	Help for Kristu Jyoti, Bangalore	200,000	Bosco Aid Trust
2	Repair of Skills training school for dropouts - Najafgarh	70,000	BoscoNet
3	Financial Assistance - Marriage	50,000	BoscoNet
4	Nine Is Mine Campaign by children	28,807	BoscoNet
5	Scholarship - North East	400,000	BoscoNet
6	Scholarship-Vocational Trg Institute, Najafgarh New Delhi	384,910	BoscoNet
7	Starting Vocational Trg Centre for dropouts - Tripura	298,832	BoscoNet
8	Victims of Cyclone "Thane" in Cuddalore district, TN	200,000	BoscoNet
9	Scholarship for Karaikal, Puducherry	82,500	BoscoNet
	Grand Total	1,715,049	



Mr. Lokesh Kumar plays the lead role in a Kannada film being shot these days. He has already been signed

up for three more films. Who would imagine that he is (was) a runaway kid!

He worked the streets of Bangalore and slept on railway platforms till he was picked up by BOS-CO (Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota). BOSCO is a Don Bosco institution that gives shelter to

ZERO TO HERO N

Lokesh Kumar, who ran away from home at age six, is now making waves on the idiot box; wants to help street children in future

IMRAN GOWHAR

FROM a runaway unchin to a TV sensation, Lokesh Kumur (22) is a success story. Rising tose, from the streets he



school. She made him do all the household chores in-

talent would lead him to suc-cess one day.

BOSCO's executive direc-tor, P: George PS noticed Lobesh's talent, and encour-aged him to join the school. Today Lokesh is doing his LLB from Vivenkananda Law College in Malleshwaram, and also self, naginines to make a

"I love painting in oil and acrylic, and dabble in photog-raphy." Lokesh said adding that he earns around Rs 5,000

A year ago, he reun with his father and an a They shower all their low

stead. Lokesh just hopped on to a train to Bangalore, all on his own, at the age of six!

Given the opportunity for schooling, he excelled. Today he has completed his LLB (Bachelor of Law) and plans to do MSW, too.

"I loved watching movies and aped

actors for fun," Lokesh says. The programmes at BOSCO helped him develop this talent. That enabled him to join a private TV channel's talent show 'Hero No.

street and working children in the capital of Karnataka.

His mother had lost her mental balance after years of fights with his father. Finally, she disappeared alto-



One'. The jurors, who were all movie actors, selected him for the top prize from the 600 contestants.

He was immediately signed up to play the lead role in his first movie. He was also involved in a second TV programme, 'Nakra Bakra', modelled on MTV's Bakra programme.

"I love painting in oil and acrylic, and dabble in photography," Lokesh says. Mere hobbies at BOSCO, these skills helped him earn and pay a part of his costs while studying for LLB.

Why should a successful actor, painter and photographer do MSW? "I want to help street children who are deprived of their rights," was his reply in a flash. BOSCO is proud that they have not merely given an opportunity to a homeless child. They have built someone who will, in his turn, contribute substantially to give a second chance to many more needy kids.



BOSCO is doing yeomen service through its various outreach programmes for the rehabilitation of street children, missing children and child labourers and exclusively

working for children who need care and protection and who are in conflict with law. They support children in education, health, training, legal matters and job placement. BOSCO has been working closely with our department.

Dr. Shamla Iqbal, I.A.S.Director of Women and Child
Development in Karnataka



Photo: dineshgundurao.com

have known BOSCO Organisation for a long time. They are doing excellent service towards the poor and destitute children in Bangalore City. I congratulate them and I am sure that they will continue to do their good work for many more years.

Dinesh Gundu Rao, B.E., M.L.A.



BOSCO has been rendering invaluable service in the field of Child Abuse Prevention and Child Rights Protection. Its work in the areas of

rehabilitation of street children, rescuing children from debt bondage and looking after cases of missing children has continued to draw applause from the Government and public alike. BOSCO has acted as the human interface of the government, particularly the Police.

BOSCO is the face of the successful outreach programmes launched by the Government and its activities have been accepted as a model elsewhere. Their dedication and selfless service is much appreciated.

Pronab MohantyJoint Commissioner of Police
Crime (West), Bangalore City







MATUNGA ALUMNI

The alumni form a part of Don Bosco's family. They have inherited his spirit. They share among themselves and with the needier people around them.

The alumni of Don Bosco Matunga are an active lot. Led by Mr. Kailash B. Parekh, their secretary, they had SIX programmes from October to December 2011.

- 1. The 5th annual 'Bosco's Raas Garba 2011' on Wednesday, 5th October, had a huge turnout of revellers (nearly 5700) among whom were 80 street children from Don Bosco Shelter Wadala.
- 2. The alumni gave a special treat to the primary students of the school on children's day a great Magic Show on Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday.

Samples of the gifts given to children of Shradhanand Mahila Ashram by DB Alumni, Matunga



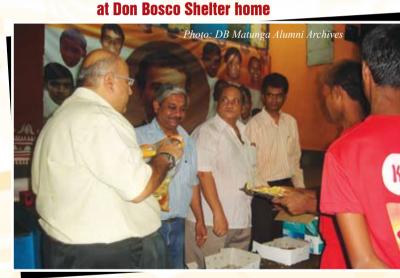
3. Fr. Provincial's official visit to the unit took place on 29th November. He congratulated the alumni for their renovated office and their nu-

Secretary
merous activities in the past year. He urged

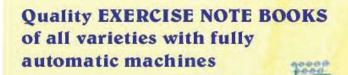
Mr. Kailash B. Parekh

Don Bosco Shelter Home, Anmol, etc. **DB Matunga Alumni distributing food to the children**

them to offer more services to the poor through



- 4. On 13 December, the alumni organized a programme for the street children in Don Bosco Shelter Home. The president Mr. Jayesh T. Chandran, his wife and daughter donated snacks for all the kids and encouraged them to benefit from the services Don Bosco offers them.
- 5. The Vice-President's wife, Mrs. Cecilia D'Mello turned Santa Claus and distributed cookies, puzzle sets and magic slates to the primary children, and shoes to 25 under privileged children.
- 6. We made Christmas very special for the children of Shradhanand Mahila Ashram on 26 December with gifts of sweets, cookies, puzzle sets and magic slates.











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- If you live in India, please make out your crossed cheque to BOSCONET
- Crossed Cheque from outside India need to be made out to DON BOSCO NATIONAL FORUM FOR THE YOUNG AT RISK

Send MO/Cheque/Draft to:

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2	BoscoNet	15450100015254	The Federal Bank Ltd	Dwaraka, New Delhi	FDRL0001545	110049018
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4	BoscoNet	911010068009441	AXIS Bank	Janakpuri B Block, New Delhi	UTIB0001147	110211087

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Please find enclosed my contribution of Rs.....through cheque /draft no.....to support your work in favour of the poorest children of south Asia. I would like this money to be used for : (you may specify here the purpose for which you wish your money to be used)

Please pray for the following intention of mine and my family's:



His Excellency, Mr. Peter Verghese, High Commissioner of Australia, interacts with Mr. Manoj during his visit on 5 January 2012 to the Street children lodged at Don Bosco, Delhi. Manoj ran away from home at the age of 8, was rescued from the railway station by Don Bosco and he had started college in Delhi University.

Printed Matter

"The goodness of a person is at its purest in the young."

Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk, King of Bhutan

BoscoNet