





# Editorial



## DON BOSCO SERVES THE RICH??

The day John Bosco was ordained priest (Don Bosco), his mother Margaret gave him some advice. She also made him a threat: "You were born poor. Make sure you die poor. If you ever become rich, I will never enter your house."

The publishers of the most famous encyclopaedia in the world, saw a wonderful opportunity to expand their business – they would sell their digital encyclopaedia and library to the 'RICH' Don Bosco schools in India. They have 400 people working in their office in India. Their meticulous research on Don Bosco produced results that surprised them. Of the 400 or so schools Don Bosco runs, only 37 could be making some profit (and these will have to BUY the digital library). The rest are low-fee schools (and will be offered the digital library FREE OF CHARGE).

In Don Bosco's own lifetime, the government of France ordered the closing down of all religious

institutions in the country. The Salesians sent a telegram to Don Bosco, informing him of the train by which they would be returning to Turin. He immediately sent them a reply, telling them NOT to move. "Stay where you are and continue your work. No one will disturb you." As a matter of fact, the Salesian institutions were not touched. The authorities recognised the invaluable service they were doing to the poorest children of the country, and wanted them to carry on doing so.

Don Bosco wrote in his final testament before his death: "The world will always welcome us, as long as our concern is for the under-developed peoples, for poor children, for those members of society most in danger."

An advice he gave to the first Salesians he sent over to South America was: "Take special care of the sick, of the young, of the old and of the poor; and you will win the blessing of God and the goodwill of men."

He also prophesied: "When the desire for ease and comfort grows up among us, our society will have run its course."

Don Bosco continues to grow in India, in the number of Salesians, and in the number of institutions run by them. Hopefully this is evidence that we are still faithful to the vision and charism of our founder, Don Bosco. This must be so, as was shown in the independent study by the publishers of the encyclopaedia mentioned earlier. YOUR donations help us care for needy children, the under-privileged and those most in danger of a wasted life. THANK YOU. God bless you.

In this season of festivals may the light of God's love shine over you; may He reward you for the smiles you bring to the poor, particularly the children among them.

Fr. M.C. George Menampampil SDB  
mcgeorgemenon@gmail.com  
FB: M C George/George Menampampil  
+91 -9910619556

### Editor

Fr. M.C. George Menampampil SDB

### Subeditors

Fr. K.C. Jose SDB

Ms. Angel Zimik

### Design and Lay-out

Mr. Robins Mathew

### Circulation Team

Ms. Biji Reji

Ms. Paosiiru Rosemary

Mr. Sanjay Kerketta

Mr. Rajeev Varma

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### Published By

**BoscoNet**

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

Tel: +91-11-25390585

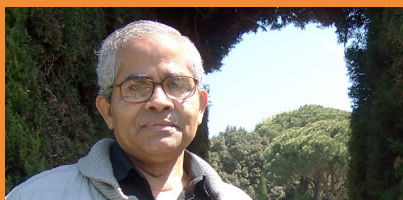
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## “NARIPRISE” – A WOMEN ENTERPRISE



‘NARIPRISE’ could also be called “nariPRIZE” because every girl that comes here is a ‘prize’ for me. They are all precious prizes from above. And I am more than grateful for the opportunity to help them shine.” Bro. T.V. Matthew

**B**ro. Matthew, in his endless efforts to fight youth unemployment with self-employment schemes, has once again come up with a totally new project – NARIPRISE!

In a country like India, a woman is forced to think she is powerless; she is considered weak and often treated as a sex toy. She is considered the property of her father or husband. She is harassed every single day, regardless of what she does.

Bro. Matthew runs DBSeri (Don Bosco Self Employment Research Institute). He used to encourage girls

to take up courses which are traditionally seen as the male domain. This year 24 girls completed the three year ‘Civil Engineering Technician’ course. The girls did very well in their studies and the topper of this batch is a girl.

Ironically none of these girls could find employment. The recent reported cases of rape resulted in more stringent laws against sexual harassment. Managers are afraid of employing girls, as they fear something untoward may happen, and the company could suffer severely as a result.

Bro. Matthew offered these girls a contradictory solution: “If you cannot find employment, become employers! If you cannot find a job, give job to others!” He invited his young women graduates to start enterprises of their own, taking up contracts and employing others, mainly men, to carry out their projects.

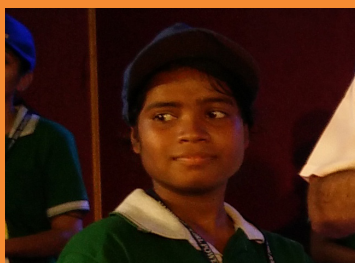
Our regional councillor, Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga inaugurated project “Nariprise” on 14 August 2015, as a gift to Don Bosco on the bicentenary of his birth.



These 24 young, qualified women, between 18 and 25 years in age, have formed 12 partnerships. They are expert engineers, owners and managers of their own enterprises.

Recently these Nariprise entrepreneurs signed an agreement with a construction company to build 30 modular kitchens and 45 posh toilets in a 5-story building. Within 10

days of signing the agreement, the girls had completed 3 kitchens and 3 toilets, to the total satisfaction of the promoters.



**“I** am so happy because soon we, 24 girls, will take off into the skies. We are not afraid of harassment because we are the bosses, the men are our employees. Today I am an expert in making modular kitchens and posh toilets. I have no fear for my future now. I am also very proud to be an agent in meeting the most basic needs of human beings, executing the ‘SWACHH BHARAT’ scheme of the Government of India. We are liberated. Thank you.” – Preety Kacchap, Nariprise entrepreneur



On the same day, DBSRI released a coffee-table book entitled **“From School dropouts to Entrepreneurs”**

published by BoscoNet, New Delhi, narrating the story of Bro. T. V. Mathew, who rejoiced that his dream of

turning out qualified entrepreneurs through DBSRI is being fulfilled.



## DON BOSCO'S HERO

**O**n March 15, Akash Bashir, a past pupil of the Salesian technical school, prevented a suicide attacker of the Jamaat ul Ahrar group, from entering the crowded St. John's Catholic Church at Youhanabad, in Lahore, Pakistan.

Akash was on guard at the door of the church, checking those who entered.

The suicide bomber approached the entrance and tried violently to get past the two young guards. When Akash stopped him, he noticed the explosives hidden under the jacket of the attacker. He caught hold of the attacker, using his own body as a shield, but the bomb went off and the lower part of his body was blown off in

the explosion. Akash lost his life but saved the lives of many other people. Thanks to his courageous action, the death toll was much lower than what was intended by the assailant.

**“As a Christian minority, there are times when our only hope is in God and Mother Mary,” say the Salesians in Lahore.**



## OUR CHILDREN - MODEL PARLIAMENTARIANS



**T**he Children's Parliament of Rajeevnagar in Andhra Pradesh had four sittings during the month of July 2015. They addressed several issues related to the hygiene and safety of the school.

The health minister brought to the notice of the assembly that the daily garbage pick up truck was not regular. The consequence is a mess around the premises of the Community Hall where they conduct the weekly parliament sittings, as well as the daily tuition classes.

The child parliamentarians decided to take direct action. Contrary to what the State Legislature and the National

Parliament seem to be doing these days, they decided to set an example. For once, they would themselves clear the garbage.

While they were on this task, they observed several empty liquor bottles on the premises. They disposed of them too, but brought the matter to the attention of the adult leaders of the community.

The elders identified the guilty parties and issued them a strict warning. The problem is now under control.

Congratulations to the children who are turning out to be models for us adults!

### What is a Children's Parliament?

Children's Parliament is a Programme/movement for children below the age of 18 years. In their parliament children speak for the children, by the children and of the children. They develop leadership skills, self-confidence, team spirit, analytical skills, and maturity. The parliament sits one to four times a month. They discuss issues that affect the area and together look for a solution.



# FREEDOM FROM A KILLER DISEASE

**I**n front of her little cottage, Fulmani Hansdak, a grief-stricken mother still mourns the death of her two young children, daughter Dular Hansdak (25) and son Joseph Sunil Hansdak (24), both of whom hepatitis B killed within a brief span of two years.

Before the illness could engulf the entire village, Fr. Jose Thaikadan, executive director of DBDOC (Don Bosco Development Society Kolkata) and Catholic Church Polsondamore jointly launched a vaccination programme at Belsanda village, in the district of Murshidabad, West Bengal.

Rajesh Chirimar, a well-wisher of DBDOC, with a team of medical personnel started the immunization process against hepatitis B beginning



with a medical test on August 9, 2013 and the entire process was completed on March 8, 2014.

Today, Belsandra village is free of hepatitis B, although the loss of two youngsters of a family haunts the memories of the villagers.

**"Life has meaning in creating for everyone healthy living conditions. That is the responsibility the Creator has given us along with the gift of life. The vaccination programme is a work of fulfilling that responsibility,"**

*asserts Fr. Karlus Murmu SDB, rector, and local head of the vaccination programme.*



**"I was diagnosed with hepatitis B; I thank God who saved me through the work of DBDOC,"**  
*says Sunita Kisku, age 22, beneficiary of the medical programme.*



**"Don Bosco Fathers spoke to us regarding the need to undergo a blood test and to receive the vaccines; I am happy my family is no more under the threat of hepatitis B,"**  
*says Dulal Basky, age 35, beneficiary of the vaccination programme.*



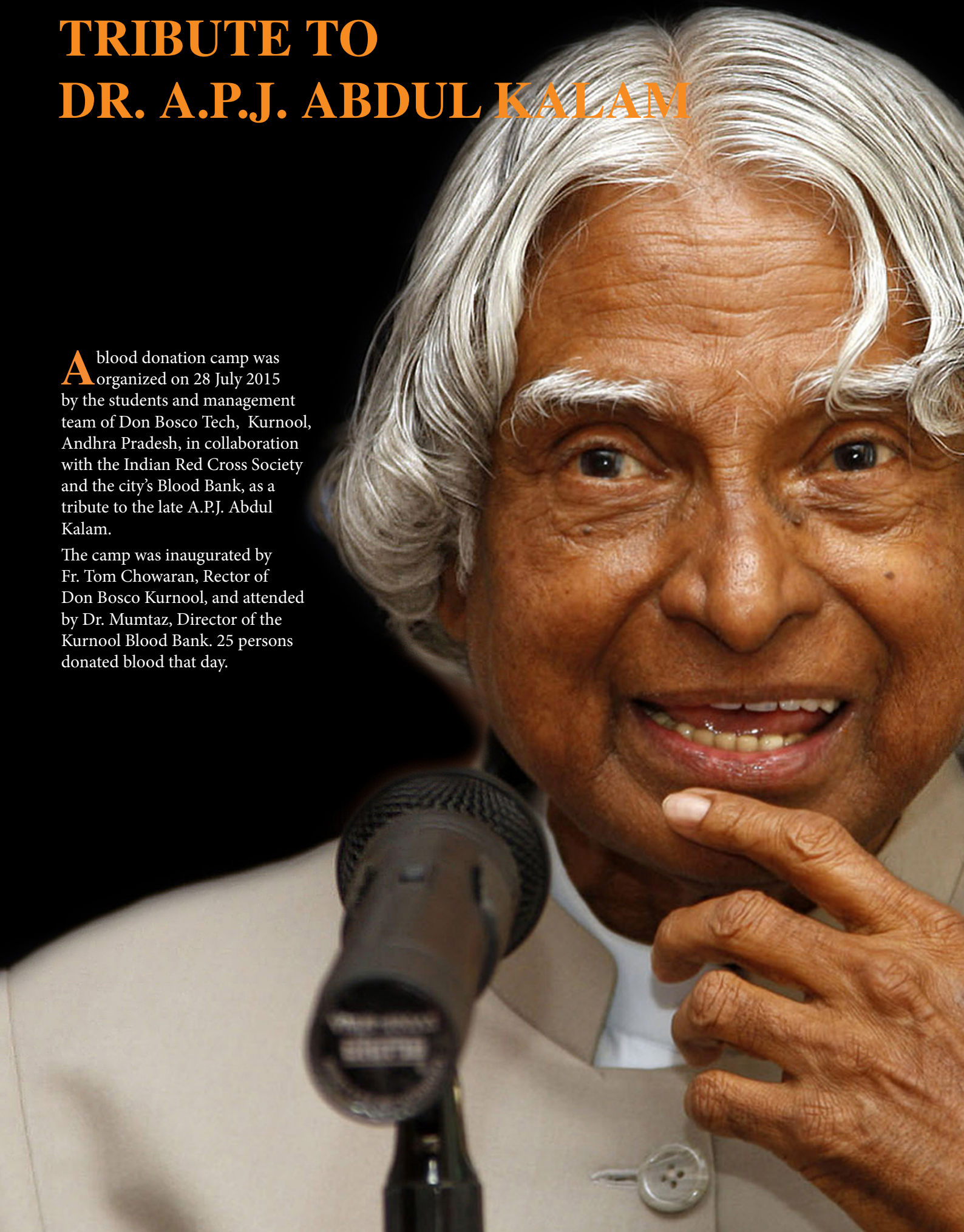
**"I mourn the death of my children who could have been my support in my old age. But their death has not gone in vain. Today my village is free of the illness that could have caused sorrow in other families. This is my consolation,"**  
*says Fulmani Hansdak, the bereaved mother.*



# TRIBUTE TO DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

**A** blood donation camp was organized on 28 July 2015 by the students and management team of Don Bosco Tech, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society and the city's Blood Bank, as a tribute to the late A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

The camp was inaugurated by Fr. Tom Chowaran, Rector of Don Bosco Kurnool, and attended by Dr. Mumtaz, Director of the Kurnool Blood Bank. 25 persons donated blood that day.



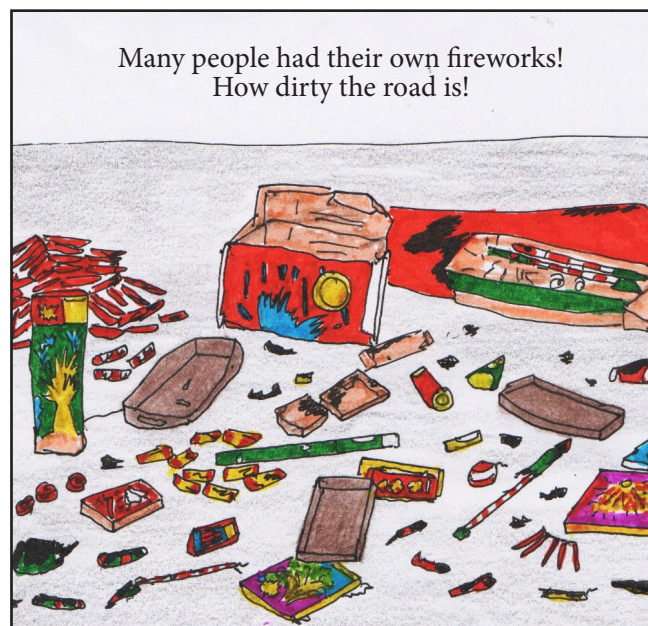


# HAPPY DIWALI

Sketch & Colour : L . Calvin | Illustration : Angel Zimik







A festival of light or another reason to pollute?  
Let's fill our homes with prayers and lights not with fumes and explosions.





## A GIFT OF SECOND LIFE

**I**n April 2015, the Tiruchy Salesian province, conducted a camp for substance abusing adolescents at DB Jananam.

The two rehabilitation centres for children and youth, at Salem and at Coimbatore, had found more than 20 adolescents badly addicted to inhalants and other drugs including alcohol, smoking and chewing tobacco.

The boys were treated in a full-fledged hospital, with a consultant psychiatrist and de-addiction counsellor. The treatment included physical and psychiatric consultations and medicines, de-addiction counselling, awareness creation through many multimedia inputs, laughter therapy, and methods of Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP). Fr. John Dharman, the director of DB JANANAM, and Fr. Jude Muthuselven, the asst.

director, accompanied the youngsters all through the camp days.

So far the youngsters have responded well to the treatment and are showing signs of complete recovery. All the treated boys were school dropouts and child labourers.

The de-addiction camp was conducted in collaboration with the St. Ann's sisters of Luzern (SAL sisters) and the Karunai Illam of the CMI fathers. The Tiruchy CAUVERI development office, St. Ann's sisters of Pallapalayam and DB NEST, Tirupur rendered valuable help in the treatment process. We plan to conduct more such camps in the near future.





# NEPAL SMILES AGAIN



**I**t is a smile that has to make its way through pain; hope has been rekindled. Thanks to Don Bosco, which means thanks to our donors in India and around the world, over 37,000 families had food to eat in the days immediately after the earthquake. Later 3,300 families received corrugated galvanised iron (CGI) sheets for a temporary shelter from the monsoon rains. These will soon become roofing material for their permanent homes. 5,400

children are happy that they can go to school again, because we replaced their school stationery that was lost under the rubble of their homes.

We are glad we chose to give priority to villages that do not easily catch the attention of the media, the government or the big International NGOs. We did not shine in the media; but we brought shine on the faces of many.

Our 'overheads' have been extremely low. This is because Don Bosco has our own permanent institutions in Nepal. We did not spend the donors' hard earned money to rent office space to function from. We did not pay high salaries to relief personnel because the salesians, our own school staff and students did most of the work generously. We used our own vehicles except when trucks had to be hired for bringing heavy loads to villages.







## Fruits of Collaboration

### Psychological Assistance to school community in Lalitpur District

The 'Nepal Don Bosco Society' collaborates with FADV (Fondazione L'Albero della Vita Onlus, Italy) which helps children who were traumatized by their sudden loss of parents or siblings or home. Psychological Counselling Training was provided in 9 out of 16 schools. Child Friendly Spaces were created in 7 schools. They will go on to cover 16 schools in 12

localities, with a total of 7719 beneficiary students.

### Action Medeor

Action Medeor is a German organization that brought in a very big supply of medicines. We provided them our infrastructural facilities and some personnel, to get these to the clinics and hospitals that needed them.

### Residential Coaching for Class X students

Don Bosco provided all the infra-

structural support for a month-long residential programme, conducted by 'Teach for Nepal' (TFN), an NGO based in Nepal.

160 class X students from different government schools of Lalitpur district participated. The programme included trauma relief, psycho-social counselling, rebuilding the reading habit among the students and preparing them for the tenth grade board exam, for the Nepal School Leaving Certificate.



"Having a roof over your head is everything to be thankful for. 25th April shook our family. The earthquake took away half of our house. We are a poor family. I live with my son, and my husband who works as a daily wage earner. I go from house to house, doing household chores as a helper. With our small monthly income we send our son to school. We are poor, but we are happy that we have a house to live in. But after the earthquake, I was afraid. The earthquake affected Thecho less. So no relief team came here to help. Don Bosco Thecho is the only organization that helps the people here. They gave 3 bundles of tin sheets to all affected families. It was a big support for my family. Thanks to Don Bosco for giving me the tin sheets. It is really a blessing for me at this time of disaster." - Sabina Gurung (40), a resident of Thecho, Lalitpur District, Nepal



"I live with my husband, and our house was destroyed on 25th April. We were homeless since the earthquake hit us. We had to face the rain and thunderstorms. It was a terrible experience. I could not think of anything but cry. To rebuild the house was a big problem. Our meagre income was spent on our daily needs. It was Don Bosco Thecho, who gave us hope. They provided 4 bundles of tin sheets to be used in rebuilding the house. I am happy that there is an organization like this. I can't thank them enough for helping us." - Sher Bahadur Maharjan (60), Piangaon, Chapagaon VDC



### Community Hall

Don Bosco also contributed to the construction of a Community Hall in Chapagaon village. We helped the Village Development Committee (VDC) with materials like iron rods, CGI sheets, cement, red oxide, etc. The people themselves did most of the work. The hall will serve the community for their social events, skill development programmes and other vocational training for the villagers. The work started in July and was completed in September.

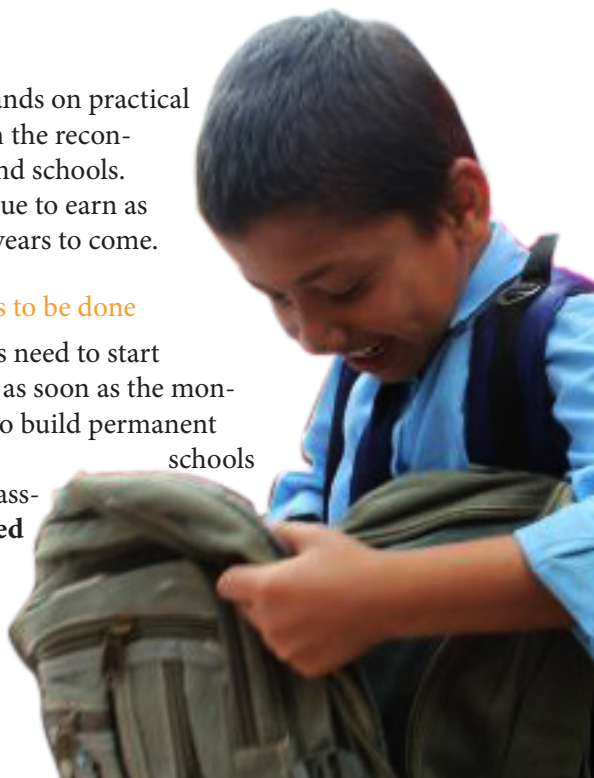
### Skill Training for Reconstruction

80 youngsters will complete a course in the skills needed for construction work: carpentry, electrical wiring, plumbing, masonry and welding. After three months of training in the Don Bosco Technical School at The-

cho, they will have hands on practical training by helping in the reconstruction of houses and schools. They will then continue to earn as skilled labourers for years to come.

### A lot of work remains to be done

Thousands of families need to start building their homes as soon as the monsoons stop. We plan to build permanent buildings for 15 to 25 schools that have lost their classrooms. **You are invited to continue helping us to put the smile back permanently, on the faces of our Nepali brothers and sisters.**



### Major Challenges:

The school construction cannot be started as yet, due to a new order from the government that says the school buildings should be two storied and renovations will not be accepted. Therefore we have to rework the project proposal and the school buildings design.

Due to rain, and the frequent bandhs and strikes, the team is not able to visit the villages and schools for collecting feedback, for finding out the present needs, and for distribution of uniforms. We are temporarily stuck on our road of service to the needy people.





## Summary report of the Earthquake Relief in Nepal

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of Villages we reached	District	No. of families/ schools/ TLCS
1	Food items	41	8	36,900 families
2	CGI sheets for temporary shelters	18	7	3,270 families
3	Construction of Temporary Learning Centres (sheds as temporary classrooms)	6	1	20 – all completed
4	CGI sheets given to schools for temporary classrooms built by them	64	10	147 schools
5	Water Filters for families	17	8	129 household/129 filters
6	Distribution of Filters to schools	13	4	22 schools/71 filters
7	Distribution of First Aid Kits to schools	6	2	30 kits to 30 schools
8	Distribution of Stationery items (a set of School Bag, Note Books, Pen, Pencil, Eraser, Instrument Box, Colour Box, etc.)	7	1	5,408 sets of stationery items to 5,408 students



**T**hat Saturday, 25 April 2015, being a holiday, I stayed home. It was the day the earthquake struck us. The next morning I met my colleague Purna Bahadur and we went to see the Don Bosco fathers at Thecho, to discuss what we could do for the people who were affected by the earthquake.

The fathers asked us to make a survey of the affected villages; we did that and we even reached Lele and Pahari Gaon village, where almost all the houses had collapsed in the earthquake. We took photos and met the villagers. They asked us for some urgent help, such as ready-made food items.

We came back to Don Bosco Thecho and reported the situation to the fathers and the need for immediate help. Both Fr. Jijo and Fr. Tony were ready to begin immediately. They said BOSCONET would help us. So we bought food items from Khajuri store as this was the only open one. The others

were closed, as they said they would sell only when the prices go up. We started distribution of the items that we bought at the store. Seeing the need of the other villages, the fathers bought more food items and we continued helping the nearby villages. Seeing the efforts of Don Bosco, others also started to help in the distribution of food items. One school was given financial aid to bulldoze the mud from the hill side and save the building

I got the great opportunity to help others at that time and I felt very happy to be a member of the relief work team.

Don Bosco fathers taught us the value of help and to serve all needy people. The Nepal Don Bosco Society reached many districts and lot of far away villages like Dolakha, Ramechhap and Gorkha. Following the supply of food items like rice, dal, cooking oil and salt, the Don Bosco fathers also brought good quality zinc coated tin sheets and

distributed them to the earthquake damaged schools to make temporary shelters for the students. Don Bosco also built TLCs (Temporary Learning Centres) as schools, so that the students could continue their studies. We also distributed water filters to individual families and schools. Stationeries, bags and dress were also distributed to many schools. I was involved in most of these relief works and I am very grateful to Fr. Tony, to Fr. Jijo and to Fr. Abraham for trusting me and involving me in such wonderful service.

It is really a great feeling to see the DON BOSCO fathers involved in different relief works to help the needy, as per the demands of the different places.

Thanks to the DON BOSCO FATHERS for helping our people.

Prunokumar Dongol  
Nepal Don Bosco Institute of  
Technical & Vocational Training  
Thecho, Lalitpur, Nepal





Fr Jijo John and his team of Nepal Don Bosco Society received this certificate of appreciation from Nepal Government for their tireless effort in reaching out to the earthquake victims.

## FROM MY PERSONAL DIARY



I have known Fr. Mathew Manianchira since the time I was a boy in the minor seminary, 50 years ago! The other day I met him at Don Bosco, Mirpara, West Bengal, where he is the rector. He had his usual broad of smile of warm welcome for me. As we shook hands he casually

and cheerfully said, “By the way, the doctors say I am suffering from Parkinson’s disease!”

There was no self-pity, no expectation of sympathy; no tone in his voice with the least hint of a complaint or despair or regret or disappointment or frustration. It was just a statement of a fact, a reality that he understood and accepted – the typical behavior of the optimistic man I have known for decades.

Matthew Manianchira was born on 22 December 1944 at Pala, Kottayam, Kerala. He became a Salesian of Don Bosco on 24 April 1964 and

was ordained a priest on 22 December 1973.

“Think Positive” is what he always told his students. Today he does not need words to convey that message. He lives it in his life. Knowing that his days of effective work are numbered, he continues to teach. He already finds it difficult to write on the blackboard; but, he will insist on doing whatever he can as long as he can.

“I want the younger generation to look up to me and say, ‘Because of you I didn’t give up, because of you I took life positively,’” says Fr. Mathew, my friend. God bless him.



# NEPAL RELIEF FUND

Donor	Amount	Donor	Amount
Our Lady of Snow School, Himachal Pradesh	10,000	Cash deposit, Pala	1,000
Major A. G. Joseph	1,000	Cash Deposit	3,000
Don Bosco School, Jharkhand	25,000	Cash deposit	1,000
K. J. Antony	3,000	Josey P D	2,000
Antony Mathew	1,000	Jessy	2,000
O. T. Joseph	3,000	Shalima Fernandes	2,000
Individual Donation	1,000	Mrs. Anju Tresa Joseph	10,000
Brookside Adventist Sec School, Shillong	14,155	Cinu K Paul	1,000
H. Elias Secondary School, Shillong	9,260	Marylin Ericksen & Friends, USA	44,581
St. Anthony's College, Shillong	84,676	Individual Donation	2,000
St. Mary's Hr. Sec. School, Shillong	30,000	Thomas George	500
St. Anthony's Junior school, shillong	87,010	Grotto, Laitumkrah	2,200
Grotto (Shillong)	50,000	Ebenezer J. C. Asirvat	5,000
Aleyamma Thomas	1,000	Don Bosco Mission, Ireland (Foreign Transfer)	10,73,315
George Thomas	2,000	Poole Trudy	47,460
Kulangara Anthony Mani	2,000		

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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

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Call : +91 9811297121, Mail us : bosconetdelhi1@gmail.com

**BoscoNet**

B-33, Street No.7, Dashrathpuri, Palam - Dabri Road, New Delhi - 110 045, Call : +91-11-25390585  
Mail Us : info@bosconet.in, Visit Us : www.bosconet.in, Toll Free : 1800 300 200 50