



Your contribution is no more small; Its fruits are in Lakhs!

Don Bosco was a real Thaumaturgus – wonder-worker, a man of numerous miracles: multiplying bread to feed the hundreds of his hungry children, curing people in return for donation to his work, even raising the dead, according to some eye-witnesses. He said every brick in the basilica he built in Turin was a miracle. He continues to work his miracles even today. Read on! Get him to work his miracles for you and your family.

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Editorial

“Will you accept a pig as our school fees?” asked the Chief. “Certainly, I will!” was my reply. “OK, then. Please, come and collect it.”

There were only six families in this village in Manipur. No school anywhere nearby. They could not afford the fees of Rs 1,500/- in any normal boarding of those days. No one went to school.

Six children from this village were admitted into a “Leapfrog course” that I had devised. Children between 11 and 13, who had no opportunities to study till then, were placed in a boarding and put through intensive coaching.

A child at this age learns much faster than a child of four. They are highly motivated. They leapfrog over several years of study that little children need. After the one-year course, they are fit to be admitted into class VI, V or at least IV.

Those years, Don Bosco spent over Rs 800/- per child per month for this course. We asked the parents to contribute Rs 200/- per month. The Chief of this village led a delegation to request an exemption from these fees.

They said they had no cash. We told them they could pay in kind. They said they had no rice to offer. Finally they suggested a pig! A butcher paid Rs 6,000/- for the pig and this amount was credited to the account of the children as fees.

Crazy? Not so. There are two arguments to support the decision. One : if the children remain at home, their parents would have to feed them. Two: The dignity of the people.

A tribal in Manipur has traditionally never been a beggar. It is important that parents feel that THEY are bringing up their children. Don Bosco is only helping them. Only those who are paralysed and bed-ridden, or in similar situations of absolute dependence, need to be given EVERYTHING, free. Making at least a partial payment for services received upholds the dignity of the beneficiary.

In July of this year there was hue and cry over an event in a school in Bangalore. It is alleged that the authorities cut off a lock of hair from some children. The aim was, apparently, to identify easily those who had been admitted with reduced fees under the quota for the poor.

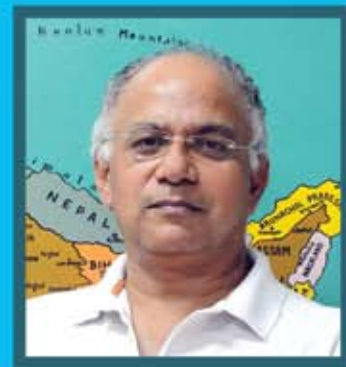
The protestors were right. The dignity of those children was under attack. Don Bosco schools have always given concession to some of their students. In the old days school fees were paid in cash at the school counter. The school authorities would give cash to these children so they could stand in queue with all the others and pay their fees. We did not want anyone to identify the poor. Their dignity was maintained.

We may help a beggar by throwing a coin at him, or we may hand the same coin over to him with respect and with a smile on our face. When we respect him we respect the human dignity we share with him.

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The Miracle Continues.... MBBS For Lost Kids

Fr. Alvin D'Souza

When Don Bosco started his numerous works, he did not have the resources to build up and sustain them. Nevertheless he set out bravely, placing his faith in prayers and the goodwill of the people around him. He was confident that the necessary means would come his way. He always got what he needed. Each work of his was a miracle.

Margaret Bosco Bal Sadan (MBBS) is a testimony to the continuing miracles of Don Bosco. The miracle started with a gift from Mrs. Muriel Pinto and her children. They gifted a modest traditional Goan house to the Salesians of Don Bosco. It was just what they needed to start a house for boys picked up from markets and streets, for orphans, runaway boys, victims of exploitation, child labourers, the Young at Risk (YaR), and all those who had no place to 'belong'.

Margaret Bosco Bal Sadan was started in June 2007 in that modest house. It is named after the mother of Don Bosco. It provides roots and wings to young boys aged between 7 and 18 years, irrespective of religion, caste and community. It is situated in Paliem – Ucassaim, a village near the bustling town



Mrs. Muriel Pinto hands over the keys of the house

of Mapusa in North Goa. Its serene, natural setting and the love and care of the Salesians give a real sense of home to these children.

Margaret Bosco provides the needy young a blend of 'what is' and 'what could be' – a chance, ek mauka, an opportunity to shape their lives. The progress each boy makes is a miracle in itself – a miracle of Don Bosco, a miracle of his sons, and a miracle of the generous donors that help us keep the work going.



A rich experience: Growing up with boys from different backgrounds

Apart from the myriad services that the boys receive in MBBS, they are imbued with a love for nature. Saying 'no' to plastics and keeping the house and surroundings clean are basic to education at MBBS. All of this is to make the young, as Don Bosco wanted them to be, 'good persons and honest citizens'!



"Don Bosco Fathers at Margaret Bosco Bal Sadan helped me discover and mould my talents in sports. Besides that I am going to school. With their support, I will continue my training in running at the Sports Authority of Goa. I know I can fulfill my dreams!" Akola Kambli (15 years), a runaway from Mumbai



"When I first came to MBBS, I did not know anything, not even to read, write and how to live with others. I have learnt a lot. I am happy. I have changed my life and have done well in sports and studies. I feel I am a responsible boy now." Patrick D'Souza (17years)

"I want to study and do something for my mother. She has been begging at the dargah since my father passed away. We are poor, but with the education and support I receive here I will give a good future to my mother." **Shahrukh Babusumani (13 years)**



"When I was on the streets, I never thought that I would be able to come this far. I study Social Work in Bosco College, Panjim. I will serve other poor children after completing my studies. I am very grateful to Don Bosco for having brought me this far." **Sidharth alias John Fernandes (18 years), an orphan from Ghattaprabha, Karnataka.**



Indoor games, craft classes, etc., are some ways of building family atmosphere



"This is my fifth joyful year here at MBBS. I feel young when I am with the boys. The work is challenging, yet very fulfilling. Here we strive to make MBBS a home. My dream is that each boy does well in life and that MBBS grows over the years." **Fr. Wilfred Sequeira, sdb – Administrator and boys' guide.**

How can you help?

- Be a part of the Caring Community by registering yourself at MBBS.
- Come and spend time with the boys – taking lessons, talking to them, or in joyful recreation.
- Sponsor a boy for a month of shelter, education and healthcare - Rs. 600/-.

- Sponsor a meal – Rs. 1500/-, or snacks for tea – Rs. 500/-.
- Provide basic necessities: foodgrains, eats, pulses, stationery, toiletries, etc.
- Celebrate your children's birthdays with the boys of MBBS.
- Volunteer your services for programmes for children conducted by MBBS during vacations.
- Refer poor and deserving boys to MBBS.

Services provided at MBBS:

Residential/Home facilities, education, counselling, short-term courses, life-skills, medical care, repatriation to their families, family contact, an appreciation for the dignity of human labour, career guidance, home visits, referral services, etc.

Bank Details:

The institution has a Bank Account with the following details

Name of the Bank and Branch	Account Name	Account No:
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Corporation Bank, Bastora Branch	"Margaret Bosco Bal Sonvstha (MBBS)"	6342
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IFSC Code No of the bank a/c: COR P0000235

Donations may be made either in cash or by cheque/DD drawn in favour of "Margaret Bosco Bal Sonvstha"; for availing Tax Exemption (80 G) please draw cheques in favour of "Goa Salesian Society".

Postal Address: Margaret Bosco Bal Sadan, H.No. 6, Gandhyar, Paliem, Ucassaim P.O., Bardez, Goa 403 507

Almost all the Don Bosco institutions in Goa are built on land donated by individuals, either while alive or through their last will and testament. May God bless these generous persons and may they inspire many more such miracles of charity.

THANKS FOR THIS MIRACLE, DON BOSCO !

My name is Tanya. I am a 13-year-old. On 29th July 2011, the relics of St. Don Bosco were brought to my parish, St. Dominic's, New Delhi. I went at night to pay my homage. Due to the large crowds present, I could not get as close a look at it as I was eager to have. So, the next morning at 5:00 am I went again to church to stand really close to the relics of the saint.

I used to have some outgrowths on my skin since the past few years and they had begun to cause me

discomfort. I touched Don Bosco's casket and prayed that I may be healed. A few days later I touched the areas that had the growths and noticed that I had been healed and the growths had completely disappeared.

A year has now passed and the problem has not returned. I thank St. Don Bosco for interceding for me and thank God for working this miracle on me.

*Tanya Antony
New Delhi*

P. A. SANGMA – DON BOSCO BOY



Did you know that Purno Agitok Sangma was a student of Don Bosco and then, a teacher in a Don Bosco school before he went into politics? We may or may not like his politics, but we cannot deny P. A. Sangma's contribution to Meghalaya State as

its chief minister, and to the entire nation as a member of parliament, a minister in the central cabinet and the speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Born in 1947, his responsibility as a boy was to herd cattle since there was no school in his village and the family could not afford to put him into a boarding. A priest, on a visit to his village, saw promise in the boy and got him into Don Bosco School, Tura. He

completed his high school there and his graduation from St. Anthony's College, Shillong, another Don Bosco institution.

He then taught in Don Bosco School, Dibrugarh, completing at the same time his Masters in international relations and a bachelor's in law (L.I.B.).

Elected eight times to the Lok Sabha, Mr. Sangma reached the level where he could be a serious contender for the highest post in the nation – that of the president of India.

Given the opportunity to study, a poor tribal boy from a remote village in a tiny state in a neglected corner of the land could achieve so much in life. THIS is what Don Bosco is doing, with differing levels of success, for thousands of children and young people in India.

We are proud to have you, our donors, as partners in this mission!

MUST YOUR TAXES ALWAYS KEEP GOING UP ?

Your age and your income taxes. It seems inevitable that both of these keep increasing always. It is not necessarily so.

BoscoNet has 80 G certification. That means donations to BoscoNet give you tax benefits. 50% of your donations may be deducted from your taxable income. This could result in you paying less tax this year than you did last year.

This is particularly interesting for individuals and businesses that have just crossed into the next higher income tax slab. Consult your chartered accountant. You may find that the sum of your donation and your income tax is actually less than the income tax alone!

You kill two birds with one stone: you spend less; and what you do spend serves to educate some poor children. What could be better?




Sorry! We have not yet found a way to prevent your age from going up! Hopefully, the satisfaction you get from educating poor children will make you feel younger and God will bless you by adding a few more years to your life.

Children Married off to Please Grandparents?

Salesians in the vanguard of Human Rights Education in Andhra Pradesh

Mr. Martin Sudhakar & Mr. Jose Kunnel

A group of children and adults are outdoors in a paved area. In the foreground, several girls are sitting on the ground, drawing colorful patterns with chalk. One girl is wearing a blue shirt and a yellow flower in her hair. Another girl is wearing a red shirt and a blue skirt. A boy in a light blue shirt and dark pants is standing and looking down at something in his hands. In the background, a woman in a yellow and green sari is standing and talking to a group of people. There are other children and adults in the background, some sitting and some standing. The scene appears to be a community activity or a school event.

A student informed Mr. T. Martin Sudhakar, her Human Rights Education teacher, that one of her classmates was soon to be married off. The teacher, along with representatives of the Human Rights Club, met the girl's parents and persuaded them not to go forward with the marriage. Finally, they promised to wait till she reaches the legal age of 18 years.

This revealed the preparations going on for the marriage of two other students of class 10. The club members and their teacher failed to dissuade their parents. The ailing grandparents wanted to see them married before their death!

The club made an appeal to Fr. Thomas Pallithanam sdb, a Salesian of Don Bosco, who is also the Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee. Fr. Thomas and Mr. Ch. Venkat Rao, the District Child Protection Officer, explained the legal consequences of conducting a child marriage.



It was only then that they accepted to postpone the marriage till the legal marriageable age.

Human Rights Education in schools, leading up to the formation of Human Rights Clubs that keep constant vigil over violations of rights, is the brainchild of PARA and its dynamic animator, Fr. Thomas Pallithanam sdb.

215 teachers from 185 schools, like Mr. Raja Christopher of Lutheran Aided High School (LAHS), Jampet, Rajhamundry, participated enthusiastically in the 5-day training provided by PARA. All these schools have classes on Human Rights. 20 of these schools already have active Human Rights Clubs. PARA succeeded to persuade the government of the importance of Human Rights Education in schools. A Training of Trainers was financed by the government and through them 167,000 teachers have now learned how to teach Human Rights and lead HR clubs.

The official training handbook from the government has a chapter of 11 pages on Don Bosco and his system of education. Fr. Pallithanam is now a special invitee to the State Curriculum Frame Work Preparation to give inputs on Human Rights Education. Fr. Koshy Thomas SDB, another Salesian, is a member of the State Advisory Committee for HRE programme and Fr. John Tharakan SDB, yet another Salesian, is the convenor of the Syllabus Committee of the HRE.

When children become capable of standing up for their own rights and those of people around them, dramatic changes can be expected in society.

Miracles In Kalimpong



Doing to Learn: Trainees during practicals

We got this mail from Kalimpong. It speaks of the results of the support BoscoNet gave them. Let every donor, including the school children who contributed or collected even Rs 10.00 for BoscoNet, be blessed by God for the GREAT service they have rendered.)

Dear Fr. George,

Thank you for the financial assistance given to Don Bosco Kalimpong. You had paid two lakh rupees. Like good and faithful servants they have multiplied it. The process was as follows:

- 01. Fr. Noble and the Salesians at Kalimpong planned together the great programme.*
- 02. They appointed three smart trainers – Romden, Agnes and Zerom.*
- 03. These trainers, in turn, went out to the byways and highways of Kalimpong and Darjeeling to find 60 young people looking for a job to begin their career.*
- 04. They screened them with the methodology of DBTech.*
- 05. 55 of them were selected and trained in Hospitality. Groomed them for the industry.*

06. 50 of them were placed on jobs.

07. The first month's salary amounts to Rs. 2,48,564.

WITHIN ONE YEAR THE TWO LAKHS OF BOSCONET WILL BECOME Rs.29,82,768 FOR 50 FAMILIES.

THIS IS THE MIRACLE OF CHARITY I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU.

MORE: BoscoNet has conducted the fund raising programme in

the schools of West Bengal. The money gathered came back to West Bengal. The little children who are still studying gathered this money. They did not know that this would be used to educate school drop outs. Every child who contributed to this can be proud of their effort because they have given a living to a family. They have given a fishing hook to their dadas who would otherwise be roaming around the townships. They have made them wonderful human beings.

Mind you, the next time you walk into Taj Gateway Surat, Hotel Rukmani, GT Star, Soodhs Resort, The Orbit, Elgin Hotels, or The Alcor, it may be the very same money coming back to you in the form of service with a sweet smile from a youngster who feels good about his job. It may be the same youngster whom you have educated with the collection you have done through BoscoNet. If these youngsters of Kalimpong are earning 30 lakhs a year, then it was worth your effort to collect the 2 lakhs you gave us.

Not over.

My few rupees worked this miracle of bringing an employment to a youngster who might otherwise be a burden to the society, but now contributing to the society's well being. One who would have

been a burden to the parents is now taking care of the parents by sending them every month a substantial amount. One who would have taken to drugs and roamed around hated by others is now being so hospitable to guests who avail his or her services.

The average income of the Kalimpong trainees is Rs. 4971. It includes even the Rs.10 of the lowest contribution of an individual. My Rs.10 can become Rs. 4971 and make some lone bread winners of a family, and take them out of the danger of turning into anti socials. Your contribution is no more small; it now counts in lakhs.



Meticulous efforts are made to train the dropouts

YOU HAVE BECOME PART OF THIS SAVING SHIP OF DON BOSCO. YOU INVEST IN PEOPLE. YOU MAKE THEM GOOD HUMAN BEINGS AND HONEST CITIZENS.

Thank you, Fr. George, and your team for the wonderful work.

Attached find the placement sheet of Don Bosco Kalimpong. The second batch is in the class. We look forward to more divine providence for further help.

*Thank you
Fr. Noble Kollithanathu sdb.*

Rinchin Dargay – A Young Source of Inspiration



Rinchin Dargay - highest achiever in School fund raising

Rinchin Dargay, a 9th standard student of Don Bosco School, Itanagar, made the record of highest collector/donor in BoscoNet's School Fund Raising programme. "I had always wanted to help

those who are not so well off like me. The Joy of Giving - BoscoNet School Fund Raising Programme - gave me the chance to do it in a big way," says Rinchin Dargay. He collected the massive amount of Rs. 14,765 (fourteen thousand seven hundred and sixty five only). He took ten donation forms. But he went on to collect even after the forms had been all used up. He showed up with great honesty and handed over every paisa of the amount he collected.

He wants to be a police officer when he grows up. This exploit of Rinchin Dargay is an inspiration for the younger generation of our country – to feel for the less privileged living around us.

BoscoNet wishes him success and God's blessings for his future.

Children Are The Ministers

Mr. Job Puthenpura

Children's parliament was born as a by-product of the Tsunami project of Bosco Seva Kendra. UNICEF awarded the "Children's Parliament" for its work with Children.

"I was invited to Pallam Panchayat's meeting. I was surprised to see some children sitting among the elders at the meeting. The Panchayat informed me that they were from the Children's Parliament. As the meeting progressed, one of the children read from a piece of paper, in excellent Telugu, about water shortage in the area," says Ch. Edukondalu, Head Master of a Government School in Pallam Panchayat, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh.

"What was more surprising was that the Sarpanch promised to look into the matter! Since then I have tried to find out more about Children's Parliament and I help them out when they report about problems in the schools," he added.

Complete with a Prime Minister and other Cabinet Ministers, the Children's Parliaments in Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Karnataka are creating ripples of change. Children are taking active participation in the affairs of society while, at the same time, learning all about the functioning of a democracy.

When we were young, we were taught that as children we are not to be heard, but only to listen. But the United Nations Child Rights Convention states that 'a child shall have the right to freedom of expression which includes freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.' Bosco Seva Kendra, Hyderabad, is making this possible.

In 4 districts of Andhra Pradesh there are 261 parliaments with a total membership of 7698 children.



By the age of 12 years, boys in our village used to help their fathers in the fishing boat and eventually drop out of school. The number of children dropping out has reduced since the starting of Children's Parliament.

The CP has brought awareness about education.
- Oleti Dharmarao, Village leader, Pallam Panchayat, East Godavari Dt. AP.



Many parents, including me, were afraid to send their daughters to the Children's Parliament. We feared that the boys would ill treat them. I changed my perception when I saw the members of the Parliament going from house to house speaking against Child Marriage. Now my daughter is a regular member.- **Kotamma Gowravaram** mother of CP member, Gowravaram Panchayat, Kavalimandal, Nellore Dt, AP.



My son is very much concerned about the village after joining CP. So I also got drawn to it. As the project is nearing its end, the coordinator requested me to be a "local animator" for the CP. I am looking forward to attend the CP meetings, guide the children and take this great initiative forward- **P. Maulamma**, Pora, Pallamkurru panchayat, East Godavari Dt, AP.



Many families in our village have no toilets. We discussed this in CP meeting and learned how to apply for the toilet funds. We gave application forms to all families without toilets and asked them to apply. Today many are constructing toilets. **K. Bhavani, Speaker, Husain palem, Chittipalem Panchayat, Krishna Dt, AP.**

“In our village, the house of Nagulu and Renuka caught fire. Our children’s Parliament discussed the matter. We gave them 10 kg of rice and Rs 250 from our own funds. Our Parliament has many similar stories and I am proud of it,” says K. Srujana, Prime Minister of Chittipalem, Children’s Parliament.

A Children’s Parliament may be formed with 30



After my VII standard, my father decided to send me to Hyderabad as a brick layer. The Children’s Parliament of our locality prevented my dad from sending me away. Today I am studying in class VIII. It is all because of the children Parliament.
- **Kokkiligadda Nancharulu, VIII class member CP South Pallipalem, Prakasam Dt, AP.**

children (Age 6 -14) from a particular locality or neighbourhood. A Child friendly adult facilitates discussion among the children and explains to them the idea of children’s parliament. Every parliament elects as many ministers as they want. Possible portfolios are Prime minister, Speaker, Home minister, Health, education, finance and gender. They get a 2-day training on Child rights, Concept of CP, right to participation, role of ministers, meeting procedures, record keeping, and reporting, etc.

Monthly voluntary contributions are collected by the Finance minister. The parliament decides what to use the funds for – mostly for travel to meet officials, emergency help to a child, books for a school dropout, etc.



Once, an unidentified dead body was found in the municipal area. The Children Parliament members went around collecting money and gave an honourable burial to the dead person. I was happy to be a part of that activity. **K. Baburao, local leader, Vaddirangarao Colony, Saradanagar, 27th Ward, Machilipatnam Municipality, AP.**

FROM MY PERSONAL DIARY

Some twelve years ago, my youngest brother was returning home after a brief visit to Delhi to receive an award for his work in his bank. I went to the station to see him off. Alex (Chandichan, we call him within the family) was seated at a window, and I stood on the platform. We were having our last chat.

A beggar came to us. Both of us ignored him. I really do not like to encourage begging. There are other ways of getting help, if one is genuinely in need. Secondly, if you do hand out something on a railway platform, you had better be prepared to be overwhelmed soon by a crowd of beggars. News flies fast among them that there is a generous guy

at such-and-such a window!

The beggar was persistent. Finally I started putting my hand into my pocket. “Stop!” said Alex. “Don’t give him anything now. If you really wanted to help him, you should have done so as soon as he approached us. You NOW want to give him something, NOT because you want to help him, but because you want to get rid of him. That is not the right motivation.”

(Who says the elder is always the wiser?)

What is our actual motivation when we offer help to people?

Fr. M.C. George Menampampil sdb



A father figure in their life is what many children lack most. Salesians of Don Bosco fill this gap through their loving presence.

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