



**RANJAN WARIBAM** First, a sportsman who won 20 medals in archery at the national level. Then, the archery coach of the services. And then, a donor to BOSCONET. And now, a recruiter of 21 fresh donors to BOSCONET in a little over a month. Ranjan Waribam was the coach of the team representing India at the international archery tournament at Bangkok in March 2013. India won the gold medal in the team event, and a gold and a bronze in the individual events.

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# Editorial

## INDIA AND BHARAT

*There has been a lot discussion about the two 'nations' in our country. There was a claim recently that violence against women is found only in 'India' and not in 'Bharat'. That statement was immediately shot down, as it deserved to be. However, there is no denying that there is a vast difference between 'Bharat' and 'India'.*

*Parts of our cities such as New Delhi, Gurgaon, Hyderabad, Gandhinagar, etc., could be compared to almost any city anywhere in the world. The roads, office buildings, malls, multiplexes, landscaping and all other aspects of infrastructure are of very high quality. Extremely rich people live in beautiful houses or flats.*

*We do see also a lot of misery in other parts of these same cities. At least 40% of the people in some cities live in slums. The illegal 'colonies' are over-crowded, with buildings that have been constructed without proper plans or the right materials. These unregulated areas have no sewage, nor supply of electricity and water. Roads are so narrow that a fire would be a disaster as the fire-brigade would not be able to make its way in.*

*Millions of people in our cities sleep under sheets of plastic, eat on the footpaths, relieve themselves on the roadside, and live their entire life on the streets. Mens women, and children search through garbage and other waste; they collect paper, cardboard, bottles, cans and pieces of metal to recycle them. They die of the heat in summer and the cold in winter.*

*And yet, the number of people on the streets of cities continues to grow day after day. Why do illiterate people with no employable skills go from the villages of 'Bharat' to the cities of 'India' to suffer all this dirt and misery? The answer is simple: This misery within 'India' is yet better than death in 'Bharat'.*

*70% of our people live in villages. Village life in vast areas of 'Bharat' still means: houses with walls and floors of mud and cow-dung, and roofs of grass or thatch; precarious possibilities for work as most of agriculture depends on the monsoons; ruthless exploitation of landless labourers; cruel discrimination on the basis of sex, caste, religion, language; no drinking water within a reasonable distance from home; no fuel for cooking; no recreational facilities of any sort; no roads and no means of transport; non-functioning government schools and health centres. In extreme cases there is not even food.*

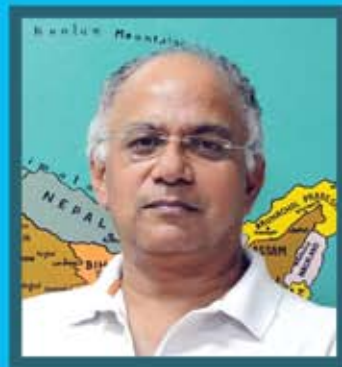
*This vast gap between 'Bharat' and 'India' has to be narrowed if there is to be peace, whether in the villages or in the cities, and if people are to live with the dignity deserving of human beings.*

*It is up to the government to provide roads, electricity and the rule of law. We – the civil society – can provide decent education, health care and employment opportunities. Can we do that? YES, WE CAN, if enough people join hands together as partners in this mission.*

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## *Slum Dwellers to Model Students*



“**S**ocial transformation on the go.... Salesians turn juvenile delinquents into model students,” writes the *Indian Currents*, quoting UCAN news about the work of Boscome.

Boscome, a diminutive of Bosco and Home, is a social initiative of the Don Bosco Society which caters to the educational needs of slum children in and around Dimapur.

Development has its own curse in the form of squalor and poverty as seen in the slums. Dimapur, a fast developing commercial hub in the North Eastern state of Nagaland, is no different. People from the villages of Nagaland and from neighbouring states continuously land up in Dimapur in search of work.

They settle down in shanties living in one room houses. Usually it is only the father who is the bread winner. The meagre income of such families is not enough to pay for the schooling of their children. Children are left to themselves to wander about in the streets or organize petty games. Sometimes these adventures turn to be destructive activities.

The whole concept of Boscome lies behind a simple philosophy - ‘If the child cannot come to the school, take the school to the child’. Thus, the child is at the centre of every decision or consideration in the Boscome Basic Education Centres. The Boscome centres are manned and managed by 16 committed and dedicated teachers. *Nagaland Page*, a prominent English newspaper in Nagaland described Boscome



I am Mamata Nayak reading in Class X of Lohmthi Memorial High School Dimapur. I read up to Class V in Boscome. Then I joined this school to continue my studies. I had polio in my childhood. I could not walk much due to my weak and crooked legs. Besides, I have 2 sisters and 2 brothers younger to me. My father is a daily wage earner and my mother works as a housemaid. We could hardly get enough food to eat. Education was out of the question. Fr. Sebastian opened a branch of Boscome in Metha Colony very near to my house. So I could manage to drag myself up to the school. I did not have to pay fees, and everything needed for my studies was provided. So my parents encouraged me to continue. I did well in my studies and so my sisters and brothers followed me. Monty Nayak CI-IX, Anjali Nayak & Saraswati Nayak

CI-VI, Narayan Nayak CI-IV, Krishna Nayak CI-III. Boscome showed me the way and I followed it. I am proud to be in Class X and my brothers and sisters will do equally well. I thank Fr. Sebastian for giving me some hope in life. ***Mamata Nayak***



Boscome is a school with a difference. Boscome has done this work for the last 13 years. We offer training in tailoring, computer, gardening, and painting. These children require, besides basic education,

training in life-skills to face the world. Name –

***Chaitali Biswas, Class Teacher***

as ‘special, very special and unique and perhaps the only one of its kind in the entire state’.

Over a period of the last 12 years, Boscome has expanded to 8 villages or colonies in and around Dimapur town. Boscome has an enrolment of 559 students from Nursery to Class V. At present, there are 183 students continuing schooling in the nearby Government or Private high schools after their



Boscome offers education for the slum children within the age of 4 to 14 years from all religions and communities. We also teach different skills such as flower and card making, cutting, tailoring, computer, etc.

***Ms. Sungjem, Class Teacher***

“Boscome: A school of transformation..... The school also ensures that even the least privileged will have a taste of education which otherwise they would miss in life” - Larry Lungoi Tuolor of NESCOM (North East Social Communication)

studies in Boscome. Over 4000 students have gone through Boscome over the years.

Through Boscome, the Don Bosco society, Dimapur, is aspiring to materialize the dream – “Education for All”



The effort made by Fr. T.O. Sebastian to educate the underprivileged is a worthy charitable work. I know him and his Boscome Children and I know how much time and energy this noble assignment demands. I deeply appreciate his outstanding work in promoting education in a unique way.

K.D. Jerome Vizo  
Director (TERM), Department of Telecom,  
North East-II, Dimapur

I have personally visited Boscome centre. He is doing a marvelous work to educate the poor children in the slums and villages of Dimapur. He has a very novel and innovative method of reaching out to the poor.

Geoffry Yaden, Chief Editor, *Nagaland Post*.

“Boscome schools develop these young minds (slum children) into resourceful citizens of society.”

– *Nagaland Post*, a leading English Daily

***“It is different. It is an educational shelter for the poorest of the poor children in Dimapur. It is an educational network that instills a sense of identity, self-respect and dignity to many hapless children.”***

– *Nagaland Page*, an English Daily

You can sponsor the education of a child in Boscome for a complete year with a donation of Rs 3,000/=. Make a deposit in this account:

***BOSCOME, Vijaya Bank, Dimapur, Ac. No.: 810201011001247 IFSC Code: VIJB000 8102***

OR,

send a cheque in the name of BOSCOME to:

**Fr. T. O. Sebastian, Don Bosco Provincial House, Dimapur, Nagaland 797 112.**

**To support similar works in other parts of India**

- ❖ Send a Money Order to Fr. George Menamparampil.
- ❖ 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

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

**Postal Address:**  
**BoscoNet**

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

**Or, make a deposit in to any one of the following bank accounts:**

### **BoscoNet**

Sl	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	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	UTIB0001147	110211087

### **Bosco Aid Trust**

Sl	Account Name	A/c No.	Bank Name	Branch	IFSC Code	MICR Code
1	Bosco Aid Trust	15450100013903	The Federal Bank	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

## Fruits Of Boscome



The staff and students of Boscome are one like a family. I really have fun, and enjoy myself with the students. They are co-operative, well disciplined, understanding, etc. I am the teacher of Class V.

— *Angel N. Class teacher*



I am a student of class VI in Isaac Newton School. We are 5 girls in the family: Jamuna, Ganga, Munni, Sangati and myself. I am the youngest. My elder sisters studied only in Nursery and K.G. in Boscome. Then they had to start working. Our father died a few months after I was born. My mother alone cannot feed all of us. As I did not have to pay fees my mother permitted me to join Boscome. I studied there up to class V. I wanted to continue my studies. So I insisted with my mother to admit me in this school in class VI. If not for Boscome I would not have seen a school in my life. Now

I can read, write, speak English and do ordinary calculations which my sisters cannot. I thank God. I thank Father. One day I will take care of my mom and all my sisters.

*Sonamati Chawhan*



**Fr. T.O. Sebastian SDB** initiated Boscome Basic Education Centres in the year 2000. In the initial stages, it was only a two-year course to give every child a chance to learn the 3 R's. Very soon this innovative method of schooling caught the attention of the children. For his yeoman service to the education of slum children, Fr. T.O. Sebastian was awarded an honorary membership of Lions Club and a medal in recognition of his contribution to literacy in Nagaland.



I am the first one in my family to be able to read and write, and I am completing class X now! My father sells channa at the evening market. He hardly earns enough to feed and clothe us. I always thought only rich children are supposed to go to school. Fr. T.O. Sebastian opened a Boscome Centre in our Kevijau Colony. I joined there as I was not asked to pay anything. Father gave us books, pencils, rubber, sharpener, scale, etc. I was so proud to wear a school uniform for the first time in my life. Everyone was looking at me, the Channawala's daughter, in a school uniform! They were filled with surprise and admiration. After Class A and B at Kevijau I went over to Metha Colony Boscome where I read up to class IV. For my high school studies I joined the Govt. High School Thahekhu. I will complete Class X this year. I hope I can go further. The love, affection and concern shown by Fr. Sebastian and the teachers of Boscome made us feel very much at home and we all got confidence.

***Laxmi Kumari, Class X Govt. High School, Thahekhu***

# NASSCOM Honours Homelink / Missing Child Search Network



Fr. Joe Prabu Receives the Award

**N**ASSCOM has awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to a software developed by Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk.

The NASSCOM Social Innovation Honours (NSIH) gives recognition to the creative use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) towards inclusive social development in India. After a rigorous process of screening, the Initial and Grand Jury of NASSCOM chose Homelink as a high impact and

innovative initiative, with transformative potential. The award was handed over at the NASSCOM India Leadership Forum at a glittering function at the Grand Hyatt hotel at Mumbai the morning of 13 February 2013. Fr. Joe Prabu SDB, the National Director of the Homelink Network, received the award.

Thousands of children go missing all the time. In a country as large and complex as India, tracing the whereabouts of these children and reaching them back to their own homes is an almost impossible task. A child that gets lost in Assam may be working just a few days later in a tea stall in Karnataka. Looking for a lost child among the 1220 million people of India can only be compared to the proverbial needle in a haystack.

Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk





Fr. Joe Prabu with the Citation

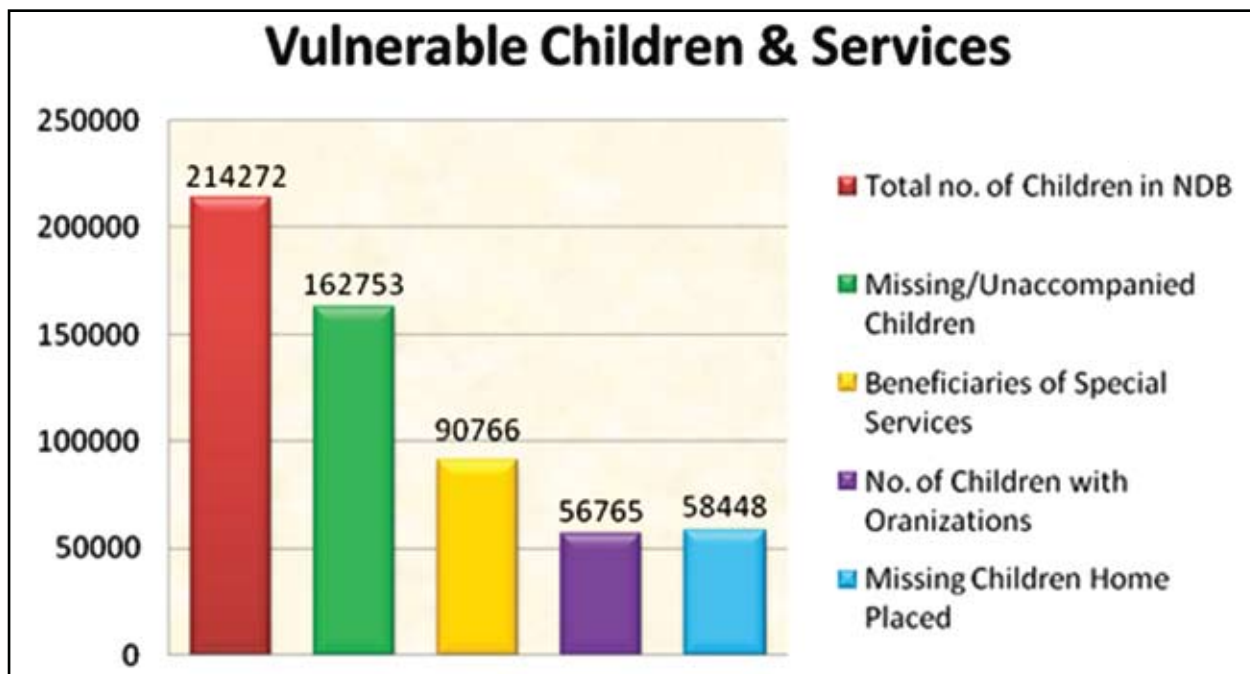
developed this computer software and programme to facilitate the search for missing children. It has been named the Homelink (HLK) / Missing Child Search (MCS) Network. There is a very high level of participation by civil society in this program. Right now, 300 organizations (NGOs, Govt. Homes, CWC) are registered partners of Homelink.

All the partners have the same Software. They enter the data of the children they come into contact with for one need or another. Relevant information is uploaded to our website: [www.missingchildsearch.net](http://www.missingchildsearch.net) The website receives also data filed with the police about children that have been reported as missing. The computer compares the data of children that have been found with the data of children reported as lost. When a match between the data is found, we have traced the whereabouts of a lost child. We can return him to his home.

HLK database now has information of over 215,000

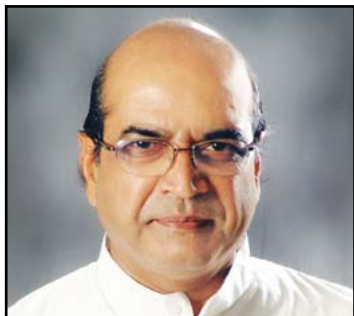
children. So far, about 60,000 children have been traced and restored to their families. Over 90,000 other children have been rendered various services and more than 55,000 children are in a long term rehabilitation process.

The program facilitates also the analysis of data on children in difficult circumstances. This enables us to propose better policies and practices for aiding children in need. What makes it even more interesting is that this software was developed at Don Bosco, Yellagiri. The programmers and students here are mainly tribals, and mostly girls from the poorest families in the villages of Tamilnadu.



# KRISTAPURANA

*Fr. Nelson Falcao sdb makes a unique contribution to Marathi literature.*



**14** years of in-depth research and intense studies... This is the amount of time and work put in by Fr. Nelson Falcao sdb to complete the monumental task of translating the *Kristapurana* from

the Marathi of the 16th century to contemporary Marathi and English.

*Kristapurana* is a Biblical Epic-poem on the life of Jesus Christ composed by Fr. Thomas Stephens, a Jesuit missionary and poet.

*"Fr. Stephens completed the task of providing an oriental costume to the biography of Jesus Christ, that the Hindu mind will approve of, and that costume is the poetic form. The statue in the sanctuary is that of Jesus Christ, and the entire decorum of the temple is of the Hindu pattern. This is the structure of this Purana."* - Dr. S.G. Tulpur, a famous critic.



*"Henceforth whenever we talk of inter-religious dialogue we will not only remember Robert de Nobili, but also Thomas Stephens. And to his name the name of Fr. Nelson Falcao SDB will be inseparably associated."* - Fr. Francis D'Sa, S.J., eminent scholar and Jesuit theologian.

Fr. Thomas Stephens was a Jesuit and a poet, proficient in Marathi, Konkani, Sanskrit, English and Portuguese. Born in England in 1549, he died in Goa in 1619.

*Kristapurana* is written in two parts of 36 and 59 *prasangas* or *avasvaras*, totalling about 11,000 strophes in the *ovi* meter.

Fr. Falcao is the first to research the present work as a doctoral thesis. He had no preceding texts from which to gather data or clues for interpretation. He spent six years of intense study on understanding the poetic style dating back to the 16th century.

The heart of the epic, Fr. Falcao explains, was the challenge of making Christianity intelligible and acceptable to the 17th century Maharashtrian Hindu. He used the religious culture, language, and symbolism the latter is familiar with. Stephens' is one of the first serious attempts at a Christian-Hindu dialogue.

In the *Kristapurana* there are many Konkani and Maharashtrian elements, words, images, concepts, ideas and interpretations. Fr. Nelson researched both the Vaisnava and Tridentine elements that influenced Stephens and his work.

In the course of his research and translation, Fr. Nelson organised national seminars on the *Kristapurana* in Pune University, Goa University, Aurangabad Marathi Sahitya Parishad, Vasai Suwarta, Jeevan-Darshan

Karyalaya and Divya Daan Salesian Philosophate Nashik. 50 to 60 Hindu Scholars were actively involved in preparing and giving talks and papers. Several hundred Hindus, Muslims and those of other religions participated. He made many other presentations and seminars. At these levels, too, there was always the presence and participation of several belonging to other religions.

Fr. Falcao has made a substantial contribution to the culture of the people of Maharashtra. His book of over 1800 pages was released, on 30 January 2013 at Bangalore, by Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski from the Vatican.

## ***DISBURSAL OF FUNDS***

**W**hat do we do when we receive a request for help?

BOSCONET is not a private initiative of a single individual. It is the official structure of the Salesians of Don Bosco to look for resources within India. Hence, the distribution of funds follows a specific procedure. This procedure ensures that the use of money respects the intentions of the donors and there is no abuse of power by an individual nor vested interests.

Let us look at three types of requests.

The first is an appeal from a Don Bosco institution. When a Don Bosco institution faces a need, it is first discussed by the 'council' of that institution. This ensures that the activity is a community programme and not the desire of just one individual. The rector and his council send their proposal to the Provincial superior (There are 12 Salesian Provinces covering India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal).

The provincial and his council discuss the proposed activity and see whether it falls within the over-all

plan of the province. If it is, they recommend it and send it up to BoscoNet.

BoscoNet presents this proposal to a committee of four people – three Salesian Provincial Superiors and the director of BoscoNet. They study the requests from all the various parts of India and take the final decision on the distribution of funds.

The second type would be of needs felt by individuals or groups. They would have to approach the director of the Don Bosco institution closest to them and introduce their request in his office. The rest of the procedure would be as above.

A third situation is an emergency. When there is a disaster, such as a cyclone, the director of BoscoNet makes a suggestion to the Salesian Regional Superior for South Asia, who takes the decision on what is to be done.

The rules of disbursement of funds does leave open also a discretionary power for the director of BoscoNet to offer a small help when needed without following a cumbersome procedure.

## ***PRAYER INTENTIONS***

**W**hat happens when we receive a request for prayers?

We are getting requests for prayers through various means. Some people send an email to the office ([info@bosconetindia.org](mailto:info@bosconetindia.org)) or direct to the director ([mcgeorgemenon@gmail.com](mailto:mcgeorgemenon@gmail.com)). Others give us a call. This has become popular as we have a toll free number now (**1800 300 200 50**). The caller does not pay for the call, we get the bill. Yet others send us a letter along with their cheque.

These prayer requests are forwarded to the rectors of our seminaries who request our seminarians for their prayers. The list also goes to our elderly priests and brothers who are ill and unable to work, but can offer their prayers and sufferings for the intentions of our donors. We also give these to some of our centres for street children, child labourers, etc. Prayers of children never go unanswered.

It is wonderful to see that Don Bosco seems to be interested in all the problems of his benefactors, no matter what they are. We were happy to hear, for example, from a young couple, who are professionals. Their child would not sleep. It would cry right through the night keeping the couple awake from evening to dawn. After several nights, in pure desperation, they said a prayer to Don Bosco and promised him an offering to BoscoNet, and the child went calmly off to sleep. Perhaps Don Bosco told him his sleep and his parents' donation would give sound sleep and good food to several other children who did not have them.

We await your requests for prayers for your needs, no matter what they are. Your complete names and addresses are not given to anyone else. Your privacy is respected and maintained. We shall pray for you, and you will surely find relief.

## A CAMPAIGNER FOR BOSCONET



***Ranjan Waribam is the archery coach for the Services' team, based at Pune. He became a donor to BOSCONET in Dec. 2012. He recruited 21 other donors by 5 February 2013!***

Since childhood, I always wanted to study in a Don Bosco school. Most of my cousins were studying in Don Bosco, Imphal. Unluckily I never had their good fortune. In those days Don Bosco was by far the very best school in Manipur. No other school could challenge its standards in all fields.

Maybe, at that young age, it was the students' fluency in English that attracted me the most. Besides, the school was close to my house. Later, I was able to notice and appreciate the difference in the character and over-all quality of those who passed out from Don Bosco.

I came to know about BOSCONET only through Fr. George. I saw my cousins and so many of my friends

in the list of friends of Fr. George on facebook. Going into father's profile I realised that HE was THE Fr. George who had been principal of the Don Bosco schools at Imphal and Langjing, and about whom I had heard so much from my cousins. We became friends on Facebook.

From Fr. George I came to know that BoscoNet was founded to help the needy and poor persons all over India with the motto, "A Friend to Anyone in Need". What a thought! No doubt great people have great ideas. Later Fr. George told me he was only following Don Bosco's own great thought.

Since then I have become a die-hard fan of BOSCONET. I chat with Fr. George frequently, learning from each other and supporting each other. I learned more about the work of BOSCONET. I was quite impressed, but not surprised. I already knew from Imphal that Don Bosco educates and does social work without looking at any caste, creed and



Surendro Singh (fencing)  
Represented India in Asian Games 2010

Laishram Bombayla  
Olympian and Arjuna Awardee

Tarundeep Rai  
Olympian and Arjuna Awardee

religion. After all, even my cousins who studied in Don Bosco were, and still are, Meeteis and Hindus, not Christians.

I decided to donate a small amount to BoscoNet from time to time. I thought this work is great. I ought to motivate my friends to donate, too. And, what a response from my dearest and nearest friends! So, far I have recruited 21 friends to be donors to BOSCONET. Among them are Olympians, Arjuna awardees, world championship medallists and many more international players of boxing, archery, fencing and diving.

I would like to thank all my dearest friends who have donated for BOSCONET. I am grateful also to BOSCONET for allowing all of us to be partners in such a noble venture. We get letters of thanks, receipts, the newsletter and other tokens of appreciation, encouragement and transparency. I am sincerely hoping to convince more and more friends towards BOSCONET... I WILL ALWAYS BE THERE TO HELP.

RANJAN WARIBAM

*Ranjan has been 15 years into archery. During his career as a player he won 5 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze medals at the national level. After he got a serious injury on his right shoulder he couldn't continue as a player. He completed his diploma in sports coaching (archery) from NSNIS, Kolkata, in 2011, topping the batch, and was awarded the gold medal. In his two years of coaching career, he has produced many national level medallists. In the 2011 sub-junior nationals at Ajmer his archers won 5 silver and 4 bronze medals (photo attached). In the junior national archery championship 2011 at Shillong, one of his archers won a silver medal. In the senior national archery championship at Chennai from 26th to 30th Dec. 2012, the services team won both the team and individual titles after a gap of three years and he was the coach of the team. Presently 7 of his archers are among the top 16 in the probables list for the Indian team for the world archery championship to be held at Antalya (Turkey). He started donating to BOSCONET in December 2012. Ranjan was the coach of the team representing India at the international archery tournament at Bangkok in March 2013. India won the gold medal in the team event, and a gold and a bronze in the individual events.*



*Class VII students of Loreto School,  
New Delhi, paid a visit to the work  
of Don Bosco serving the children  
who make bricks at Passor.*

On their way back, Ms. Tanya Gupta wrote the following poem.

## ***Child to Child***

*As we travelled back the dusty road,  
Tears welled up in my eyes;  
Riding back over the broken street,  
I felt love building up inside.*

*God had blessed me with everything;  
Yet something still was missing.  
I had every luxury with me;  
But it was for more I was always wishing.*

*I thought of the new friends I had made today,  
Felt lucky to have them to talk to,  
For the lovely smiles that we had shared;  
I knew such moments for them were few.*

*When I had first arrived there,  
They looked at me as if I were superior;  
But I knew all I did was, just indulge;  
How could I think of them as inferior?*

*They made bricks for my home,  
They made bricks for my school;  
They had seen life up close,  
I was merely living in a cocoon.*

*Life found expression on their faces,  
Their faces were a mirror to their hearts;  
They found joy in living together,  
Not in fragments or in parts.*

*I learnt lessons from their every action,  
Their each and every smile is true;  
They have held out by themselves long enough,  
Now the steps should be taken by me and you.*

## FROM MY PERSONAL DIARY

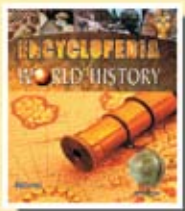
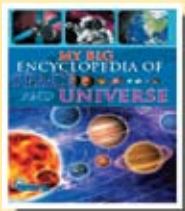
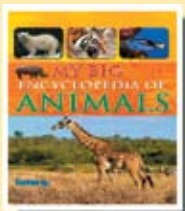
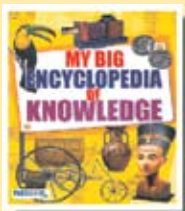
My father, a good man, was like everyone else, influenced by the mentality of his times. When my eldest sister, Mary, completed high school (Class X), he stopped her studies, though her three elder brothers were all in college. Within three years he found an excellent partner for her and they were married.

When the youngest of their five children started going to school, my sister returned to school, too. The family could not, then, afford a maid. *Chechi* would get the children ready for school, give them their packed lunch, take a shower and leave for her own school.

She was 35, sitting among girls of 16 and topping the class despite her 20-year break. She completed P.U. (Class XII), and went on to her Bachelor's in Arts and Bachelor's in Law (B.A. and LL.B.). There were side benefits. The children became disciplined like her in their studies and they learned to do for themselves (and for her!) many things for which they would normally have depended on her.

The point is – THIS is the sort of love for education that we are trying to instil in our children, education that brings out the best in us, whether we need to find a 'job' or not.

Fr. M. C. George Menampampil sdb



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