

DON BOSCO NAVJEEVAN BALA BHAVAN VISAKHAPATNAM



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

We are nearing the close of one more year filled with many blessings, along with quite a few anxieties and heartbreaks. While much is done to bring peace and progress in the world, the forces that work to tear the world apart on the basis of wrongly conceived beliefs of religion, caste, development, group affiliations, etc., cannot be easily ignored. While scientists and lovers of humanity are silently burning the midnight oil, to fight against unconquered diseases and to achieve more comfortable and equitable distribution of the benefits of progress and promotion of peace, there are also elements at work planning and inventing deadly weapons and terror strikes that exterminate the fellow humans more effectively and make the world a very dangerous place to exist.

The violence and natural calamities that the year 2015 witnessed should open our eyes and challenge our conscience before it is too late. The year stood silent witness to unprecedented global warming, with mercury soaring above 50 degree Celsius in many places, unheard of flood and other forces of devastation, due to rapid melting of glaciers and incessant rains, causing floods, quakes, etc. While all the disasters and calamities cannot be squarely blamed on inappropriate human intervention, bulk of it has to be. Let us wake up to the need of the hour and say, we stand for Mother Earth, we stand guarantors for the safe and happy existence of the present and future generations. Let not the decisions of World Summit to curb Climate change in Paris may not remain merely on paper and soft copies but be converted into hard decisions in life leading to protection and safeguarding of the salubrious powers of nature.

In the year 2014 we saw two lovers of humanity, (Malala Yousafali and Kailash Satyarthi) from not so friendly neighboring countries, but both in the common cause of the upliftment of children, one battling for the right of girls to education and the other liberating unfortunate children from the clutches of child labor, sharing the Nobel Peace Prize. They show us that the best path to peace and to harmony in the world is by protecting the rights of children by ensuring safe entry of children into the world, and creating a conducive and loving ambient in which they can grow and meet their legitimate needs without undue struggle. It is difficult to teach humans the value and meaning of love and peace, even if we paint it in very glamorous colors, when what they have experienced in childhood is ill treatment, violence and exploitation. Just as swimming cannot be taught on the shore, love cannot be taught in hatred and peace in violence.

Announcing the birth of Christ two thousand years ago, the angels sang, Glory to God in the highest and peace to people of goodwill. Christmas will become real and meaningful only when we have goodwill to the whole of creation, especially our fellow-travelers on planet earth.

Thanking you whole-heartedly for your year-long support to Don Bosco Navjeevan in its effort to give a life worthy of human beings to the **Young at Risk** and wishing you a Very Happy **Christmas** and a **New Year** filled with choicest blessings from above,

Fr. ThomasThottiyil sdb





TOGETHER for a cause.....

On the morning of 3rd December 2015, thirty lively youngsters of Navajeevan Vizag, accompanied by a few staff members, jumped into a Hyderabad-bound train (of course not as ticketless travellers which they used to be in their previous avatar) to participate in the YaR Day Celebrations at Secunderabad, an annual gathering of children from all the Navajeevan Centres of the Salesian Province of Hyderabad, comprising of the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha. After a fun-filled journey of twelve hours we reached Navajeevan Ramanthapur to a warm reception and an equally inviting dinner.

The next morning saw us waking to the sound of music in the company of more than five hundred youngsters gathered for the unique event. The two days of our stay at Ramanthapur saw us participating in of different activities like Official Inauguration of the Program, input talks on the problems and possibilities that are before the disadvantaged children, group discussions and sharing of experiences. It was almost like stepping out of our homes to the larger family of the young, where we meet persons from similar situations and search together for ways as to how we can be winners without being defeated by road blocks which appear like dead ends.

We also joined hands in imprinting our palms in colours on a large canvas in support of the Initiative of the Amnesty International in their campaign against Bullying. We understood that it is better to build bridges than to erect fences and more noble to win together than to stand on the peak, victorious but lonely!

The gathering was also sprinkled with cultural programs and sports items. Though we could not fill our kitties as we desired, nevertheless we lifted some trophies in dance and sports. Since we had tickets only for limited-luggage return journey, we left some prizes for other Centres as well!



Yar
day
2015



After a hurried supper and a random wishing of good-bye, we rushed to the Railway station, so as not to miss the train, eager to meet our brothers who were waiting for our return to Vizag with a tinge of jealousy and a hidden smile of appreciation. On getting back we realised that East of West, our Navajeevan Home is the best.

Our hearty Congratulations and appreciation to the organizers of the YaR Meet who made the event a well-conducted and memorable one.

David Poeder
Volunteer



THE THRILL OF DECISION-MAKING AND RESPONSIBILITY

For years I've lived and worked in a formation setting (meant for training would-be Priests). Now I'm full time at a Navajeevan Home (street childrens' rehabilitation home) in Hyderabad and I cannot but help compare the two lifestyles from time to time. Though they say comparisons are not always healthy, I'm learning much from my boys at Ramanthapur and the reflective exercise I put myself through, based on past experiences. I share just one of my reflections, solely based on my personal experience. Of late, I've been trying to decipher as to why the 'participation model' works best in a home for street children – I suppose it works best in any setting.

A child from the street, is very enthusiastic and most importantly responsible, when it comes to partaking with the caretakers in decision making, especially those decisions that affect him. Though not all may agree with this but my experience has been very convincing. Perhaps this is because the child or the youngster knows from first hand experience what it means to make a choice and then bear the consequences of the same. The choice to leave home, parents, siblings and take to the streets was his and so were the consequent consequences of his choice. He has that learning experience. So now when you offer him a share in making decisions, perhaps even guided decisions, he still will very well be aware that the consequences of that decision or choice are going to be facing him sometime or the other. However, perhaps in our Navajeevans we have blunted this ability of the boys to make decisions. We have for long assumed that they are 'too little' to decide about their own life. Really?? But then whose decision was it to run away from home? Whose decision is it now to stay on at Navajeevan? So, with all our good will, we take decisions for the boys and expect them to take responsibility!

A young man moving into the formation house, too leaves home to either become a Priest or a religious. But hold on, does he? Or has he moved from one house to another? Does he really accept the consequences of that choice of leaving home and live accordingly? Or does he demand and expect the 'new' home to provide him with better facilities than the one he left? Is he challenged enough to 'make a home' rather than merely enjoy the security the present home provides, to slip into a comfortable life of ease? To one who has never made any further choices, nor faced the consequences of the first choice, to such a youngster 'participation' would only mean a cushion to make his life - and his life alone – comfortable. One certain way of ensuring that this does not get replicated in our Navajeevan homes is to ensure that we as staff and grown ups, focus more on involving the child rather than merely providing for the child. I know that it is easier said than done. But if not done, we will have looked after the child as long as the child is with us, but never help the child to really blossom into what he or she can make of his or her own life. Most importantly we deprive the child of the thrill of growing up making decisions and taking responsibility for those decisions.

A Salesian priest and veteran in street apostolate once during his goodnight spoke thus: “Those for whom we have done least by way of material benefits are the most grateful. It seems that what they appreciate most is the fact that we have treated them as equals. Often we forget this when we bring these boys into our institutions.”

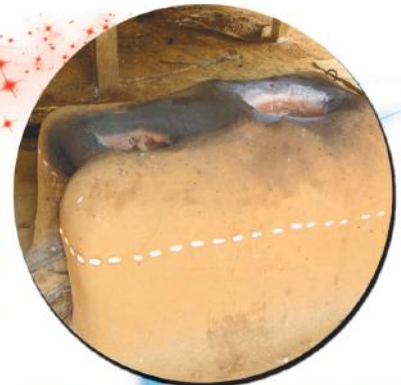
Happy learning! Happy growing!

Vincent Castilino sdb



Rising from the Ashes.....

Life is a never ending journey, where some are fortunate enough to be cared for and treated as princes/princesses, while others find it difficult to meet even their basic needs like, food, shelter, clothing and the most primary, the need to love and to be loved. Many come into the world uninvited, live most of their life unwanted and breathe their last abandoned. In Don Bosco Navajeevan youngsters from such backgrounds are welcomed with open hearts and open arms, with the assurance that we are there for you.



When everything was looking promising and rosy at Navajeevan Devipuram, the deadly Cyclone Hud Hud in October 2014, struck with all its fury dashing all our hopes. It was a picture of devastation everywhere in Visakhapatnam, the worst in the history of the coastal district. After the calamity the district looked like a dressed chicken! At Navajeevan Devipuram too, the story was no different with hundreds of trees fallen, roofs lifted off, water tanks torn apart, electric poles raised to the ground and we were left hungry, thirsty, powerless, hapless, helpless and hopeless, believing that all the dreams that we had had come to a premature end...

But the Lord raises up the lowly from the ash heap... we prayed like never before and bounced back with renewed vigor and greater power of endurance. Today most of the things are back to normal. Cyclone managed to destroy our properties but not wean us of our passion for life and hope for the future. Having met death face to face, there cannot be anything that stops us now.

We in collaboration with our supporters and well wishers once again gave a new impetus to our involvement on behalf of the young at risk. In spite of limited facilities more children were admitted, unable to say no to young from pathetic situation.

For many years we functioned from a make-shift kitchen, which was also carried away by the mischievous cyclone. From that time we began to pray more earnestly for a hygienic place to cook and decent place to have our food without being subjected to the vagaries of nature.



Our dream came true, on Sunday, 20th December 2015 when **Fr. Joseph Prabhakar**, the Procurator: Archdiocese of Visakhapatnam blessed and inaugurated the New Dining and Kitchen complex. This all became possible owing to the encouragement, good wishes and support of many friends and well-wishers like Archdiocese of Visakhapatnam under the paternal guidance of His Grace **Most. Rev. Mallavarapu Prakash**, the Salesian Province of Hyderabad under the leadership of **Rev. Fr. Raminedi Balaraju**, the MMM Indian Province under the direction of **Sr. Aniamma Joseph** and the generous financial support of **MANOS UNIDAS** for construction and **ONE WOWRLD** under the loving guidance of **Fr. Marius Kaiser** for Equipments.

A million thanks to all who have generously contributed their time, energy and resources to the life and growth of Navajeevan-Devipuram, especially Frs. Maddhichetty Noel, Kondaveeti Rajanna, Thathireddy Vijay Bhaskar, N. Ratnakumar, Puthussery Sojan, P.C. Thomas, Bro. Vincent Castilino, P. Aruldas, Srs. Pennamma, Alice and Anusha, Suni and Staff Ramana, Lakshmi, Suryakantham, Simhalachalam, Bangaraiah and many others.



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A very special thanks to Engineer and Contractor Sri. M. Mallaiah, overseer Narasimha Rao, other supervisors, and so many hardworking and dedicated workers who toiled it out in the sun and the rain, in the day and the night to make this dream of a better place to cook and eat our food a reality.



Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to place on record our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Thomas Thottiyil SDB, who spear headed the project and worked tirelessly to make it a beautiful edifice.



This Building is a gift of Don Bosco to his children in the Bi-centenary year of his birth... May he continue to live in our hearts and thoughts forever!





CSR CONCLAVE AT VIZAG

Bosco Seva Kendra in collaboration with Don Bosco Navajeevan Vizag, organized a CSR Conclave at Waltair Club, Vizag on Friday, 20th November 2015. Representatives from over 20 companies participated in the conclave to explore ways to collaborate and reach out to the young at risk.

The Conclave began at 4.30 PM with a screening of short film on Don Bosco – the founder of interventions for Street Children. Ms. Pascal Flynn, Manager – Corporate Fundraising at BSK, introduced and welcomed the gathering. In her presentation, she explained the purpose and concept of CSR and its role in helping the needy children.

Fr. Aruldass, Director-BSK briefed about the various interventions undertaken for the welfare of children, youth and women by Don Bosco Institutions in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & South Odisha. He exhorted the gathering to be partners in reaching out to more and more youth and children from marginalized sections of society through different projects of BSK

Fr. Ratna Neelam, Asst Director-DBNJ, Vizag presented the works and activities of Don Bosco institutions in Vizag in the form of a short documentary. He reiterated the need for like-minded people from civil society to join hands with the organization in its efforts to build a better future for the children at risk.

Trainees of DB Tech programs also participated as volunteers – and gained hands-on experience in hospitality & event management.

The Conclave ended with high tea where there was healthy interaction over how CSR relationships can be built and taken forward.

The head of a reputed shipping company who participated has expressed keen interest in partnering with Don Bosco Navajeevan. Others said they would discuss with their respective CSR departments and revert at the earliest. We look forward to some fruitful associations as an outcome of the conclave





Hearty Welcome and Adieu

Good things happen all the time but best things happen at CHRISTMAS time! We are indeed happy that the Superior Council of the Salesians of Don Bosco has given us as a Special Christmas and New Year gif in the person of Rev. Fr. Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar, as the new Provincial of the Salesian Province of Hyderabad. Fr. Thathi, as he is affectionately called, is a versatile personality with talents of head and heart harmoniously balanced. He is a gentle person of affable nature and good at administration. He shined in every field that was assigned to him, as a student, teacher, Salesian or a priest. He is a good philosophy teacher, organizer and team builder. He did his doctoral studies in philosophy in Rome and came out with flying colors. As he is appointed the new Provincial, in the Bicentenary year of Don Bosco's Birth, he will have to play the role of Don Bosco in this part of the Salesian world in giving a new life and a powerful orientation to the Province in realizing the dreams of Don Bosco in the most effective way . We wish him every success and blessing in this new ministry he assumes soon.



We also take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Ramedini Balaraj our outgoing provincial and his efficient and dedicated team for guiding and leading the province gracefully and effectively for the last six years. They had a strong and unbreakable bond with Navajeevan Bala Bhavan Visakhapatnam and did all that was possible to support and encourage the activities for the Young at Risk. As in a short time they will be laying down their office, we wish them showers of blessings along the way.





Newsletter
Dec - 2015



All of us at Navajeevan
wish you great Joy at **CHRISTMAS**
and many Blessings in the **New Year**
We are very grateful to you
for your Love and Support
and pray earnestly for
your good health and happiness.

డాన్ బోస్కో టెక్ సబ్బవరం నందు అమ్మాయిలకు, ఉచిత హాస్టల్ వసతి కలదు

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