

DON BOSCO NAVJEEVAN BALA BHAVAN VISAKHAPATNAM



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

I'm sure, at least a few will accept the fact that we are not quite happy with who we are and what we have achieved. A healthy dissatisfaction with life is quite good as it will enable us to strive to become better persons and to bring out the best within us, for personal enhancement and common benefit. But it is a wrong belief, taught or learned that to become accepted, appreciated and loved we have to excel above all the rest. Our sports and other celebrities believe that to lose a match or a competition is a national disaster! Graceful acceptance of failure is more of an achievement than lifting trophies. After a few years those who remember the number of matches we won will be we and the TV Commentators, the second usually by doing their homework of going through the records. The only way to remain on the top of the world is to climb the Everest and never come down! Sooner or later we will prefer the heat of the Plains to the cool of the Peak.

Our disappointment in not being what we want to be or not reaching where we desired to reach should not be pushed on to our children, students or wards and making them fulfillers of our incomplete task. Though the child is born of us, or trained by us, remember that he is not our personal property and he has his life to live with its uniqueness, hues and shades. No child will be a perfect replica of anyone who ever lived, living or will live. The beauty of God's creation is that no two human beings will be exactly the same in everything including the Siamese twins. A person becomes more of a person, when he achieves his best in his own way without infringing on the rights of others to do the same. I have seen many children being punished for using their left hand more than their right hand. What difference it makes when he scores 90% with his left hand and you want him to score the same with the right, which is very stressful for him. Bjorn Borg, the famous Tennis star of yester years was told by his coach that his way of holding the racket was not the correct way. The coach did not succeed in changing him and Borg became six times Wimbledon champion, with that defective holding of racket, which his coach could not do with his right and correct way of holding.

If we should correct or punish children, it should be only when it does harm to him or others physically, intellectually or emotionally. Parents, teachers or those who have some authority over the young should not try to make them a better carbon copy of themselves. Their book of life is theirs exclusively, let them paint on it what they want, even if it is little inferior to Leonardo Da Vinci's Monalisa. Some are able to create a masterpiece, with a block of marble rejected by the so called experts.

Success comes as a result of the assurance, that those who matter to us most, will be with us even when we make mistakes and even fail at times. The only way not to make any mistake is by not doing anything. Those who got it straight in life at the first attempt are very few. So let us focus on the person within our children and support them at that and allow them to make the rest of it in their own way.

Fr. ThomasThottiyil sdb



“ For
you
I
study
for
you
I
work
for
you
I
live
for
you
I
am
ready
even
to
give
my
life”

Don Bosco

TRANSFORMING SCHOOL DROPOUTS INTO LOVERS OF CLASSROOMS!

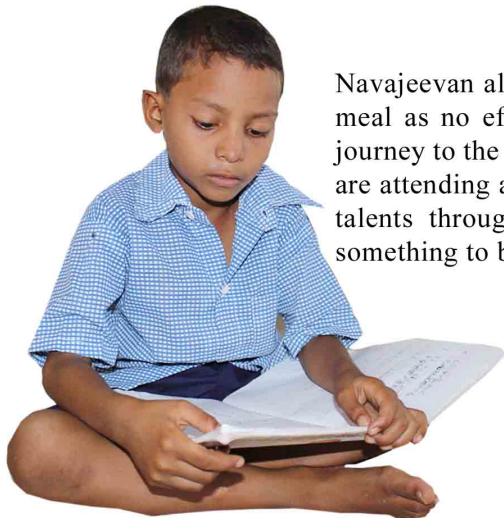
R.K. Beach at Visakhapatnam remains a place of eternal charm with the waves of Bay of Bengal never getting wearied of caressing her and people from far and near reaching to witness this profound expression of perennial love. But people of the neighbouring slums can't afford this luxury as they have to struggle to win their daily bread and children become the prime target of neglect and lack of care. Many of them are even put to hazardous jobs to contribute to their families' meager income.

In this drab scenario, Don Bosco Navajeevan stepped in to make a difference in the life of at least a few children whose parents have to sweat it out to maintain their families. With the parents out for work, the elder children are asked to discontinue from school to look after their younger siblings and others. With no parental or family follow up many drop out of school as education in public schools is not an activity they enjoy too much!

Navajeevan staff contact the parents of such children and convince them that sending children to school is not a loss or futile activity but the greatest investment they ever make for the welfare of their children and the generations that succeed them. The method of teaching and learning in Beach Blossom is not the traditional type of $2+2 = 4$, but how the process of reaching that magical figure in ways which are enjoyable for the students. They dance it out, sing it out and play it out. Thus learning becomes a pleasurable activity and children do not run away from the school but run to the school. Here teachers and volunteers are not feared authority figures but friends of the children. They may not come to the school initially to learn but to meet the teachers who love them and whom they love. 'More flies flock to a spoonful of honey than to a barrel of vinegar'. Don Bosco the great friend and educator of young used to say, 'Love what the children love and children will love what you love'. Here the teachers sing, dance and play with the children and therefore the children are willing to learn Maths, Science and the other subjects from them.



Don Bosco Navajeevan Bridge School, popularly known as 'Beach Blossoms' is conducted in Fishermen Community Hall at Jalaripeta from 2005 onwards. During this period Navajeevan has succeeded in mainstreaming on an average 60 children per year. We don't claim that all of them are continuing their education, but majority of them are. Even if all don't complete Matriculation or intermediate, their one year contact with Navajeevan taught them lessons valid for a life time. We teach them the most important lesson they ever learn, 'the biggest failure is not failure in subjects, but failure in life'.

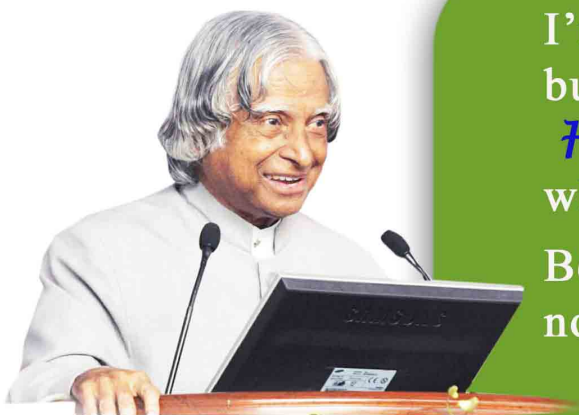


Navajeevan also attends to the nutritional needs of the children with midday meal as no effective learning will take place on empty stomachs. Shortest journey to the children's hearts is through the stomach. Though many of them are attending a school for the first time, the way in which they manifest their talents through exhibitions, painting, dancing, singing, playing, etc., are something to be marveled at.

At the end of one year schooling at Beach Blossom, they are placed in classes according to their age, intellectual preparedness, etc. They are also provided with school bags, uniforms, note books, and other stationery items. After they are mainstreamed, Navajeevan Staff follow them up, to assure that they are not alone in their journey and to prevent them from becoming dropouts again.



Education is the key to knowledge, freedom and success. Navajeevan by ensuring this to most needy children is contributing its mite to the development of the individual, family and the Nation. The best place for a child to be is in the school or playground, because they are the best 'Temples of Learning'



I'm not a **HANDSOME** guy,
but I can give my
HAND TO SOME one
who needs help.
Beauty is **IN HEART**,
not in the face.

APJ ABDUL KALAM



DON BOSCO

visits, Navajeevan, Vizag.....

When Don Bosco toured the World in a Casket, Navajeevan Visakhapatnam did not find a place in his itinerary, due to lack of time or out of obedience to his event managers, we do not know! But like Thomas the Apostle who felt hurt that Jesus visited his companions in his absence and gave vent to his feelings in no uncertain terms saying, 'Unless I see the wounds the nails made on His hand, and put my hand in the spear-hole on His side, I will not believe'. Taking example from the Apostle, we also decided "till Don Bosco comes to Visakhapatnam for our sake and ours alone, we shall boycott all His public functions. When the children became so stubborn and wouldn't budge, he had no option but to give in..



He visited us at Bosco Illu Devipuram on 16th August, 2015 around 10.30 a.m., giving a slip to the security and spending practically the whole day with more than 300 Navajeevan children. On seeing the Saint, their father, friend and one of the greatest educators of the young at all times, the children spontaneously broke out in one chorus:

Navajeevan children we are....

Don Bosco children we are.....

We are the Nation's hope.....

And we make its future bright.....!

Don Bosco was surprised to see that we were able to answer more than 500 questions about the starting and spreading of his time tested educative approach, commonly known as "Preventive System", which leads to the 'affirmation of the individual, with rootedness in God and based firmly on the foundation of loving kindness. He insisted that his followers should love the children in a visible and tangible way. Don Bosco was so touched by the love of Navajeevan children for him and their extensive knowledge about him and his methodology said ' My interaction with you was almost like a 'QUIZ COMPETITION', for you know the answers so well'. He even borrowed some money (a respectable way of asking for a donation) from the Director of Navajeevan to give each participant a prize. He said that in his Educative system there are no winners and losers. Either all win or nobody wins.



Around 1 p.m., Don Bosco while remained pensive in the Auditorium, sent all the children for a sumptuous Bi-Centenary Birthday Lunch. When some insisted that he also joins the meal, as it is to celebrate his birthday, he said, 'Before I returned to my heavenly home, I had to go without food many times, because it was not sufficient for all. I went without meal so that one more child could go to bed without waking up in the night with hunger. At this moment when you are honoring me, with a Bi-Centenary Birthday Bash, I like to recall the simplicity and hard struggles of those initial days. I am happy that you my children do not have to go through such hardships...though I don't wish you a completely struggle-free life.'



When the children returned after lunch, they broke out into music and dance around Don Bosco, who had no hesitation in joining them and even sang one or two latest numbers with coining of a few feverish steps. He had already stated that a 'Don Bosco Center without music and dance is like a corpse, well dressed and nicely perfumed, but with no life within'. He exhorted us: 'Sing, jump and dance, but make sure that it does not do harm to you or to others'.

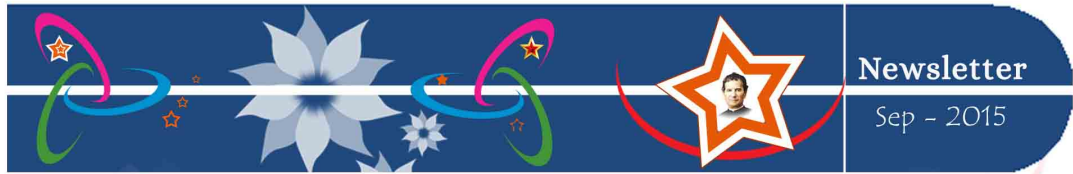


At snack time when children got distracted with Samosa and other eatables, Don Bosco quietly disappeared from the scene, bringing a sigh of relief to the security personnel who were in a state consternation. He made sure that he left behind an autograph with this short message, 'Celebrate life, yours and others'. Never regret about what you have lost, but search fervently for what you need to find, your true self which is in communion with God, World and Humanity.'



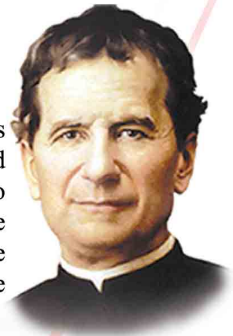
Signed: With love and every good wish, *Your friend John Melchior Boyce.*





Don Bosco: A Pedagogue Fully Rooted in God and Totally Committed to the Young....

St. John Bosco, or Don Bosco as he is affectionately called is a paradox. He was a friend of Popes and a friend of the anti-clericals, a friend of the rich and a friend of the poor. He was chaste and sociable. He was modest but very courageous. He was dignified as well as serene. Don Bosco fits no formula. He breaks all boundaries. "The more I study him, the less I know him, for me he is a mystery," said Don Cafasso, his guide. He was indeed a man far ahead of his times. He was one of the least systematic of all the saints. Don Bosco and young are inseparable. He accepted all that is good especially if it appealed to the young.



Young John Bosco began his ministry in his own village, teaching the children simple lessons of good life and bringing them to God and to the fellow humans. As an inducement, he would amuse them first with acrobatic and conjuring tricks. He was a magnanimous soul who maintained his humility, humour and humanity through thick and thin. Utter poverty, sickness, misunderstandings and painful criticisms did not shatter his spirit, but on the other hand it was warmed at the fire of enthusiasm. Don Bosco's life proved to the world that the greatest test of courage on earth is to bear defeat without losing heart. Don Bosco was less curious about people and more curious about ideas and innovative skills. In fact he learnt 24 different trades like tailoring, shoe-repairing, book binding etc., to teach his boys.

Don Bosco took inspiration from Francis of Sales, especially his charity and zeal. The driving force of Don Bosco was his sanctity. Discovering his sanctity is not that easy. He was reluctant to speak about his intimate relationship with God. His prayer was joyful, creative, simple and profound. He always lived in the spring time of hope. For Don Bosco every sinner in act was saint in potency. The first words of Don Bosco to a new boy were about liberation from evil. Don Bosco constantly told his children that a joyful face is a barometer of holiness. He knew for sure that those who live in the presence of God are always cheerful. He also used to tell his boys to keep on smiling because one day life would get tired of upsetting them. For him playground was more important than a place of worship, because he knew that a person can pray anywhere. Don Bosco was a voracious reader and a prolific writer he authored 145 books in his simple inimitable style.

He also wrote numerous pamphlets to fight against the erroneous teachings of his times. The History of Italy was his masterpiece. For Don Bosco, the printed word was yet another means of bringing people closer to themselves and to God.

The infant Salesian Society that Don Bosco founded was rocked in the cradle of Mamma Margaret, his saintly mother. She taught her three children with tenderness and great courage. She also taught them to cultivate the field and to see the grandeur and presence of God in the beauty of the sky, in the abundant harvest and also in the storm which destroyed their vineyard. Don Bosco knew when to strike friendships. He knew that a person blooms best in the context of love. His only obsession was the good of people, especially the young.

For Don Bosco, a lazy person was a scandal. A placard on his table read, "Every moment is a treasure." He wanted work to be seasoned with temperance. He urged the young never to engage in idle talk, which did much harm and no good to anybody. He was convinced of the fact that the healthiest person was the one who keeps himself constructively occupied all the time. Don Bosco was not a traditionalist but a pragmatist. He proved to humanity that sanctity has a different face.

Don Bosco considered education a primary responsibility of all who loved humanity, especially the young. He wanted his followers to educate the young with a heart. He did not want the educator to impose knowledge with brute authority. For him the educator was the child's third parent. For him education was the passing on and building up of civilization. 'Students need models rather than critics,' he used to remind his followers. No doubt he was one of the brilliant minds, with a tremendous depth and width of heart.

The poorest man is not the one without money, but the one without a dream. Don Bosco dreamt and became a brilliant educator through divine assistance, hard work and unflagging zeal. The greatest gift that he has left for posterity is his unique way of educating, known as **Preventive System** based on the three strong pillars of **Reason, Religion and Loving Kindness**. May all his followers and admirers, who celebrate the bi-centenary of Don Bosco's birth (1815-2015), carry forward his dream of making the young fully human and fully alive, with renewed vigour, vitality, creativity and commitment.

By Fr Jose Therampil, SDB



Teacher's Day @ NAVAJEEVAN VIZAG

5th September turned out to be a very special day for Navajeevan Bala Bhavan. On that day the children exchanged their role with Teachers and made them listen to all what they wanted to say in the form of dancing, singing, skit, etc. They appreciated their teachers with flowers, gifts, and words that came straight from the heart! They made the teachers run for their chairs, perhaps first time in their life. You may call it musical chair but we made it cheer in the air with melodious music, loud claps and peals of laughter. With cutting of cake, receiving of gifts and sharing their experiences, the teachers felt uncrowned kings and queens at least for once in their lifetime. Fr. Thomas Thottiyil, the Director of Navajeevan, appreciated and thanked all the teachers for their hard and committed work and gave this concluding words, which were particularly inspiring:

“Beloved Teachers, the Moulders of Humanity”



May you find great satisfaction and deep joy in your vocation as a teacher. Remember that you are dealing with the greatest treasures of the World, though you may not be the best paid people, in terms of money. Children are like wet cement. Whatever you imprint on their minds at this tender age, will last for a life time and even in the generations which succeed them. Please apply more of your heart than head in imparting knowledge and wisdom. Greatest trouble maker in your class is telling you, 'If you can't love me at least hate me, but for heaven's sake don't ignore me'. 'Hitlers and Buddhas, both are in your class. Who become what depends on your intervention! Teachers can draw out the best or the worst in their students, for the influence you wield on the students is tremendous, though you may not be conscious of it.

No one will remember you long for getting A+ for all your students in every subject. But many will adore you for making your wards loving and caring humans, who can pump a little fresh blood into the drought-hit hearts of the world. Be a teacher who has place enough to accommodate all your students, both the saints and the sinners, in your ♥.

Believe that you are the best teacher in the World, though there are many look-likes! Have a wonderful life as a teacher, who cherish your job, not necessarily because all your students love you, but you love them! May God continue to shower on you His choicest blessings for you are sharers in His task of creating a ‘New Heaven and a New Earth!’

The memorable function ended with the teachers relishing the sweetness of this experience even more than that of the specially ordered cake! They walked back home with collars little up and the feet almost touching the ground!

David, Volunteer

**“Black’ Colour is Sentimentally Bad”
But “Every Black Board Makes
The Students life Bright”**

APJ Abdul Kalam





From Desperation to Inspiration

BANDA RAMA KRISHNA



BANDA RAMA KRISHNA comes from a small village called Mogalipuram in Sabbavaram Mandal, which is located at the outskirts of Vizag City. There are three members in his family consisting , him, his mother and an younger sister. His father passed away a few years ago. His mother was the only breadwinner of the family, with the meager income she gathered as a part-time tailor. Even this came to a halt as she fell ill frequently, not even able to raise sufficient money to meet her medical expenses. Somehow Ramakrishna completed his S.S.C but could not even dream of continuing with his education as his sister was young and illiterate and the burden of maintaining the family fell on his shoulders.

He decided to accept the challenge and started looking for a job. But to his bad luck he could not find a suitable job which would fetch at least sufficient to meet the basic needs of his family. It is at this moment of desperation he came to know about the Don Bosco Tech Livelihood Skill Training Program conducted by Don Bosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan, completely free for deserving youngsters above 18 years of age. He could not fully believe at first that the course is offered totally free. He thought that some hidden payments will be given under tiny asterisks. But on attending the interview he realized that the only payment he has to make is by becoming a qualified worker who earns his livelihood with self respect and confidence.

Rama Krishna wasted no time and joined the Skill Training program in the domain of Hospitality and underwent three months of rigorous training in the subject and related soft skills. During the training program, he improved in communication skills with better fluency in English and also familiar with basic computer operation. He also enhanced in sociability and became more self confident. When he attended the interview in Cafe Coffee Day, they had no second thought in selecting him. He is earning today Rs. 6'000/- as a starting salary with other perks. He is happy that he is able to support his family and intends to climb the ladder of success with hard work and determination. May many more Ramakrishnas emerge from the Portals of Don Bosco Tech as blessings to their poor families and as assets to the Nation.

డాన్ బోస్కో టెక్ సబ్బవరం నందు అవకాశాలకు, ఉచిత హాస్టల్ వసతి కలదు

**Bosco Tech
Sabbavaram**
Available Courses
Hospitality
Retail Sales
BPO
Contact :
Cell : 9177153884,
8897992777,
9000460304

For more information, please contact:
THE DIRECTOR
DON BOSCO
NAVAJEEVAN BALA BHAVAN
D. No. 33-1-35, South Jail Road, Allipuram
VISA KHAPATNAM-530 004, INDIA.
Ph: + 91-0891 - 2729259, 9440028106
E-mail : dbnjvizag@rediffmail.com
www.donboscovizag.org

DB Tech - Vizag
Available Courses
Hospitality
Retail Sales
Contact :
Cell : 9154146667,
8790561650
9491163788