



“Today when I flip through my diary and have a glimpse of my old pictures, SCS seems to be the only one where I find real joy and happiness”

- Fr. Gabriel Colney sdb INS (2006 batch of Sonada campus)



## Siliguri to Sonada up the Hillcart Road...

Let us take the average age of a generation, before the next is born, to be 30 years. I belong to the 2-G spectrum who had a chance to listen to the first gen Sonadians and is now privileged to bore you the 3-G Sonadians with some uninteresting things, for a start (or for the end...).

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## Dear Alumni

A man who had gone out of his town comes back and finds that his house is on fire. It was one of the most beautiful houses in town, and the man loved the house the most! Many were ready to give double price for the house, but he had never agreed for any price and now it is just burning before his eyes.



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More Inside



Dear Friends (Alumni),

As I wish you **happy New Month, may this month be full of happiness and blessings. God be with you.**

A man who had gone out of his town comes back and finds that his house is on fire. It was one of the most beautiful houses in town, and the man loved the house the most! Many were ready to give double price for the house, but he had never agreed for any price and now it is just burning before his eyes. Thousands of people have gathered, but nothing can be done; the fire has spread so far that even if you try to douse it, nothing will be saved. So he became very sad.

His son comes running and whispers something in his ear: "Don't be worried. I sold it yesterday and at a very good price - three times. The offer was so good I could not wait for you. Forgive me."

Father said, "Thank God, it's not ours now!" Then the father is relaxed and became a **silent watcher**, just like 1000s of other watchers.

Please think about it! Just a moment before he was not a **watcher**, he was attached. It is the same house...the same fire...everything is the same...but now he is not concerned, in fact started enjoying it just as everybody else in the crowd.

Then the second son comes running, and says to the father, "What are you doing? You are smiling - and the house is on fire?" The father said, "Don't you know, your brother has sold it." He said, "We have taken only advance amount, not settled fully. I doubt now whether the man is going to purchase it now." **Again everything changes!!!**

Tears which had disappeared have come back to the father's eyes; his smile is no more there; his heart is beating fast. The '**watcher**' is gone. He is again attached.

And then the third son comes, and he says, "That man is a man of his word. I have just come from him. He said, "It doesn't matter whether the house is burnt or not, it is mine. And I am going to pay the price that I have settled for. Neither you knew, nor did I know that the house would catch fire."

Again the joy is back and the family became '**watchers**'! The attachment is no more there. **Actually nothing is changing!** Just the feeling that "**I am the owner! I am not the owner of the house!**" makes the whole difference. This simple methodology of watching the mind, that you have nothing to do with it...**Everything starts with a Thought!!**

Most of the thoughts are not yours but from your parents, your teachers, your friends, the books, the movies, the television, the newspapers. Just count how many thoughts are your own, and you will be surprised that perhaps not a single thought is your own. All are from other sources; all are borrowed - either dumped by others on you, or foolishly dumped by yourself upon yourself, **but nothing is yours.** Just reflect a while...

Your affectionate Father & Friend  
Fr. (Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil SDB  
Rector



# From the West Coast



Just as the spirit of Bombay differs from that of Kolkata, so too, in the US, the East Coast with its prime city New York of the Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building and Ground Zero fame is quite different from the West Coast with its Los Angeles, the Hollywood city and San Francisco with its Golden Gate Bridge. The University of Stanford and the University of California with its many campuses along the east coast, too, differ from the Ivy league eastern universities of Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Dartmouth and Princeton.

However, in all of them the Alumni are a constant and towering feature. Stanford Alumni association is 125 years old and has members in over 150 countries. The University of Stanford is right in the heart of the Silicon Valley and has computer science and digital innovation research as its mainstay. Though over a century old, the phenomenal growth the University has undergone is a feature that began from the late nineteen seventies.

I am dreaming of a day when Siliguri with its Commercial Lead in the state and the region, coming to make a mark through the college alumni in effecting a landmark growth for service over the years. I want to congratulate the leadership of the Alumni and all the members for passionately promoting, in their own ways, the cause of the institution that is ever on the look out to provide the best opportunities for growth to every new student entering into the College.

Together, if we attempt to create 'a thing of beauty', as Dominic Colney reminds us, not only the beauty created but all those who make it happen too, shall become 'Joy forever.'



With Prof Shyam Kamath, Dean of Business School, University of California, Monterey Bay Campus

In the spirit of education for change,

*Fr George Thadathil sdb  
In San Francisco on Sabbatical  
(Hosted by Don Bosco/Salesian Alumni)  
6 April 2016*

# MY OLD MEMORIES OF SCS

Fr. Gabriel Colney sdb INS (2006 batch from Sonada Campus)  
Vice Principal, Don Bosco School Agartala



"A thing of Beauty is a joy forever"

This phrase taken from the poem "Endymion" by John Keats is what I have experienced in SCS.

If I were to answer to the question "what is what is the best time of my life?" Without much hesitation I would say, "My three years in SCS." Yes, I began my college life in SCS in 2003 and it has to be the best year of my life. Today when I flip through my diary and have a glimpse of my old pictures, SCS seems to be the only place where I find real joy and happiness.

SCS has given me everything and it has formed me into a person who was ready to take on whatever life will give me in the future.

Its ten years now that I left SCS but the memories are still very fresh. I would always love to recollect the memories of rushing for classes, doing the assignments in the library, playing games in cold and foggy weather (I must mention that our batch of 2003-2006 were sport lovers. The rain or the fog could not stop them from playing), the Annual Concert and the best was the sunset tea party. Climbing to Tiger Hill, Sunday Oratory and our trip to Sandakphu and the picnics are just unforgettable.

I have seen how our Fathers and teachers worked hard so that we can achieve the excellence and we too tried to offer our best. Life was never easy because we were always under supervision for our proper development and yes indeed we grew.

Today SCS has spread its wings far with another cradle in Siliguri and is presenting the nation capable young men and women who can bring about changes. I am indeed happy and thankful to SCS for what it has given me too. Those three years were beneficial for me and I am proud of being a part of this big family.

May SCS continue to shine, shape and mould the young generation. Like me, may they find knowledge, truth, wisdom, solace and strength from this college.



# Siliguri to Sonada up the Hillcart Road... Reminiscences of a Second Generation SCS-ian... Series 1



- Thomas Mathew D  
1985 batch of Sonada Campus

Let us take the average age of a generation, before the next is born, to be 30 years.

I belong to the 2-G spectrum who had a chance to listen to the first gen Sonadians and is now privileged to bore you the 3-G Sonadians with some uninteresting things, for a start (or for the end...).

The first one to come and speak to us of SCS was Rev. Mariano Uguet, a Spaniard Don Bosco priest who paid for and bought the Whiteman's House (Gora Bari) in 1938. The lower part of SCS adjoining the road down was the Whiteman's stable and the wooden house above in which the white man/men lived (their women too I suppose) became the kitchen, infirmary and music practising room upto the years 1982 – 83 after which they were torn down by the efforts of Rev. M. D. George to make it into the present grand chapel. When I completed my BA-English and BA-Philosophy in 1985, the old main building had an upper floor and the chapel was half way through....

It was interesting that Rev. Nicholas LoGroi, the Italian youngster who joined there as a seminarian, became a priest in charge of the students, then he became the Rector, then a Novice Master in Shillong and then the Provincial of Calcutta and once again the Rector when we were there.... and no one complained about the chilblains in the rather severe winter... or of Gorabari being a hopeless place especially in comparison with the warm St. Mary's Hill of Kurseong...

A person much endeared to the locals of Sonada and Gorabari was Sotto Father, Rev. Guiseppe Verzotto, who was the point of contact for the social work wing of SCS including the postal service in Gorabari village. He had his allopathic medicines for almost all the ailments of the people around in a clandestine way with the help of expert pharmacists and male nurses recruited even from the brothers who joined the college for the first year..!

An enigmatic disciple of the Christ was Rev. Luigi Jellici (Yellichi) who had the audacity to take me a second year student to walk all the way down to Balasun valley, made me read the Second Reading for the Church Service in Nepali and also made me give a short sermon in Nepali (and at the end added that it was too short and I should make it slightly longer the next time)! After lunch, he made me climb another 25 km up to Mirik (the second longest walk in my life in one day – 55 km!) and after reaching there he made me put the rather warm attic of Don Bosco House in order for 2 hours and sleep there for 6 hours after which he woke me up at 5:00 am before the sun woke up...!

About the next write up in the series of my reminiscences about our studies and extracurricular

activities, I hope to pen in my next series...

(Post Script: after 3 years, I came back to S.C. Sonada to take part in the golden jubilee of SCS in 1988, as a Station Master in the Southern Railway, of Erode Jn. and then of Ooty (in TN) and I felt duty bound to give my first salary to my Alma Mater (SCS) which made me what I was then and what am now....)



*Walking Picnic to Mirik Lake: Sept. 1983: Rev. Jose Pampady, Thomas Mathew D, K.A. George & Rev. Bp. Leo Michael (Texas City).*



*Most of the SCS 1985 Batch in Nazareth Bhavan, Siliguri, in Sept. 1981 with the DB Fathers: Standing:- Rev. Edward Dang, Rev. Shaji Joseph, Mr. Sabu Isaac, Rev. Johny Nedungatt, Bro. V.D. Varkey(RIP), Dr. T.K. Pius, Rev. Joseph Puncha (RIP), Rev. V.S. Sebastian, Rev. Thomas Panakkezhram, Rev. Jose Pampady, Rev. John Berger, Bro. Mathew John, Dr. Thomas Mathew, Rev. Hilarius Kullu, Mr. K.A. George; Squatting: Mr. Shaju Joseph, Rev. P.C. James, Bro. Vijay Kumar Lugun, Rev. Soroj Mullick and Rev. Jason Nedumkallel.*

-Thomas Mathew D. (aka T. M. Devdan), Assoc. Prof. of English, Vellalar College of Engg. & Tech., Erode-638012 (TN). (Voluntarily retired from the Railways in 2011)

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# 1st Annual Meet of Salesian College Siliguri Alumni Association

- Chanchal Agarwal and Kuljeet Kaur



Salesian College Siliguri Alumni Association organized their Annual meet on 13 March 2016 in the college campus. Since its inception it is their 1st Annual meet.

It was a great honor for the Salesian college Siliguri Alumni Association to have Fr. Bikash Mondal, Province Delegate of Don Bosco Alumni, Kolkata as the chief guest. The main agenda of the meet was to critically analyze the performance of the Alumni Association during the year 2015-2016.

The alumni head Fr.(Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil, Ms. Priyamrita Chatterjee, Coordinator, Office bearers and the registered committee members were present. The special Guests of Honor were Mr. Pankaj Minocha, President, Don Bosco Alumni, Kolkata and Mr. Prashant Dasani, Treasurer, Alumni Federation, Kolkata Province. The meeting began with the introductory words by Kuljeet Kaur, Secretary of Salesian College Alumni association, followed by the floral homage to Saint Don Bosco and the lighting of the lamp by the guests. It was followed by the felicitation of each guest by the alumni members.

The reports of the overall activities and programs of the alumni association were presented along with the guidance and appraisal from Fr. Mathew Pulingathil the head of the association. There was a motivational session by the chief guest and other guests of honor.

The association had distributed the award of excellence to 20 registered members for their active participation in the events conducted by the association. Chanchal Agarwal, the President presented the future plans of activities for the upcoming year 2016-2017 and requested all the members to renew their registrations with a tag "Lets develop with togetherness". The session concluded with the vote of thanks by Ms. Priyamrita Chatterjee, Coordinator followed by refreshments for all.



# From the Campus

With an objective to better equip the outgoing students to deal with the upcoming challenges in their life, Salesian College organised a three day 'Life Orientation Programme'(LOP) from 8 March to the 10 March 2016 at Siliguri campus and on 18 March at Sonada campus. This was followed by the Graduation Day, where students were awarded provisional degrees or qualifying certificates of internal assessments of the College in presence of their parents, guardians and family members. This year, a total of 297 students from both the campuses are graduating from the college across disciplines like science, commerce and humanities. The programme was divided into three thrust areas namely orientation towards family life and marriage, educational/pedagogical values of Don Bosco and career orientation. The Salesian College Alumni Association Siliguri had a session on aim and objectives of the Association and importance of being the citizens and leaders who are intellectually competent and socially sensitive. The programme aimed at brushing up the teaching and learning values taught in the past three years and providing career guidance.



On 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016, Salesian College Siliguri Campus celebrated 'Ethnic Day' to make the students aware of different cultures of India. Various events like the 'Rangoli competition', 'Firewood cooking', 'Folk song' and 'Fashion show' was organized. The theme was to represent culture and tradition of different states of India.



# Congratulations



**Sandhya Gurung ( 2005 batch of Sonada campus) has tied the nuptial knot with Mr. Nayan Gurung on 6 March, 2016. We wish them successful conjugal life.**



**Mrs. Mamta Ravi Jain (2014 batch of Siliguri campus) is blessed with a baby boy on 11th March 2016.**

**Our heartiest congratulations for Mamta and her family**

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