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– Fr. George Thadathill, Principal

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ICE Climber



It was a proud moment for Salesian College, Siliguri campus when Nihal Sarkar, a first year Geography Honours student was selected to represent

India in the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup at Cheongsong Korea, which was held from 15th January, 2016 to 17th January, 2016.

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Dear Alumni



"Give the customers what they want." but that is not my approach. Our job is to figure out what they're going to want before they do...

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Dear Friends (Alumni Salesian College)

We are beginning a new month of this year - the second month!! I wish you a Happy New Month.

Some people say, "Give the customers what they want." but that is not my approach. Our job is to figure out what they're going to want before they do. I think Henry Ford once said, "If I'd ask customers what they wanted, they would have told me, 'A faster horse!'" People don't know what they want until you show it to them. That's why I never rely on market research. Our task is to read things that are not yet on the page.

Source: Isaacson, W. (2011) Steve Jobs. London Little Brown p.334

Let our thoughts be creative. May this month be full of happiness and blessings.
God be with you.

Always your affectionate Father and Friend
Fr. Mathew Pulingathil SDB
Rector

Dear Friends,
Greetings from Princeton Library where I am these days, most of the time.

I had just finished going through Princeton News magazine - a glamorous one indeed - when I received the articles for this upcoming issue. While thanking all those who have contributed, want to make a point as to how we envisage our AlumNews to grow.

It is an occasion, each month, to share the news of what is happening to each of us - our concerns and status - and a reflection out of it, with a view to strengthen our bonds, irrespective of the batch or campus to which we belonged. However, our target is to make it as light and easy a reading as possible, given the hectic schedules to which most are subject.

As our roles differ, our works differ and our perceptions differ, so also the news we share often differs in content and intensity. This particular issue is a clear example of it: moving from picnic spot on the Balasun to the disabled in Bangkok and from Ice climbing in Seoul to Adivasi status rehabilitation in Guwahati.

We jointly congratulate the more recent generation of students who have brought laurels to the college, and of course the faculty who backed them and encouraged their efforts.

Let this attempt to keep connected with one another - wherever we are and whatever we do - flourish and keep bringing joy and cheer to all. The snow that fell a week ago during the winter storm has not yet melted around here.

Fr George Thadathil
Principal, Salesian College



"With Fr Mathai, Former Principal, at St Francis Assisi School & Church, Naugatuck, Connecticut, US."

Youngest Ice Climber of the World from Salesian College Siliguri



Sandeep Singh

Event Manager and Asst Prof. Dept of Management,
SCSC

It was a proud moment for Salesian College, Siliguri campus when Nihal Sarkar, a first year Geography Honours student was selected to represent India in the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup at Cheongsong Korea, which was held from 15th January, 2016 to 17th January, 2016.

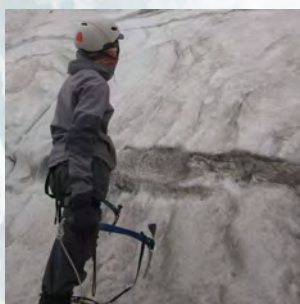


The world cup was organised by UIAA (Union Internationale Des Associations D'Alpinisme) International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation, Switzerland and was sponsored by The North Face. There were 90 participants from 18 countries with 44 of the participants hailing from Asia. During the opening ceremony on 15th of January, India was especially welcomed by the President of the Jury of UIAA, Mr. Thomas Kihl as India was participating in the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup for the first time.

In August 2015, when Nihal Sarkar had visited Lahaul-Spiti, at Bara Shigri Glacier for a 30 day Alpine Mountaineering training, he had proposed to participate in the Ice Climbing World Cup in Korea to the President and the Secretary of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation, Col. H.S.Chauhan and Wing Commander Sudhir Kutty respectively. "As I climbed Gunthers Col (5399 m), they became impressed and satisfied and took the decision to send me to represent India in the World Cup as the first representative of India", said Nihal Sarkar.



Among the 90 athletes from around the globe, Nihal Sarkar ranked 24th and among 44 Asian participants he secured the 12th rank. He was also declared the youngest Ice Climber in the history of the Ice Climbing World Cup and UIAA.





*Each Moment Ought
to be Celebrated*

Chanchal Agarwal, President
Salesian College Alumni Association, Siliguri

In a fun filled mood of the New Year, Salesian College Siliguri Alumni Association had organised a picnic on Sunday, 17th January 2016. Alumni President Chanchal Agarwal along with other committee members arranged everything. The picnic was open to all and the entry passes were distributed through Alumni office for the same.

Venue of the picnic spot was “Mukti Picnic Spot” in Dudhey Malabasey. It is situated on the way towards Mirik, 30 kilometers from Siliguri. It is a beautiful place surrounded by mountains, trees and a flowing river. The river water is very clean and chilling. There were proper arrangements for washrooms, drinking water, police assistance booth and parking facility.

The group of 46 Alumni members, 32 Boys and 14 girls started their journey from the College Campus by one bus and personal vehicles and reached the spot at around 10:30 AM. As they reached the spot, they were surprised to see the breakfast was ready to be served by the caterers. The members also helped in serving and other arrangements.

After breakfast, all went around sightseeing and even visited the nearby temple. The specialty of the temple is, it bears the mixed traditions of both Hinduism and Buddhism. After returning, all were in the mood of chatting over various fast foods available there. A few kilometers away from the place there are tea gardens owned by some of our members and they visited those places to enjoy the greenery. The hilly cool breeze made that sunny morning more special.



At around 2:00 PM delicious lunch was served for all by the catering team. After lunch it was the time for fun games organised by core team members of the association and among those the best was “Housie/Bingo”. Everyone took part and prizes were distributed to the winners. It was already late afternoon as the group started the journey back to Siliguri.

The alumni picnic was a great time for enjoyment where members actively participated and revived those nostalgic days of college. It was a get together to strengthen the bond.



Thailand Trip

Sonam Dorji

2013 batch of Sonada campus

Author/Poet/ SENCo/Teacher at GLSS, Gelephu, Kingdom of Bhutan

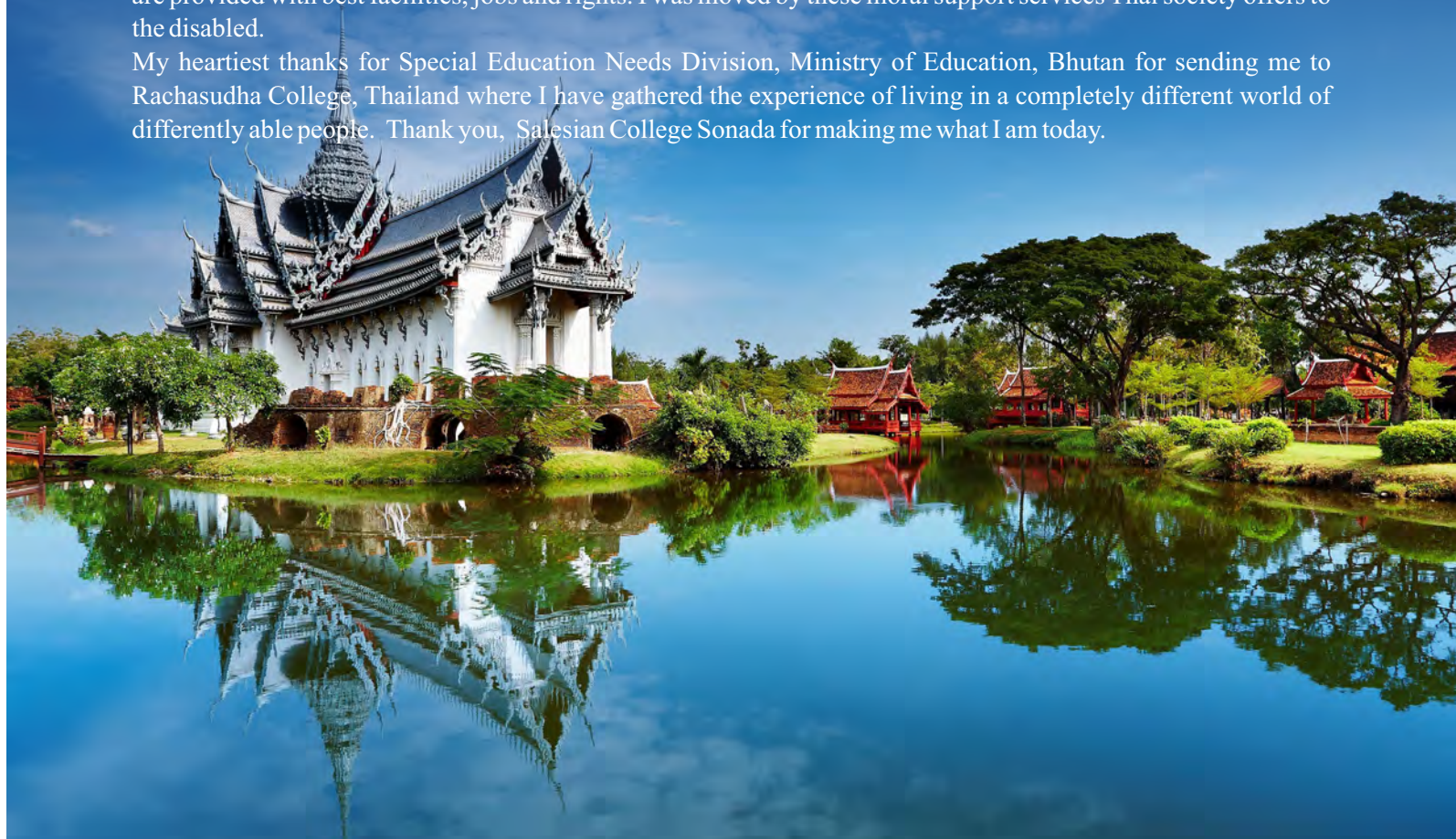
It was a splendid and refreshing experience in the world of people with disabilities during my training at Ratchasuda College, Mahidol University in Salaya, Thailand. Teaching and guiding children with disabilities was challenging, surprising, exciting and even poignant. Days were filled with unexpected moments to understand the diverse natures of disabilities to provide support services. Every day was a new day to tackle with the set of new challenges and sometime with unique frustration.

It was a life time experience to get trained by the persons with disability in Rachasuda College. Rachasuda College was founded by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Srinindhorn, the daughter of King Rama IX in 1993 to give new zest of life to the people with disabilities and to pursue research on their rehabilitation. The college had been marched along with the system for more than a decade. Since then it has undergone many changes and have produced lots of successful alumni who have contributed to the growth of the nation.

Thailand a kingdom of Southeast Asia known as the land of smiles. The capital city is Bangkok with estimated 10 million people. Bangkok is amazingly beautiful city. People are soft spoken and welcoming in nature. The king is highly honoured by all in Thailand. Photos of King and queen can be seen at every office, institutes, homes and even on streets. Cuisines are delicious and seemingly inexhaustible with its profusion of exotic flavours and fragrances. A juicy piece of grilled pork on a stick or a bowl of 'Tom Yum' soup is well enough to excite our test buds .

During the two months training, I have visited almost all the Institutions for the disabled in and around Bangkok. I was surprised to see the people with disabilities in Thailand are provided with best facilities, jobs and rights. I was moved by these moral support services Thai society offers to the disabled.

My heartiest thanks for Special Education Needs Division, Ministry of Education, Bhutan for sending me to Rachasudha College, Thailand where I have gathered the experience of living in a completely different world of differently able people. Thank you, Salesian College Sonada for making me what I am today.





adivasi

Controversy within Indian Tribes

Ramachan A Shimray
2013 Batch of Siliguri campus

On Nov 24, 2007, about 5000 men, women and children belong to Adivasi community were attacked in Guwahati by local people while they were attending a peaceful procession in demand of Scheduled Tribe status. Most tribes are opposed to the proposal of including Adivasi to the list of Schedule tribe. Why the Adivasi society of North East India is facing such agony? As per the reports in North East India 80 lakhs of the total population are included in Schedule Tribe so the other tribal groups do not want any further increase in number to keep the job market secure for them (J.J Roy Burman, July 2009). Not only job security, the problem is deeply rooted to distinctive culture, identity and ethnicity and the basic human rights.

According to the constitution of the India Republic there are a total of 645 district tribes. The term 'Scheduled tribe' first appeared in the constitution of India Article 366(25), which refers to specific indigenous people to a particular state/union territory as by a notified order of the president, after consultation with the state government concerned. These order can be modified subsequently only through an Act of Parliament. On the contrary, the terms 'tribals' and 'tribal people' have not been precisely defined in the constitution of India but it refers to those communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the constitution.

Different scholars have defined the term 'Tribes' in various ways based on the characteristics of the groups of different regions. The controversy about the term 'Adivasi' is not only a matter of literary concern but also of political arguments. Even though it means indigenous people or original inhabitants and has similarity with Scheduled tribes the term '*Adivasi*' is not used in Indian constitution. So even after being aboriginal their demand for the ST status is being denied by the concerned authority in North East India

There is no rigid definition of what makes a group Indigenous. According to Jose R. Martinez Cobo's definition of Indigenous peoples, communities and nations are those, which have a historical continuity

with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories. The Apex Court of India has also declared Adivasi as 'original inhabitants of India' and of course, they are the Indigenous People. In ancient time, the Adivasi had ownership rights on natural resources. They were living with autonomy, peace and prosperity but the situation changed during British rule. The British denied their indigenous identity, grabbed their land, territory, resources and some of them were sent to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, North Bengal, Sikkim, and Tripura for plantation labour. They are now referred to as *Adivasi*.

It is a fact that some of the indigenous people communities prefer not to be identified as Adivasi such as Rabha in Assam, Rajbansi in North Bengal and Naga in North East. The local tribes of North Eastern States find it humiliating to be identified as 'Adivasi'. On the other hand, Adivasi in North East is struggling for the status of Scheduled tribe (ST). They believe that attaining the status of ST will provide them more opportunity in the field of education and jobs along with gaining territorial, land rights and control over natural resources. The All Assam Tribal Sangha (AATS) comprising of various tribal organisations, including Bodo, Karbi, Dimasa and Tiwa student organisations are opposing the Adivasi demand for ST status, alleging if granted, it would affect the interests of tribals of Assam.

It is disconcerting that most of the anthropologists and sociologists have either remained indifferent to such developments or have passively supported the 'Adivasi' terminology and thus jeopardized the legitimate rights and interests of the tribes dwelling in the regions beyond the Hindi heartland. It is also not true that the tribes in all quarters of the country are aboriginals of the region where they inhabit. Even many of the Dalit intellectuals have made similar assertions. It would be a big mistake to consider the term 'Adivasi' to be equivalent to the term 'Tribe' in India. The term 'indigenous peoples' itself appears to be controversial in the Indian context as there are many claimants to it. It will perhaps be always better to avoid using the popular nomenclature 'Adivasi' except with specific references to the groups that are specifically thus identified and duly deserve the equal status as do others.

Reference:

Gladson Dungdung, *Whose Country is it anyway?*, Kolkatta: Adivaani, 2013.

J.J Roy Burman "Adivasi: A Contentious Term to denote Tribes as Indigenous Peoples of India", in *Mainstream Weekly*, Vol XLVII, (July 25, 2009).32.

L. Memo Singh, 'Tribals – Who Are They?' in *Imphal Free Press* (March 28, 2011).





“Veni, Vidi, Vici”: I Came, I Saw, I Conquered.

Sajan M. George, (1994-1997 batch of Sonada)

After the battle and defeat of Pharnace II, King of Pontus, in 47 BC, Caesar sent these 3 simple words back to the Roman senate. I think this is what the youngsters of the day must do in this world: Yes, we have come, seen and will conquer it. Dear friends, **this world is ours**. It belongs to us.

I consider it a privilege to pen a few lines in this issue. Thinking about the youth of the day, my thoughts go back to the story of flying high: "Due to serious mix up in the chicken farm an eagle's egg also was hatched along with the eggs of the mother hen. When the time came along with the small chickens a beautiful eagle also was born. Being chickens, the chickens raised the eagle to be a chicken. The eagle loved his home and family but it seemed his spirit cried out for more. One day, the eagle looked to the skies above and noticed a group of mighty eagles soaring. "Oh," the eagle cried, "I wish I could soar like those birds." The chickens roared with laughter, "You cannot soar like those. You are a chicken and chickens do not soar." The eagle continued staring at his real family up above, dreaming that he could be like them. Each time the eagle talked about his dreams, he was told it could not be done.

That was what the eagle learned to believe. After some time, the eagle stopped dreaming, continued to live his life as a chicken, and passed away when it was time for him to go."

Friends, to fly high like an eagle we need to chase out dream without any attention to other's disappointing words. . May I quote our late President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, "Dream, Dream and Dream. Dreams transform into thoughts, and thoughts result in action."

Looking at the multitude of young generation, I see that there are such a lot of talents and potentials lying in us to be unearthed. They have to be identified, fostered and nourished, and if we don't, then, we may land up into situations that we don't expect ourselves to be in. Most of the problems facing today's youth are not restricted to any one ethnic or religious group, but affect young people generally. Most issues are like drug abuse, crime, violence, sexuality and poverty. In addition to these, today's youth are afflicted by new challenges.

These include:

1. An Identity Crisis : Who am I?
2. Lack of self confidence and low self esteem : I am worthless
3. A sense of hopelessness : Where am I going?
4. Confusion and ambiguity concerning moral issues : What is right and wrong?
5. The negative impact of the electronic media : Entertainment?
6. Competitiveness in education: the uneven playing field: Excellence by whom? Not Me.

All of us are aware of the fact that traditionally our older generations have transmitted their beliefs, values, traditions, customs, worldview and institutions to the younger generations of the society through the agencies of family, religion and schools. But today, their impact has been shattered in the strong waves of the ocean of internet and television. In my view, there is a slow erosion of traditional systems and institutions. Family and religion are no longer any priority for the youths. Today's values mostly move along the lines of individualism, godlessness, materialism and rationalism. The emphasis is shifting to competitiveness, academic success, career goals, income and social mobility. To conquer the world decisive thoughts are the only means to solve the problems both locally and globally.
(Cont.....)

(Sajan M. George is a Salesian Priest of the Province of Delhi, Pursuing M. Phil in Management Studies in Sacred Heart College (Autonomous), Tirupattur



Fragrant Serenade

READ, REFLECT AND BE RENEWED.

It is with great joy that we want to introduce *Fragrant Serenade*, a book written by one of the past teachers of Philosophy (1988-1989) from Salesian College, Sonada.

Fragrant Serenade is a collection of poetic reflections written over the past three decades which would inspire and motivate everyone to lead a renewed life. Many have reported that they derived a different perspective from every reflection that is in this book and it has positively influenced their lives.

This book contains redemptive writing wherein the author swings between the sacred and the secular. Fragrant Serenade contains existential themes and will surely bring about a change and renewal in one's life. The book is available at all amazon sites globally. Just search for the book title or the author's name. Please read, reflect and be renewed with this book written by one of our own Alumni.

Fragrant Serenade
Reflections for a Renewed Life

Benny Augustine

Congratulations



Shelly Modi (2013 batch of Siliguri campus) has tied the nuptial not with Krishna Agarwal on 31st January 2016. We wish both of them a Happy Conjugal Life



Our best wishes for Alumni Mr. Thomas Mathew (1985 batch of Sonada campus) and Mrs. Lissy Thomas Mathew for completing 22nd year of their marriage on 31 January, 2016

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