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## Dear Alumni

Peace! Is peace of such great interest today?

Yes it is, of course, and perhaps more than ever before. Not only because dozens of wars are ongoing in the world today, but also because peace is threatened in a different, more insidious way. ...



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Dear Friends (Alumni), Happy New Year 2016!

Peace! Is peace of such great interest today?

Yes it is, of course, and perhaps more than ever before. Not only because dozens of wars are ongoing in the world today, but also because peace is threatened in a different, more insidious way. ...

The situation is serious. If this is how things are, it is not enough to oppose such great danger with merely human forces. We need to engage the forces of good with a capital G. You all know what this Good is: it is God and all that is rooted in him. It is the world of the spirit, of great values, of authentic love and prayer. ...

However, peace is so precious that all of us, adults and young people, leaders and ordinary citizens, must be actively involved in safeguarding it. ... Naturally, in order to know what to do, we need to be familiar with the deepest causes of this dramatic situation today.

You all know that justice does not prevail in the world, that there are rich countries and poor countries, where there is hunger. Instead, God's plan for humanity is that all people should be brothers and sisters, in one big family with one Father. ... Well then, how can we create greater equality, how can we bring about some sort of communion of goods? It is obvious that goods cannot move unless hearts are moved. Therefore, we need to spread love, the reciprocal love that generates brotherhood and sisterhood among all. We need to invade the world with love!

Someone might ask, "Is love, loving one another, compatible with the lifestyle our cultures have handed down to us? Yes, it is. Look in your sacred Books and in almost all of them, you will find the so-called "Golden Rule". The Christian text says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Lk 6:31). Judaism says, "Do to no one what you yourself dislike" (Tobit 4:15). In Islam "None of you is a true believer if you do not desire for your brother what you desire for yourself" (Hadith 13, Al Bukhari). In Hinduism, "Do not do to others what would make you suffer if it were done to you" (Mahabharata 5: 1517). All these phrases mean, respect and love your neighbour.

If you, a Muslim, love, and you, a Christian, love, and you, a Jew, love, and you, a Hindu, love, you will certainly reach the point of loving one another. This would already create a chunk/portion of universal fraternity. Therefore, loving is one of the great secrets of our time. Loving with a special kind of love. It is certainly not a love directed only towards our relatives and friends. This love is directed towards everyone, those who are more or less nice, rich or poor, children or adults, from your own country or foreigners, friends or enemies, towards everyone. We should be the first to love, by taking the initiative, without waiting to be loved.

We should love not only with words, but also concretely, with facts; if you do this, if we all do this, universal brotherhood will spread, solidarity will grow, goods will be better distributed, and the rainbow of peace will shine over the world, a world which will be in your hands in a few years' time.

Your affectionate Father & Friend

Fr. Mathew Pulingathil SDB  
Rector, Salesian College Siliguri



# Alumni set up first DB Varsity in India

*Fr. C. M Paul, Assam Don Bosco University  
1974 batch of Salesian College Sonada*

Have you ever wondered SCS Alumni could be setting up university! In fact, a group of them is setting up the first Don Bosco University. First not only in India, but also the first Don Bosco University in the English speaking world! Wow, that's cool. (There are 15 Don Bosco Universities around the world spread out in Latin America and Europe!)

The ambitious Don Bosco university project was conceived and launched under the leadership of the winner of Education Evangelist Award 2014 – Dr Stephen Mavelly (SCS 1971 batch). He is the Vice-Chancellor of Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU) Guwahati since its inception in 2008. The Planning & Development Officer and Administrator of the University Dr Peter Paul Hauhnar belongs to 1971 batch while the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Fr Joseph Nellanatt (1972 batch). The Controller of Examinations Dr Francis Fernandez (1975 batch) and the first Head of Mass Communication Department under ADBU Fr C.M. Paul belongs to 1974 batch.

Currently situated at Azara on Airport Road the permanent campus of ADBU is a 500 acre tea garden located some 17 km outside state capital Dispur on NH37 at Tapesia near Sonapur.

The ADBU School of Social Sciences consisting of five departments (Social Work, Education, Mass Communication, Psychology, and Human Rights) are scheduled to move in to the new campus for the start of the academic year 2016-17 in July.

L to R : C.M. Paul, Peter Paul, Mavelly, Nellanatt and Fernandez.





# FROM THE MISSION LAND

Shiju Thottupurathu SDB  
Guatemala

Dear friends

I thought of sharing some news about our mission activities especially that has taken place in the last two months of the year 2015. These two months are the holiday time for the schools and we do make use of the time to organize activities for the youth and children.

We began with one-month *ORATORIO VACACIONAL* (Holiday Oratory). More than 60 children participated this year for the same activity. Apart from the recourse classes of scholar, we had coaching for music, dance, sports, cooking, handcrafts, etc. Outings and recreations were also the part of the oratory. The youths who received the formation from us were the teachers for Oratory. We could make them free of all worries when they were with us and the parents also helped us in making them cheerful.

Since it was the holiday time, we could have our youths altogether for the activities. It is because the schooling system is not like India here. Schools have morning or afternoon shifts. Students peruse their study based on their capabilities and are difficult to be gathered during the school days. There were two Salesians in formation this time and they were engaged to animate the youths. Formation is given especially for the youth, catechists, different Salesian Families, Choir for Christmas, animators of the parish, etc. During this season we also have the First Communion for the children. The parish has two years of catechesis and 77 children received their first communion this year (2015)

Different groups of the parish organize their *CONVIVENCIA* (Co existence or a day out) during this time. It is the time for full of joy and happiness and various party games and other cheerful events are organized. At the end of each year the Pastoral Youth of the parish have a full day retreat, camp at night and day filled with fun and joy. This year almost 60 youths participated.

Christmas in Guatemala starts too early, especially in the Commercial Centers (Super Malls). The parish too begins by sending out the carols, who really organizes the Christmas Novena in Families. All the communities of the parish actively participate in the mass, during which a special blessing is conveyed to the participants and at the conclusion of the mass each community present their cultural activities related to Nativity. After having snacks they return back home to start the novena.

As Don Bosco began the Oratory on 8<sup>th</sup> of December, we had a *TARDE INFANTIL* (Afternoon with Children)

for almost 600 children of the parish. They too had various games organized by the youth of the parish where they received their prizes along with Christmas gifts and snacks.

Another event to be mentioned is, preparation of Christmas crib by the youths of the parish. We cannot prepare the Crib outside the church, because, the following day we may find the crib empty. Jokes apart, it is our real-life situation. But within the limited space in the church, we plan out well to welcome Child Jesus with gladness.

For the Salesians this season is special. We have our annual retreat at this time and also the transfers take place during the month of December. I am also transferred from here (San Benito, Petén, Guatemala) to the new work that the congregation was talking about, **Ministry for the Migrants**. They need someone, who can speak Spanish and English, so I was asked by the provincial to render my service to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico in the Salesian Province of Guadalajara.

I will be leaving to Mexico by the end of January. So hope to share some more news later about this new mission. Meanwhile I ask for your prayers for the new assignment.

Wish you all, the blessings of the New Year 2016. God bless all your endeavors and may you be able to be the light to the others in this New Year. Blessings to all.



# Christmas Gathering



*Sayak Moitra, Treasure*

Salesian College Siliguri Campus had organised a Christmas gathering for the Alumni members on 18th December, 2015. It was a fun-filled event marked by the presence of Principal Fr.(Dr.) George Thadathil and alumni Co-ordinator Ms. Priyamrita Chatterjee along with other alumni representatives. Fr. George initiated a sharing game for the alumni members to reveal their life stories after leaving the college. Mr. Manish Jaiswal, alumni Committee member, shared his experiences and it was supported by Ms. Bipasha Agarwal, Ms. Ashmita Agarwal, Mr. Manish Keshri and Ms. Anu Agarwal talked about our friend Sourabh Agarwal's marriage. Mr. Chanchal Agarwal, President of association, shared his feelings about his sister's marriage and his responsibilities. Ms. Rubina Verma told how Personality Development classes helped her to groom her personality. Fr. George enlightened us about the importance of celebration of festivals like Diwali and Christmas in college campus. He also said about the Don Bosco Education system and how Mr. Tony Thomas, an alumnus from Chandigarh, experienced various situations while studying in Siliguri from so far. Every one missed his presence.

After the sharing session Christmas cakes were distributed. Finally at the end, Chanchal Agarwal who always remained the Santa Clause for us distributed chocolates to all.

Indeed, it was the moment of joy and happiness where past emotions of college days were experienced again with friends.



# Alumni Trip Shillong 2015



*Karishma Agarwal, Preetica Goyal & Naina Bajla  
Alumni Members (2015 Batch of Siliguri campus)*

The Alumni Association of Salesian College Siliguri Campus organised a short winter trip to Shillong via Guwahati. The beauty and soothing atmosphere of Meghalaya and the feedbacks from the visitors are what made the Alumni Office bearers fix this particular spots. President and team lead Chanchal Agarwal initiated the preparations and arrangements of the trip. In total 11 among the registered Alumni members booked the seats for this trip and the journey started on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 evening from New Jalpaiguri Station. All were really excited and was looking forward for these days to come as it was an opportunity to meet new Friends and create new memories.

Next day early morning we reached Guwahati, and after having our breakfast we headed towards our stay at Barapani. By afternoon we reached Siloam, the extension of St. Antony's College situated beside the beautiful and clean Umiam Lake. We were very warmly welcomed there and was moved by the beauty and the facilities of Siloam.

After Lunch we all gathered for boating in Umiam Lake that was near to our resort. The moment we started boating on a private motor boat the tiredness of the journey was vanished and all of us shouted with joy. The beauty of the lake between the mountains was mind blowing. After boating we went to Shillong Market for our dinner.

Second day morning we left from Barapani for the Mawlynnog village in east Khasi which is said to be one of the cleanest village in Asia, located about 90 km away from Shillong. There we saw the amazing Natural living roots bridge and an 80 feet high observatory named Brun Khongmen View Point which is made of bamboo. We also had a conversation with the villagers about their techniques and habits by which they maintain the cleanliness of the village. After that we went to Dawki River that is also known as one of the cleanest river in India flowing by the India-Bangladesh border. The water of the river is so clean that we could see the base of the river, beautiful fishes and other species were floating in the clean river. We all enjoyed boating there and it was an awesome experience for all of us, we could actually witness the beauty of our Mother Earth. After Dinner we went





back to Siloam. As we reached Siloam we were surprised to find the entire campus of Siloam beautifully lighted and decorated. We were just mesmerized .....!!! It was Christmas Eve.

On 25th of Dec we went to a local theatre of Shillong to watch movie. Then which we visited Shillong Catholic Cathedral Church and offered our prayers. During an evening walk and visited the local malls there; Christmas Celebration at Shillong is quite different from Siliguri. All the buildings and streets were decorated with lights Children's singing carols in the streets and having fun with crackers.

26th morning at 9 am we checkout from Siloam after breakfast. Fr. George Palamattathil, SDB, Director of Siloam suggested us to visit Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures (DBCIC) in Mawlai, Shillong, so before leaving we went to visit that. Don Bosco Museum is a world class museum exhibiting indigenous cultures of all the 8 states of North East India under one roof. It has 17 galleries on Culture, history, agriculture, tradition, technology, costumes, etc and a skywalk which provides a 360 degree glimpse of Shillong. We have travelled to many parts of India and visited different museums but this one was the best we have ever visited. Having our lunch on the way we headed for Guwahati. We reached Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati at evening, after offering prayers there we went to local market of Guwahati the Fancy Bazaar and Pan Bazaar. We had our dinner there and we boarded the train for N.J.P. at 10:30pm from Guwahati Station.

It was a wonderful experience as in those few days we got an opportunity to know more about our friends and spend some valuable time with each other and above all to pay a visit to such wonderful places in India. The beauty of Meghalaya will always remain as fresh and sweet memory in our hearts. Those 5 days of trip made such a beautiful bond among us that we are sure each one of us will cherish for lifetime.

We are grateful to our dear Chanchal Bhaiya, who organised everything so nicely and as always was a great person to be with.





# Congratulations



**Our heartiest congratulations for Mr. Saurav Agrawal and Ms. Ankita Agarwal (both are Alumni of Siliguri campus) for tying the nuptial knot. Wishing you both happy conjugal life**



**We wish Mr. Dillip Toppo ( 2003-06 batch of Sonada campus) a happy married life ahead**



**We congratulate Fr. Gabriel Colney ( 2006 batch of Sonada campus) for his Priestly Ordination which was held at Christ the King Cathedral Church, Kulikawn, Aizwal.**

**Congratulations to Fr. Patric Lepcha for his 5th ordination anniversary**



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