



SCS... THE NOSTALGIA IS STILL ON-
AN ALBUM OF UNIQUE COLLECTION
OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS
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**FROM INDIA TO
PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

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**MY TEACHERS WERE MY FRIENDS &
MY FRIENDS WERE MY TEACHERS**

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**SOME MEMBERS OF SALESIAN COLLEGE SILIGURI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATED IN THE
PROVINCIAL ANIMATION DAY FOR THE FIRST TIME WHICH WAS HELD ON SUNDAY, 1ST MAY 2016 AT THE
DON BOSCO SCHOOL, PARK CIRCUS, CALCUTTA**

- REPORT BY ROHIT AGARWAL

More Inside



Dear Friends (Alumni)

As we are entering the new month, I thought of sharing with you something that is thought-provoking.

There were three ships which were nearby when the Titanic sunk.

One of them was known as Sampson. It was 7 miles away from the Titanic and they saw the white flares signalling danger, but because the crew had been hunting seals illegally and didn't want to be caught, they turned and went the opposite direction away from the Titanic. This ship could represent us and people like us if we are so busy looking inward at our own mistakes and blunders that we can't recognize when someone else is in need.

The next ship was the Californian. This ship was only 14 miles away from the Titanic, but they were surrounded by ice fields and the captain looked out and saw the white flares, but because the conditions weren't favourable and it was dark, he decided to go back to bed and wait until morning. The crew tried to convince themselves that nothing was happening. This ship could represent those of us who say I can't do anything now. The conditions aren't right for it and so we wait until conditions are perfect before going out.

The last ship was the Carpathian. This ship was actually headed in a southern direction 58 miles away from the Titanic when they heard the distress cries over the radio. The captain of this ship knelt down, prayed to God for direction and then turned the ship around and went full steam ahead through the ice fields. This was the ship that saved the 705 survivors of the Titanic.

When the captain looked back at the ice fields they had come through, he said Someone else's hands must have been at the helm of this ship! This ship represents those of us who would pray to God for direction and then go without hesitation.

God whispers in our soul and speaks to our heart. We need to take time to listen to these whispers and take heed. Let us LEND OUR HANDS always to those in need.

Your Affectionate Father and Friend
Fr. (Dr.) Mathew Pulingathil SDB
Rector



From India to Papua New Guinea

- Fr. Robinson Parappilly
Philosophy Student at SCS 1998 - 99



Till the end of my days, O Lord I will bless your name. Sing your praise; give you thanks, all my days.

Greetings to you all Alumni of SCS from the mission land of Papua New Guinea. I have cherished the blue ridge mountains of Darjeeling as I spent two beautiful years of my life in the Lord's vineyard in the corridors of Salesian College Sonada. When I think about Sonada I never think about the philosophy studies or the philosopher's logic, anthropology, cosmology etc., but with love my confreres, friends and the beautiful mountains, sunset, tiger hill experience, long walks to the oratories, the stony roads, the greenery of tea gardens and the snow ridged mountains of Himalayas and above all the lovely and friendly people

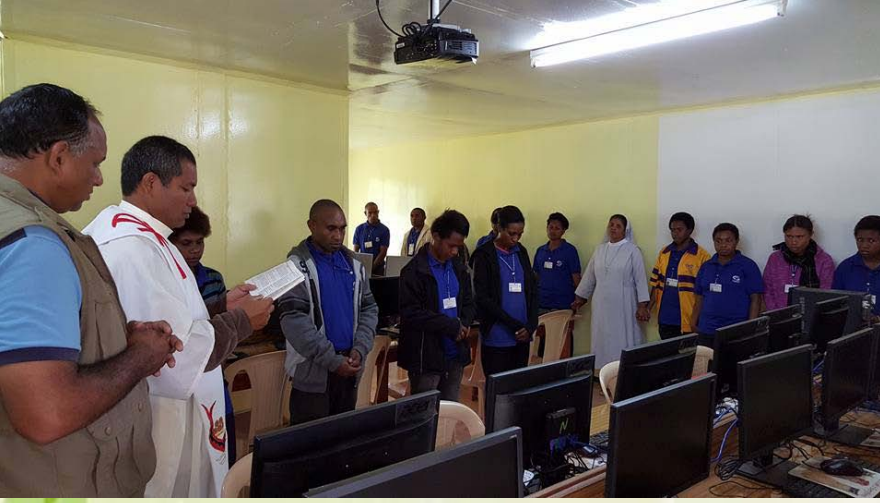


I like to share some of my experiences of missionary life in Papua New Guinea. I came to PNG in the year 2005 as a gift of Salesians in India to the world as we celebrated the centenary of the arrival of Salesians to India. There were twenty five Salesians sent out to different parts of the world as missionaries. Eight of us arrived PNG in the year 2005, of which five of us are still surviving as missionaries and doing humble missionary work.

Papua New Guinea is called the Land of paradise and also land of the unexpected. It's called land of paradise because it is one of the most beautiful countries I have seen and lived. Constitutionally it is a Christian Country. Papua New Guinea is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world with 852 languages, of which 12 have no known living speakers. Most of the population of over 7 million people live in customary communities, which are as diverse as the languages. It is also one of the most rural, as only 18 percent of its people live in urban centers. The country is one of the World's least explored, culturally and geographically, and many undiscovered species of plants and animals are thought to exist in the interior.

At the local level, the majority of the population still lives in strong customary societies and – while social life is overlaid with traditional religious cosmologies and modern practices, including conventional primary education – customary subsistence-based agriculture remains fundamental. These societies and clans are explicitly acknowledged within the nation's constitutional framework. The Papua New Guinea Constitution expresses





the wish for "traditional villages and communities to remain as viable units of Papua New Guinean society" and for active steps to be taken in their continuing importance to local and national community life. The people in general are friendly, peace loving and known for their peace mediations.

The contributions of missionaries and Churches play a vital role in the life of people and development of the country. We Salesians are recognized by the government as good citizens

of this country for the contribution we make in the field of education especially in the secondary and technical education. We have Eight Salesian Pastoral presences in PNG and Solomon Islands. All our Salesian presences are either secondary schools or technical colleges with three parishes. Salesian oratory is a daily feature in all our presences. All our schools have big number of hostel students, who live a very healthy atmosphere – when they are with us they do not sin – trying to be holy in Don Bosco way. We Salesians have very strong bond of relationship with government departments and local level governments. Our contribution in skilling Papua New Guineans is very much appreciated by the government. One of the landmarks of our Salesian apostolate is the Church Government partnership. As a Catholic Agency or permitted schools we try our best to cater to many young people who are dropouts, giving them a second chance in life. With the Salesian technical training they come out as victorious and successful Bosconians, good Christians and honest citizens of this country. Bosconians can be found in all industries, government departments, and private institutions and especially in the schools as educators and technicians. Don Bosco Simbu Technical College (DBSTC) stands as the first Catholic Agency Technical College in this country and is one of the best technical Colleges in the country.

The young people who are dropped out of the regular school system are prone to all kinds of evil practices in the society. Many of them turn to be rascals (robbers), drug addicts and alcoholics with promiscuous behavior etc. The institution DBSTC, where I presently work as Rector and principal caters to most of these kinds of young boys and girls. Once they come to our institution they truly find the meaning of their life. We can see their daily struggles in persevering in their goal. The Salesian accompaniment, preventive system and the educational methodology help them to be true Bosconians in their life.

The life in PNG is not that easy. It is called the land of the unexpected because anything can happen to your life at any time. It's more thrilling and adventurous. Many times we have the unexpected happenings in our life. The cultural differences and clans and tribal differences (strong Wantok system) among people sometimes is a big challenge. Tribal fights, Polygamous practices and instability of families are contributing factors. You need to have a lot of patience to live with people and understand their behavior. Here one will learn to be sympathetic and merciful like



the father which makes us more religious and Christian. We live with people in the villages. I was infected with Malaria almost 20 times. That has made me stronger and healthier in my life. Once I was attacked by rascals - almost 15 young people with guns jumped in front of my car and robbed my vehicle and all school goods on the highway at about 10.30am. I was held at gun point for more than three hours in the jungle. Once the speed boat (dinghy) which we were travelling in rough seas was capsized and had great escape with the help of my guardian angels. Many times we got stuck on the rough roads that took its toll on the truck and spent long hours on road waiting for help. The rough and muddy roads have hardened all our back bones for more work and travel. I consider all these as great adventures of missionary life. My Sunday walks to Oratories of the valleys and hills of Sonada have given me the foundation for this great vocation. A great salute to my SCS for the education and volunteering spirit. May she continue to produce more and more enthusiastic and energetic volunteers to this great mission land.

“SCS ...The Nostalgia is still on ... Series 2



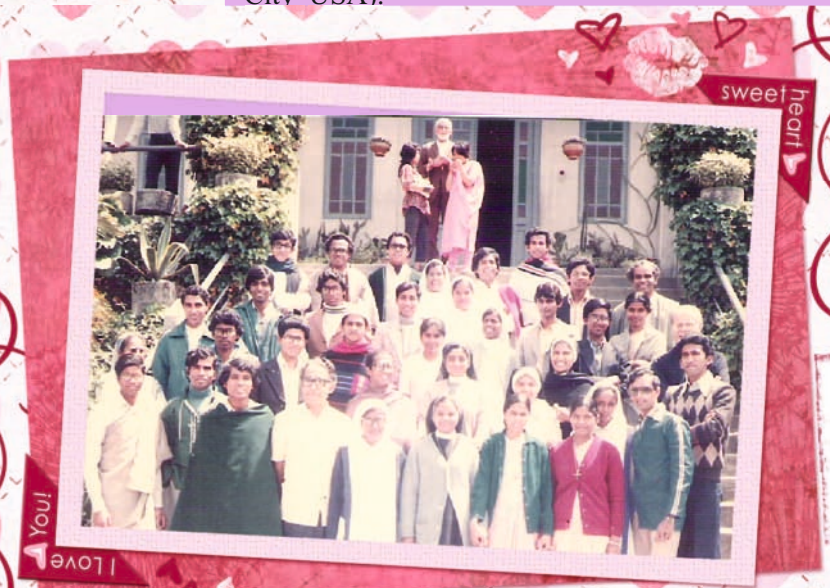
“Dear Alumni of Salesian College Sonada and Siliguri campus, I wish you a similar experience like us that will make you God-fearing men and women and honest citizens” - Mr. Thomas Mathew D.

“SCS ...The Nostalgia is still on ...” Is an album of unique collection of old photograph by Mr. Thomas Mathew D. He is the graduate of 1985 batch from Sonada campus. Presently he is working as Associate Professor of English in an Engineering College of Erode, Tamil Nadu.

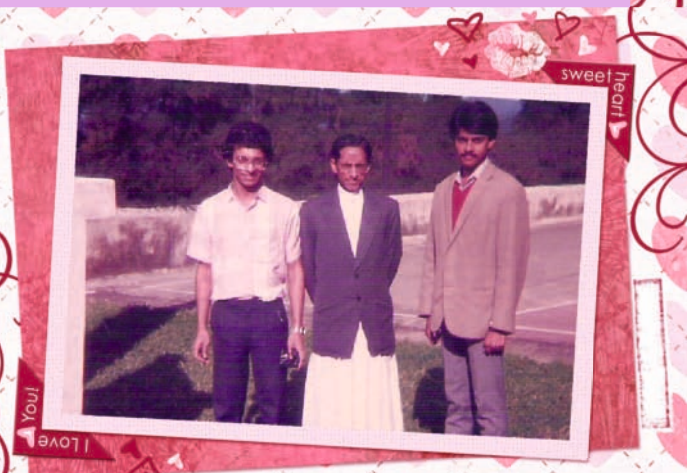


The 1985 batch at Sonada Buddhist Monastery in Nov. 1983: Rev. P.C. James (Chandigarh), Bro. Mathew John (Verona-Italy), Rev. V.S. Sebastian, Rev. Edward Dang, Mr. K.A. George, Rev. Joe Mannath (from Chennai) the youngest Lama we've ever seen!, Dr. T.K. Pius, Prof. of English (Calicut University), Rev. P.M. Jose, Dr. Thomas Mathew, Rev. Jason Thomas, Rev. Hilarius Kullu, Rev. Shaji Joseph (Salesian Pontifical Univeristy-Rome), Rev. Arokiasamy A. (Sri Lanka), Rev. Soroj Mullick, Mr. Sabu Isaac (Sydney-Australia), Rev. Bp. Leo Michael (Texas City-USA).

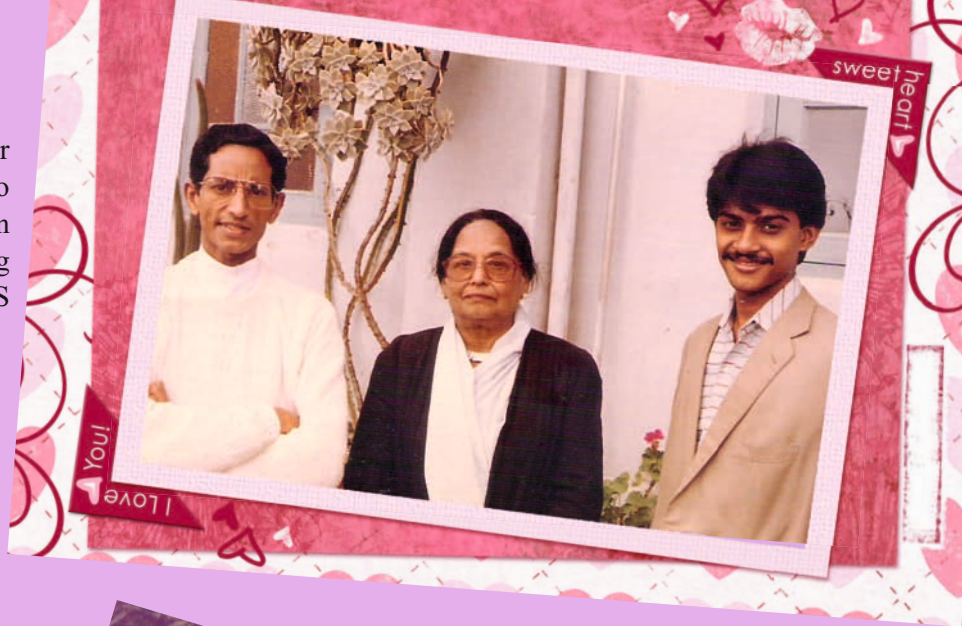
1985 April: International Conference of YCS (Young Christian Students)-Animators at SCS. Prominent members: Rev. C.M. Paul (ADBU)-front row, extreme right; Top row: Rev. P.M. Jose, Rev. Philip Kattakkayam (Bettia Diocese – Bihar), Mr. Dictus Correa (Dubai), Mr. K.A. George (MP). Right on top stands Rev. Jellicci with two girls from Gorabari.



Rev. V. G. Vincent (Valiaveettil) was the Principal of SCS from 1981 to 1985



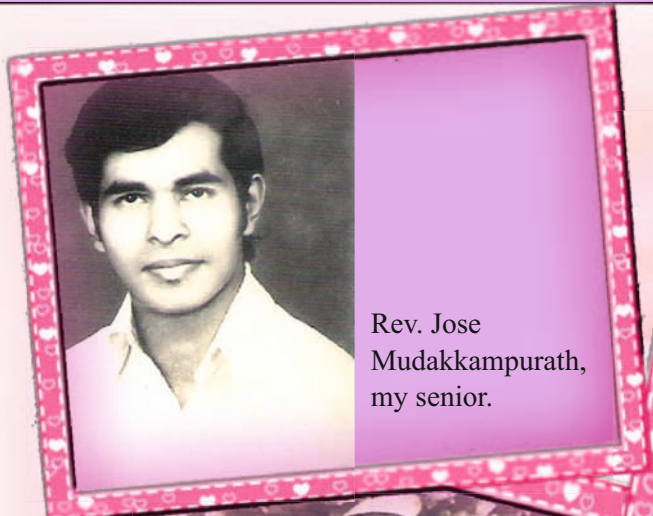
Mrs. Nomita Ghosal, our English Professor, who used to shuttle between Loretto College, Darjeeling and SCS



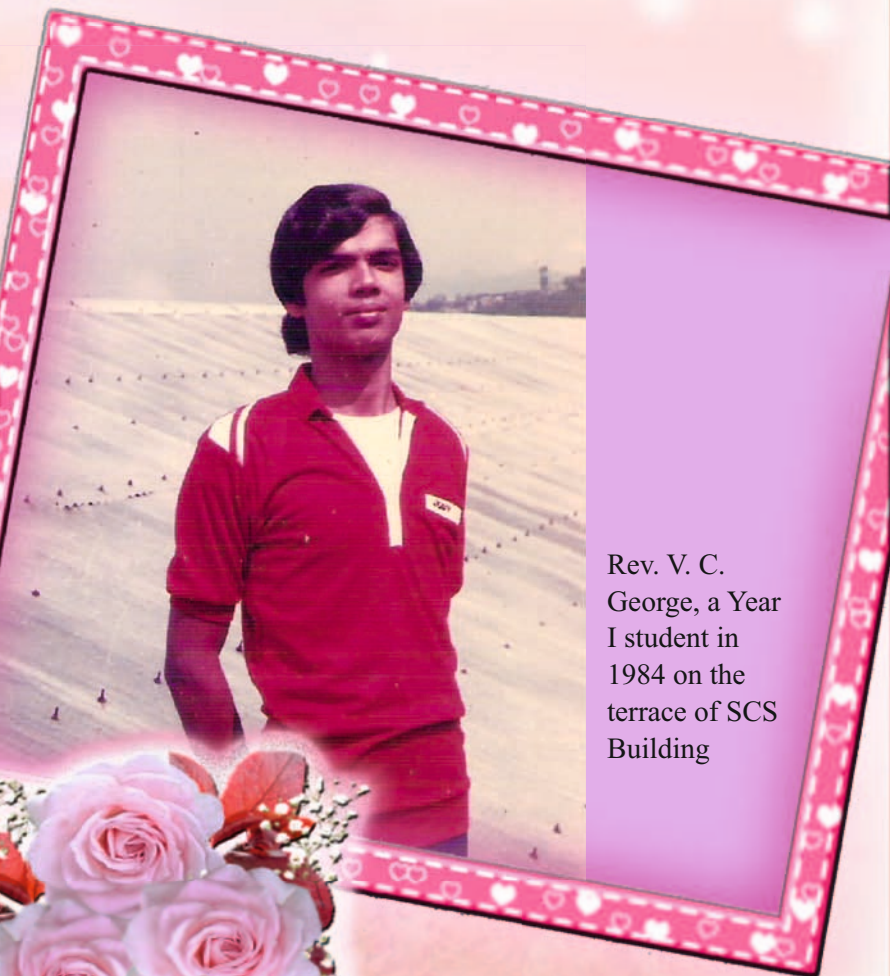
Rev. Jellici



With my senior Rev. Andrew Sarkar, my senior in SCS taken in the present Siliguri Campus. Clicked back then in 1988.



Rev. Jose Mudakkampurath, my senior.



Rev. V. C. George, a Year I student in 1984 on the terrace of SCS Building



Rev. Jose Koyickal, my junior who is now in Bangalore, running colleges





Bro. Mathew John and I with Rev. John Berger a veteran of Siliguri, taken in front of Nazareth Bhavan Siliguri

The Tiger Hill dawn with Rev. Sebastian Alencheril



A group presentation at the YCS Seminar: There were SJs, SMIs, Clarists, SDBs, MSMIs, Diocesans and others from Bangladesh.



With Rev. Michael Karikkunnel, Sdb, who went as a Missionary to Africa - Kenya. Clicked near the front door of SCS in 1988
(Contd.....)



Siliguri Don Bosco and Nazareth Bhavan prepared us for SCS. And there was none who prepared us for a tough life than Rev. Puncha (RIP), a Sanyasi Master to young novices who aspired to be educators for the young... Left to Right: TMD, Shaji (front), Pius TK, PM Jose Pampady, Fr. Puncha, KA George, Sabu Isaac Kureethadom (front) and Jason Thomas Nedumkallel. (All are doing well in their own fields)



My Teachers were my Friends and my Friends were my Teachers!!!

Tony Thomas, 2014 batch of Siliguri campus



If you try and meditate on the above phrase I am sure most of you will understand what I'm about to convey through this. It was an extremely crucial part of my life. Though I came from a Commerce background I did not have even a slight inclination towards Mathematics. As I entered the Salesian College in Siliguri (West Bengal) to pursue my Bachelor's in Commerce, I remember putting a tick on the option of B.Com Honors not realizing the difference between this and the general course. To my utter amazement I later found that Maths was the honors subject in first year. The only thought that struck me on the very first day of my college was "I am gone.....!!!!!!". Well God Almighty has beautiful plans for all of us. If he had brought me so far away from home and my family he definitely had set a family for me in Siliguri, My Salesian Family, from Principal and teachers to non teaching staff, my friends, everyone was special for me. All of them have contributed towards my growth. Once someone gets such a wonderful atmosphere around it's easy to find solutions to any kind of problems. It's because of the fact that I was not the only one taking the decisions; I had a number of people around me for guidance and suggestions. I remember in my school days Teachers used to say that "If you have any doubt ask a 100 times." I actually applied this theory during my college days, not only for my subjects but also for my day to day problems. The same word goes for my friends the only difference is they were there to face my problems with me. I am sure while reading this many of the teachers who taught me or even those who didn't teach me will go back to those days. Once there is a great bond with teachers and friends it becomes a beautiful journey, I bet!!!

I remember when I first stepped in to my classroom I was in search of a friend who belongs to my culture or religion. Although it was childish to think that way but we all somehow do so. But with time my thoughts underwent a series of changes. The people I met were from different cultures and I was the only South Indian. I was accepted by all as I was and probably it is the best thing that happened with me. In life it's very tough to get trust worthy friends. We never know when life will startle us with a change. I remember one of my friends who poured out all his knowledge when we studied together for the first year exam. But the shock that I had to face was, he didn't qualify the exam but I did. I owe to my buddy my respect and sincere gratitude. Today he is doing really well in his life. With time my path was getting paved for the better. The journey I thought cumbersome one turned out to be a joyous ride. My teachers and friends proved to be the stepping stones on my path.

I would end by saying that no matter how hard the challenge life throws, we have the strength to endure it all. My college proved to be a turning point in my life. I accepted all my challenges slowly and gradually with the much needed support from my teachers and friends. I am in debt to all of them. It is because of these wonderful people I learnt beautiful lessons for the rest of my life.

I will cherish my college memories throughout my life...!!!!

More such write-ups on the way, stay tuned with me to listen my sharing!!!!





Provincial Animation Day

Rohit Agarwal, Committee Member(2015 Batch BBA)

Some members of Salesian College Siliguri Alumni Association participated in the Provincial Animation Day for the first time which was held on Sunday, 1st May 2016 at the Don Bosco School, Park Circus, Calcutta. Mr. Chanchal Agarwal, president of the unit and Mr. Rohit Agarwal, Committee Member was the participants.

We were given a heartily welcome by Mr. Pankaj Minocha, President of the Provincial unit. Indeed they were happy with our presence and also appreciated for the same. The day started by hosting our National Flag by Fr. Bikash Mondal. Delegate, Provincial Unit followed by the National Anthem.

The event commenced with the welcoming words by Mr. Biswanath Trivedi, Secretary of the Provincial unit. Fr. Joseph, Vice Provincial was present as a special guest for the day. The portrait of Saint Don Bosco was garland and felicitated by everyone present. Members from different units from different parts of the country were present. Presidents and secretaries from every unit were welcomed with the bouquets by the members of the provincial unit.

This was followed by the Animation session which comprised of two sessions. The first one was delivered by Fr. Bikash Mondal, Provincial Delegate and other one by Fr. Joseph, the Vice Provincial. The theme of the session was: **“With Jesus and Don Bosco we walk the way..... to relieve the Valdo co experience.”** The aim of the session was to motivate the units serve the underprivileged in their local areas.

It turned out to be a wonderful experience and exposure for us. It was a platform for us to showcase our efforts and to make our unit get recognition. We are glad to be a part of such wonderful and important event.