leeue 31st December 2011

THE GOOD NEWS FOR TODAY

The Lord said to me: You are my Son; this day have I begotten you,

Dear Friends,



With hearts full of Christmas joy and peace, we offer you that most excellent gift- the God made man! In every year we greet each other by keeping alive that truth, "God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son, that all who believe in him might not perish, but might have eternal life [John 3:16].

A s every year, the Rector Major presents a theme for every Salesian Mission Day which expresses the missionary dimension of our vocation, keeps alive our missionary commitment and implements God's marvelous plan. During this year 2012 the theme is "telling the story of Jesus".

We can learn from a little story-teller who on every Sunday afternoon used to repeat the sermon and entertain his companions with daring tricks. That story-teller was Don Bosco. He trained his boys tell bible stories and gives moral and doctrinal lessons.

Growing in a culture of oral tradition which explained the meaning of life and the great values of faith through stories, they discovered their identities in the lives of the saints. Don Bosco effectively portrayed the different characters, presented their moods and highlighted their contrasts. Soon Don Bosco discovered the power of a good story and he made this art in order to enlighten the minds and touch the hearts. In this way he leads his listeners to value the things he loves.



As a little boy, Don Bosco enjoyed delighting his friends at Becchi with his stories, as read in the *Memoirs of the Oratory:* "But it was to hear my stories that they flocked round me. They loved them to the point of folly."





As a priest, Don Bosco continued to make use of story-telling in order to carry out his mission effectively- catechism lessons, sermons, bible stories, lives of saints and especially the "Good nights". The lives of the boys that grew at the oratory (Dominic Savio, Michael Magone and Francis Besucco) are his more successful and effective writings.

Don Bosco was a great story-teller, his followers and mission partners continue to fascinate the listeners with these simple stories that the last 150 years can tell us.



Imagine if this child cannot go to school because schools are far from home. This is a reality in some villages in rural Cambodia- no schools, no teachers, no rights, nothing.....they even have NO FUTURE! Our Don Bosco Children Fund's slogan "education for all, all for education" has been going on since 25th January 1992. Please help us to protect and promote the rights of children to a life befitting the human dignity and to work toward their basic education, skills training and wholesome integration into society.

With thanks and gratitude, The Don Bosco Children Fund Management

