



Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit



BREAKING BOUNDARIES

Be a PATHFINDER
and a TRAILBLAZER

Our main initiative in going to the missions is giving weight to the role of education in the field of the evangelization of the young.

An important missionary element is the focus on INITIATIVE “**Seeing what needs to be done and doing it.**” The critical part of INITIATIVE is learning how to get started. However, most people don't even start because they do not know where they are going. Hence, if you can see the path, it is much easier to have INITIATIVE. Too many times, a missionary get excited and wants to be immediately in-charge. However, it takes goals and the initiative to reach them to become better in serving the young that will take a *life time* to perfect. We have much so much to learn from what Don Bosco gave us by example through the Preventive System. There is a lot of work to be done

considering that education involves a process.

The person who can act with initiative and daringly in our world is a person who is loved and nurtured. Such a person is inwardly replenished. Such a person can take advice and encouragement. One becomes a pathfinder and a trailblazer after indulging in true prayer for the one who prays has the courage to stretch out his arms and be led.

Don Bosco has been the initiator of a large movement which serves the young. Today the educational initiative started by Don Bosco has become a large network and is present in more than 140 countries. Our main initiative in going to the

missions is giving weight to the role of education in the field of the evangelization of the young. Without education, in fact, there is no deep and lasting evangelization; there is no growth or process of maturity; there is no change of mentality or of culture. Young people have within them a deep desire for a full life, for genuine love, for constructive freedom. This requires that whoever is guiding them opens up wider educational horizons, while paying attention to the new forms of youth poverty, to higher education, to immigration; in addition it means giving attention to the family and to its involvement. Dig deep. Break boundaries. Be a pathfinder and a trailblazer.

SIMPLE HINTS: INITIATIVE



1. Do what you can where you are with what you've got.
2. Ignore those who try to discourage you.
3. If you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange ideas, we now have two ideas.
4. Nothing is impossible; there are ways that lead to everything, and if we had sufficient initiative, we should always have sufficient means.
5. Shun idleness.
6. Have an eye for what is hidden. See what is to be done and do it.
7. Let all your initiative be directed to a common good. This is more fulfilling and satisfying.
8. **BE THE FIRST MAN** **BE THE LAST MAN**
Be the first to know Be the last to leave
Be the first to do Be the last to say no
Be the first to be
Be the first to say yes



he Don Bosco Technical School in Tuol Kork, Phnom Penh, has the ordered atmosphere of a German industrial estate and environment. Large buildings line clean streets where a myriad of signs promote cleanliness in the middle of one of the fastest emerging property hotspots in the capital.

be used. The metal frame is still conspicuous and therefore they still have a value. Likewise, the iron or the potential to be rebuilt is a possibility. Yet, it took a very long time to convince skeptics and get permission from the government to be able to start producing The Bench.

courses. The students are selected out of more than 3,000 applicants who come from the neediest sections of society. They are enrolled in a two-year course after which half of them are given apprenticeships at the school.

Moreover, the best students are offered jobs as teachers and trainers at the school.

Along with other avant-

The Bench will hopefully come to represent a powerful symbol of Cambodia's ability to turn tragedy into triumph!



As you approach the welding department, the sound of construction can be heard with a white-haired man working on a piece of furniture. Val Sutherland, 70, is a seasoned engineer with the Australian Business Volunteers (ABV) programme. He offers professional knowledge in teaching students in Don Bosco to make quality products and at the same time learning the craft with precision. He is responsible for designing a prototype of a wooden garden bench with arms and legs made from **AK-47** automatic rifles. The said project is called **The Bench**.

The extraordinary peace symbol benches were no easy project to conceptualize and make. It was not easy to get clearance for the weapons to

garde furnitures made from decommissioned weapons collected by the Cambodian government through the late 1990s and early 2000s, such initiatives will be showcased to the public. The proceeds from the sale of the furniture will go to Don Bosco.

The project aims to lay to rest the popular image of Cambodia as a war-torn country where misuse of illicit weapons and weapon related crimes is an ongoing issue; inasmuch as the country is becoming recognized as a world leader for its weapons destruction program. "The project is significant for this country because it is turning weapons into art," says Father Leo Ochoa, SDB.

Today the 600 students at Phnom Penh are learning the trade with other vocational

Since 2000 all the teachers have been Cambodian. By summer 2008, Don Bosco in Phnom Penh – it has other schools in Kompong Som, Kep, Battambang and Poipet – will have trained more than 3,000 students in several vocational courses.

The students are assured to get a job after leaving Don Bosco. They are among the top craftsmen in Cambodia and are much sought after.

On the other hand, Val Sutherland, even after his 2008 ABV tenure is completed, the Don Bosco students will continue to produce The Bench, which will hopefully come to represent a powerful symbol of Cambodia's ability to turn tragedy into triumph!