

AUXILIARIES OF THE MISSION



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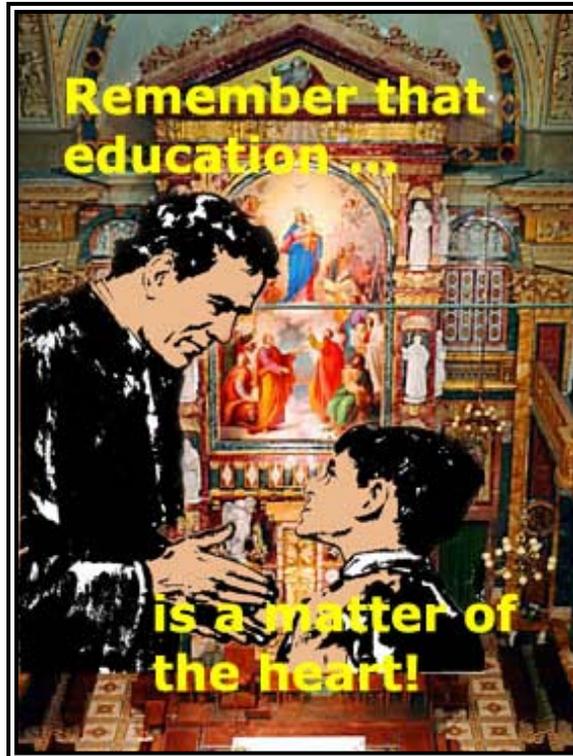
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“STRIVE TO MAKE YOURSELF LOVED”

Loving kindness sees the heart and does not see the surface. It uses not the eye of what externalities alone are seen but with the eyes of faith. We look at the young people in the mission areas not by the color of their skin or by curls of their hair but by the love of God for them. They are gifts of God for us.

Loving kindness or **amorevolezza** is rooted in the charity of the Good Shepherd. It is the key that gives access to the heart of every young person. There are very few people who rebel in the face of genuine goodness. One gets discipline with a blend of kindness and firmness, and by never asking what is above the strength of the child.

In a dream towards the end of his life, Don Bosco narrates to his Salesians and boys of a past pupil by the name of Valfre who appears to him and explains the efficacy of loving kindness. "See", said Valfre, "familiarity leads to affection, and affection leads to confidence; confidence opens the heart which reveals everything without fear. They become frank and docile to whatever is told them by the one who they feel certain loves them".



Of course, the path of loving kindness is not always easy. To become a friend of young people is a slow conquest. Affection cannot be imposed. Don Bosco knew it too well, "In every young heart, even of the most unfortunate, there is a chord". The heart is like a fortress, always closed to rigidity

and harshness. Hence his advice to educators and parents: "**Strive to make yourself loved**".

Don Bosco wants a type of love in the company of the young that manifests itself in concrete gestures, in one's behavior, in one's manner of acting, of speaking, in the tone of the voice, in the smile. "If the young feel that they are loved because the educators take part in the things that are pleasing to them, they learn to love the things they naturally don't like, such as discipline, study, etc., and these things they learn to do with enthusiasm and love".

Don Bosco lived this principle. With all the work he had in hand, he spent time with them in recreation to converse, play, crack jokes, recount lively stories, and laugh heartily with them. This was good and useful for the education of the young.

Don Bosco lived more than forty years in the midst of boys. He claimed that he got whatever he asked for from them, and never even once did he need to raise his hand or his voice. The secret of his success with boys was Loving Kindness.

SIMPLE HINTS: Loving - Kindness

1. "Smile Always!" – Blessed Laura Vicuna, just 13.
2. Treat people as kings and queens.
3. Don't forget to say thank you to the simplest services received from the most ordinary people including waiters, servants, gas boys, tellers, sales people, janitors and even to the boys.
4. Like what the boys like and they will like what you like.
5. Outgrow your anger by using reason and faith. Do not raise your voice, just improve your arguments.
6. If you want to be loved, you yourselves must love. Make the boys feel that you love them.
7. God trusts us! In return, give trust as a gift. Trust and give responsibilities to the children and to the boys.
8. Only one cardinal rule of any Salesian House: Be a Gentle – Man.

VISIONING to SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT thru EDUCATION and SKILLS TRAINING

Fr. Leo Ochoa, SDB

The **Don Bosco Foundation of Cambodia (DBFC)**, as NGO with project assignment agreement to the Cambodia Ministries, has the primary purpose of training orphaned and marginalized youth that are poor and have no sources of support to have basic education and an appropriate technical training for employable jobs and for future integration in the society. The new situation of today's Cambodia challenges the Salesian priests, brothers and lay educators to find new initiatives. As a result of poverty, many children were denied access to basic education and therefore, to professional and technical education. Therefore, since 1991 the Don Bosco Foundation of Cambodia came to being as a new style of Salesian presence.



Under a grant from July 1995 to December 2001, USAID/Cambodia has provided support to establish and help with the operation costs of four **Salesian Vocational Training Schools** in Cambodia. During these six and a half years, the Salesians have trained more than 1,500 youth for manpower that have mastered new knowledge and skills as well as developed attitudes suitable for the dynamic and changing workplace. Presently, 1,378 students undergo education and basic employable skills required by industries and the new social and economic programs and strategies of Cambodia. Our Technical Schools and Training Centers are still in the process of expanding and developing. We need to develop and improve human resources through guided and structured learning activities, provide students with practical know-how and skills by the use of developing training plans, curricula/modules, and /or methods used in the actual training activities.

The local job market demand for Don Bosco Technical School graduates is very encouraging with 100% of the yearly trainees-graduates (05 and 2006) finding employment even before their graduation. However, we must strive to secure good jobs and improve employment position through supervised learning method while in school environment with three competitive plus skills factors: **Computer, Internet Access and Agriculture/Farming** in order to practice appropriate work concepts and skills in improving their training tasks. Don Bosco has also contributed to the technical education in Cambodia by providing translations of technical books into Khmer Language and publishing them.



As a direct result of poverty many children were denied access to primary and secondary education, the Don Bosco Foundation of Cambodia offers scholarships to enable these children to go to school and receive education under the **Project Don Bosco Children Fund**.

To meet the needs of children living and working in **Bricks Factories** in Battambang, Project Don Bosco Literacy Center has two literacy centers to educate 210 children through an intensive three-year curriculum after which they are reintegrated into government formal high school curriculum.

In response to the **HIV/AIDS epidemic** in Cambodia, 450 AIDS orphans and/or children living in AIDS affected families are offered support in order to access to education and health care.



In addition to helping members from the poorest elements of a society, the Salesians have always had a special concern for homeless youth, orphans and young people in difficulties. **Project to Support Street Children and Disadvantaged Youth** in Poipet, a border town with Thailand is a strategy to fight social evil, promote basic education and improve the life chances of the children and disadvantaged youth.



It is a traditional element in Don Bosco Presences to have a place for more informal education through the Salesian Youth Movement style of seminars, scouting, retreats and youth centers. **Project Don Bosco Youth Center- Kep** provides these services

Visioning to Sustainable Development through Education and Skills Training is Don Bosco's answer to poverty reduction and peaceful re-construction of Cambodian society today.

(The Don Bosco Foundation of Cambodia (DBFC) is a Non Profit Organization and a national and international NGO with headquarters in Phnom Penh, Cambodia for education and support to children and youth from poor backgrounds or at risk. It was founded on May 24, 1991 in Phnom Penh by invitation of the Ministry of Education of Cambodia. Fr. Leo Ochoa is the Don Bosco Phnom Penh Rector and head for the DBFC organization. - <http://www.donboscokhmer.org/>)