

# MCCDS



## News & Views

**MONTFORT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY**

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of the

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**Educate A Girl,  
Educate the World**

# PROLOGUE

*This issue of MCDS News and Views covers a variety of topics with special emphasis on the Girl Child.*

*A visit (Pilgrimage) to MCDS by a group of students and teachers from Australia has also been highlighted.*

*On popular demand, particularly from institutions, MCDS News & Views will continue to carry inspiring quotes & interesting facts on environment, sustainable living & conservation of natural resources & habitat.*

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## **Readers are Welcome to Share their Views**

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## Editorial

### Risks and fears prompt girls' drop-out

Choose a classroom in a primary school in a developing world and it will probably be occupied by many more boys than girls. Poverty, the burden of domestic chores, traditions, overcrowded class rooms, walking distances to schools and sexual harassment keep girls out of school. Few governments and development agencies have adequately addressed the many needs, risks and fears of families as they make their decisions whether or not a daughter should go to school. Considering what is happening today in cities like Bangalore where children as young as 4 are no more safe in their own schools, the scenario is shameful and disgusting. The media, both print and electronic, is loaded with incidences of cruelties inflicted on innocent girl children.

It is generally admitted that school drop-out rate among girls is much higher than among the boys. Economic, social and physical factors are the compelling reasons. Several studies have identified poverty and involvement of girls in activities necessary for the survival of their families as the primary reasons. Such activities include domestic work . . . . . a large component of which is looking after younger siblings and in rural areas engaging in fetching fodder, water and fuel for the family.

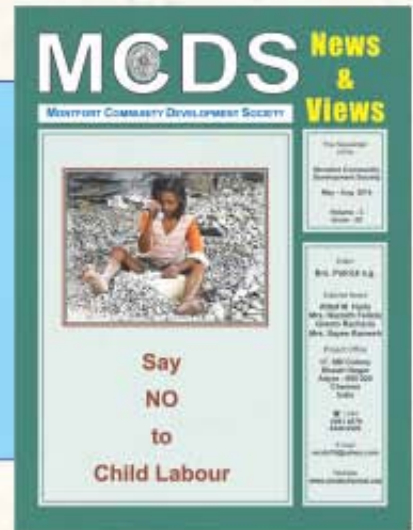
While in most countries of the world, there are more women than men, India has less women over-all. The primary factor responsible for this unhealthy phenomenon is of course the low value ascribed to women in Indian society. Consequently, many families prefer not to give birth to girls or do not nurture girls adequately. Not giving birth to girls is marked in many regions across the country by what the Nobel Prize winning Economist, Dr. Amartya Sen, calls the '**high-tech sexism**' – determining a foetus's sex and aborting the foetus if it happens to be a female. Studies have shown that girls' education plays an important role in building up a woman's self-esteem and exposing them to new ideas, including the idea that they have choices and can fight for their rights.

**Bro.Patrick s.g.**  
*Director, MCDS*

## THEY SAY

"Thanks for the issue of May-August 2014. I am glad you have highlighted Child Labour issue. The two case studies of Dorothy Helen and Shalima Begum were inspiring.

- **D.K.Oza**, I.A.S (Retd)  
Chennai



At the outset, let me thank you for the MCDS News & Views you so thoughtfully sent. I enjoyed going through the periodical which deals with the various activities of MCDS. Bro. Patrick, you are a Good Samaritan doing a wonderful service to humanity.

Rev. Bro. Wilfrid s.g., Yercaud, Salem

It is really an excellent eye - opener for those who want to know more about MCDS. Our wishes for a bright future.

K.S.Venkataraman, President,  
Rotary Club of Madras Besant Nagar

Please start a facebook social hub. This would help a million people to understand and promote your work.

**Tommy Mathew**, Bangalore  
( *It will be done, Tommy.*  
- Ed )

Thank you very much, makes great reading.

Rev. Bro. Lawrence Joseph s.g.,  
Bangalore

God bless you and help you continue the wonderful work you are doing for the less fortunate. That is amazing and really excellent, giving these children a chance to shine and reach for the stars! We wish you the very best and may you experience every success in your work.

Marguerite Roberts Wilson, U.K.

# FEMALE INFANTICIDE

India kills 10 million girls  
in 20 years



**“Female infanticide is the intentional killing of baby girls due to the preference for male babies and from low value associated with the birth of females.”**

- Marina Porras, “Female Infanticide and Foeticide”

The phenomenon of female infanticide is as old as many cultures, and has likely accounted for millions of gender-selective deaths throughout history. It remains a critical concern in a number of 'Third World' countries today, notably the two most populous countries on earth, China and India. In all cases, specifically female infanticide reflects the low status accorded to women in most parts of the world; it is arguably the most brutal and destructive manifestation of the anti-female bias that pervades '**patriarchal**' societies. It is closely linked to the phenomena of sex-selective abortion, which targets female fetuses almost exclusively and neglect of girl children.

**The bias against female in India is related to the fact that “Sons are called upon to provide the income; they are the ones who do most of the work in the fields.**

**With this perspective, it becomes clearer that the high value given to males decreases the value given to females.”**

**Marina Porras, “Female Infanticide and Foeticide”**

Those women who undergo sex determination tests and abort on knowing that the foetus is female are actively taking a decision against equality and the right to life for girls. In many cases, of course, the women are not independent agents but merely victims of a dominant family ideology based on preference for male children.

Karlekar, '**The Girl Child in India**'

To forget how to dig the earth and tend the soil is to forget ourselves.

- Mahatma Gandhi

# Violation of Innocence : Child Sexual Abuse and the Law

A society is judged by the way it treats its women and children. So is a judicial system. Nothing is more horrifying than the sexual abuse of a child; nothing more reprehensible than a judicial system that subsequently victimizes the victim, police behaviour that adds terror to agony.



*Child sexual abuse is the physical or mental violation of a child, coupled with sexual intent, usually by an older person who is in some position of trust or power vis-à-vis the child.*

Child abuse has been known through the ages. In a social environment like ours fear of being maligned forces the victim to keep silent. *In a culture which places too much importance on female sanctity, where women are meant to portray Sati, Savitri and Lakshmi rolled in one, the despair and trauma of an abused child is a harsh reality.*

When we find news items regarding rape of a child by a member of her own family, most of the time it might seem that such things happen only in poor, disorganized and unstable families, but that is mainly because these families are the ones which come to the attention of social services. Child abusers come from all strata of society. Apart from this there is a general belief that the child abuse is blatantly rampant only in European countries.

***The reality is that all over South Asia, the phenomenon exists, the magnitude of the problem in India now assuming serious proportions.***

Several new sections have been introduced under the Indian Penal Code (IPC ), Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and Indian Evidence Act (IEA).

## Sections dealing with child abuse

- ✓ Section 375 and 376
- ✓ Section 164, CrPC
- ✓ IPC Section 228(A), IPC
- ✓ Section 114A, IEA

*As a general rule the courts insist on corroboration of the evidence of the victim. But sexual abuse occurs behind closed doors and it is almost impossible to get an independent witness, where a young girl of tender age has been raped and she discloses the fact, there is no need for corroboration by independent testimony connecting the accused with the crime.*

A majority of sexual offences committed against children are not even reported, let alone prosecuted. If any individual is brought to trial, conviction is unlikely as cases are very difficult to prove. Moreover, sexual abuse cases are usually tried in criminal courts where defence counsel tactics include postponements or adjournments and cross-examination techniques are designed to confuse and discredit the child. As a result, offences of such type go unreported and even if they are reported the lengthy and cumbersome court procedures give enough time to the offender to pressurize the child to retract the statement.



In cases of rape and other criminal offences the onus is always on the prosecution to prove affirmatively each ingredient of the offence it seeks to establish and such onus never shifts. However the great suspicion against the accused is established beyond reasonable doubt on the basis of legal evidence and material on record, the offender cannot be convicted.



## Jus 4 Fun

A patient was waiting nervously in the examination room of a famous specialist.

“So who did you see before coming to me?” asked the doctor

“My local General Practitioner”.

“Your GP?” scoffed the doctor. “What a waste of time. Tell me, what sort of useless advice did he give you?”

“He told me to come and see you”.

# ON THE STREETS ... AT RISK !



Street children are mostly runaways who leave their houses due to a lot of family problems and they land up in the metropolitan cities and are forced into rag picking, begging, shoe shining, and to do odd jobs in small way -side hotels, bus stands, railway stations and pavements.

**Street children...** for whom the street has become his or her habitual abode, place of work and who is without adequate protection.

3 categories of Street Children are :

**Children on the Street ...** primarily working children who have regular contacts with their families and their focus in life is still the home.

**Children of the Street ...** the street is their home and seek shelter, food and essence of family among companions. Family ties still exist but at a lesser level.

**Abandoned Children...** children living on the streets completely on their own with practically no contact with the family. These runaways lost all ties with their biological family.



There is no limit to the amount of times an aluminium can can be recycled.



# The Nobel Peace Prize 2014

For the 2014 Peace Prize, the Nobel Committee selected India's Kailash Satyarthi and Pakistani teen activist Malala Yousafzai for the much –coveted award for their “struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.” The jury also said that it was “an important point for a Hindu and a Muslim, an Indian and a Pakistani, to join in a common struggle for education and against extremism”.

60-years old Satyarthi belongs to Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh. He was an electrical engineer who turned into an activist for Children's Rights at the age of 26. In 1983, he founded the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save the Childhood Movement) to fight child labour. ***His efforts have helped rescue thousands of children from bondage, trafficking and exploitative labour.***

Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani teenager who survived being shot in the head by a Taliban gunman was speaking in favour of girls' education, shared the Nobel Prize with Satyarthi during a glittering function at Oslo, Norway on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014.



Malala & Satyarthi . . . . . Nobel Peace Prize 2014

Earth is tipped at 23 and ½ degrees in orbit. That axis is what causes our seasons.

# MCDS Partnership with REACH



*Providing Community Health Care is a major concern of MCDS. With its own Mobile clinic, reaching out to the poor on a daily basis and its Dental Clinic-on-Wheels, reaching out to poor children in schools, MCDS also enjoys partnership with a number of health care providers. One such partnership is with REACH.*

An acronym for Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health, REACH was established in 1999 in response to the rolling out of the Revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP) in Tamil Nadu. REACH has been a key partner & leader in the fight against TB.

Although TB is a disease that can affect anyone, REACH focuses its energies on providing support to those from poorer economic backgrounds. The rationale is simple step in and provide access to information and services where there are few other options.

At REACH, it is believed that the fight against TB requires a multi-stakeholder, hands-on approach. In other words, everyone, in some way or the other, has a role to play in combating TB.

**How this works :** REACH facilitates effective & timely TB treatment for patients in the private sector, by encouraging private healthcare providers to participate in the DOTS programme and providing the necessary support for both patients & private practitioners.

**In a nutshell, the Private Public Mix (PPM) initiative involves:**

- Providing DOTS services to patients
- Initiating treatment as per the DOTS guidelines
- Counselling TB patients about the disease and DOTS

- Home visits to monitor the patients progress over the 6 to 8 months of treatment
- Providing support in terms of nutrition and medical tests
- Identifying patients who have stopped treatment & motivating them to complete it
- Obtaining second opinions from government doctors for special cases
- Networking with the local TB units for procuring DOTS boxes and providing feedback to the government TB units
- Documentation

In addition, REACH also provides training to private providers, sharing new research on TB as well as updates in TB diagnosis and treatment.

### Identifying DOTS providers:

DOTS providers are usually committed volunteers, who take on the responsibility of helping a TB patient complete his/her treatment. In other words, they ensure that a patient swallows the required tablets, often on a daily basis, and provides emotional support as well.



### TB Facts :

TB is an infectious disease caused by Bacteria .

TB is not hereditary.

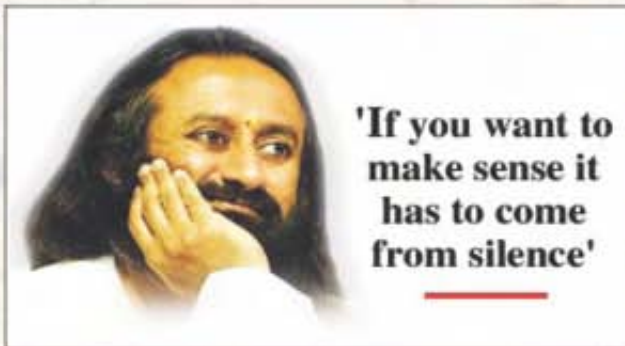
It does not pass from parent to child or in any genetic manner.

Most people in India are infected with TB bacteria but only a few will get the disease.

TB spreads through the air when a Pulmonary TB patient coughs or sneezes.

TB is completely curable.

# MCDS & The Art of Living



Founded in 1981 by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, The Art of Living is an educational and humanitarian movement engaged in stress-management and service initiatives. The organization operates globally in 152 countries and has touched the lives of over 370 million people.

The programs are guided by Sri Sri's philosophy of peace: "Unless we have a stress-free mind and a violence-free society, we cannot achieve world peace." To help individuals get rid of stress and experience inner peace, The Art of Living offers stress-elimination programs which include breathing techniques, meditation and yoga. These programs have helped millions around the world to overcome stress, depression and violent tendencies.

**The Art of Living movement has spread peace across communities through diverse humanitarian projects, including conflict resolution, disaster relief, sustainable rural development, empowerment of women, prisoner rehabilitation, education for all and environmental sustainability.**

Yoga classes at the Art of Living, so much more than just a flexible and healthy body. Classes comprise not only of fitness and yoga postures, they include unique breathing techniques - like *Sudarshan Kriya*, as well as meditation that lead to a stress-free, healthy and happy life.

Take home a more relaxed, healthier and happier You with easy-to-use tools that maintain wellness for as long as lifelong. *Sudarshan Kriya*, a unique breathing technique taught in the classes serves as a powerful tool for harmonizing body, mind and spirit.

MCDS considered it a privilege to be closely associated with the "Art of Living" movement to benefit a number of our women self-help-groups(SHGs) and their families/friends. Each selected group of twenty goes through a training program lasting seven days and three such groups have successfully completed this program. Training for many more groups will follow.



Being trained to be silent

## MCDS celebrates “ Children & Grandparents' Day ”

Among the many celebrations at MCDS, the Annual Children and Grandparents' day takes pride of place. This program coinciding with the Children's Day, has participants from the MCDS Senior Citizens' Forum, Child Labour Rehabilitation Program, Disability Rehabilitation, Evening Tuition Centres and Open School for school drop-outs. The large gathering included Government officials from the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) and Labour Department, Heads of schools associated with the Child Labour Rehabilitation Program, Principals of Santhome Hr.Sec.School, Chennai and Montfort Schools at St. Thomas Mount, Chennai and Yercaud in Salem District along with other friends and well-wishers.

The timing and perfection evinced showed that every item was practised and rehearsed to perfection. Their were dances and a variety of other programs much to the admiration and wonder of the large gathering. It was so impressive that the Chief Guest of the day Rev.Dr.Bro.Irudhayam, Principal, Santhome Hr.Sec.School requested the MCDS Director for a repeat performance by the elders and Children with Disabilities at the Santhome Hr.Sec.School Christmas Program on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. *(It was no surprise that they got a standing ovation at Santhome Indoor Stadium on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December)*

*Here is an pictorial account of the event.*



MCDS  
celebrates



This is what life is all about, not working at this tender age

“ Children  
&  
Grandparents'  
Day ”



Jam packed auditorium



The senior citizens at their best



This is Rekha, once a child labourer



Rev. Bro. (Dr) Irudhayam, Principal, Santhome Hr. Sec School the Chief Guest of the day, addressing the gathering



There is gift for everyone

We're reaching the point where the Earth will have to end the burden we've placed on her, if we don't lift the burden ourselves. - Steven M. Greer

## Valedictory for Pre - Marital Counselling Programme

Pre-Marital Counseling for young boys and girls is an annual feature at MCDS. Spread over four months, this year's programme for 30 young men started on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July with Rev. Dr. Jerry s.j., the popular counsellor inaugurating the program.



Dr. Alangaram s.j. at a session

MCDS wishes to place on record its gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Jerry for ever willing to positively respond to our invitations. Topics most suited for this particular age group were handled by best available talents in this field. The Valedictory Function held on November 5<sup>th</sup> was presided over by Dr. Alangaram s.j., yet another popular motivator and speaker.

Participation Certificates were distributed by Bro. Patrick s.g., Director of MCDS.



One for the album

### India's Population 2014

Current Population of India in 2014	1,270,272,105 (1.27 billion)
Total Male Population in India	655,875,026 (655.8 million)
Total Female Population in India	614,397,079 (614.4 million)
Sex ratio	940 females per 1,000 males
0 to 25 years	50% of India's current population

**Currently, there are about 51 births in India in a minute**

India's Population in 2012	1.22 billion
India's Population in 2011	1.21 billion

# A Most Welcome Visit

MCDS was privileged to have a day-long visit of our friend and benefactor Mr. Ulrich Walter from Germany. This friendship began with Mr. Ulrich generously donating a whole range of equipment for the MCDS Dental Clinic on Wheels.

*Here is a pictorial account of the quality time he spent at MCDS.*



At one of the 17 Child Labour Rehabilitation "Transit Schools"



At the MCDS office with the Director



At the Open School for school drop-outs



At one of the centres for children with disabilities



At the Mobile Dental Clinic which Mr. Ulrich made a reality

Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a songbird will come.  
- Chinese proverb



## A New Centre for Our “SPECIAL CHILDREN”

Chemmencherry , some 20 kms from Chennai city is home to about 9000 families relocated there from Chennai slums. Along with programs for women and health care, MCDS has been involved in care of children with



MCDS Director inaugurating the centre

disabilities for which the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board had allocated two tenements (each measuring 135 sq.ft). Thanks to the dynamic Managing Director of TamilNadu Slum Clearance Board, a plot of land just sufficient to build a hall, measuring about 500 sq.ft was made available to MCDS. Thanks to generous contribution from people of goodwill, the construction of the hall is ready and put to use from 10<sup>th</sup> December. The facility will also have a tailoring centre for the members of the MCDS Women Self-Help-Groups of that area. It will also host the gathering of the members of the Senior Citizens' Forum in the evenings and the week-end meetings of the women SHG leaders.

MCDS would like to express its appreciation to Dr. Palanisamy, I.A.S., the dynamic Managing Director of the TamilNadu Slum Clearance Board, the Community Development Wing of the Board and the Engineering wing of Chemmencherry Township for making this dream a reality.



Our Special children with their parents

Sooner or later, wittingly or unwittingly, we must pay for every intrusion on the natural environment.

- Barry Commoner

# Power of Partnership

MCDS greatly values the partnerships that have been cultivated over the years. One such is with the Rotary Club of Madras Besant Nagar. This partnership has made possible a great deal, particularly in the fields of Women Empowerment and Community Health Care. While MCDS, particularly members of women SHG identifies locations and beneficiaries, the Rotary club mobilises specialists and the needed medicines.



Yet another Medical Camp was organised on November 30<sup>th</sup> at Government Higher Secondary School, Thiruvanniyur, Chennai 600 041. Specialists for problems relating to Skin, Geriatric, General Health and Eye care were on attendance. As many as 300 persons benefitted from this initiative.



The organising team



200,000 people a day are moving to cities from environments that no longer support them.

## “Pilgrims” from Australia @ MCDS

They were 16 in all, 4 teachers and 12 students from Rostrevor College, Adelaide, Australia. Like their predecessors, these boys too were on a pilgrimage to India from November 26<sup>th</sup> to December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014. At Kolkata, they spent about a week with Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity caring for the sick and the dying. At Delhi and Goa, they spent days with select NGOs, reaching out to the poor, abandoned and the disabled.

The last leg of the pilgrimage was with MCDS from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2014. They spent many hours with Children with Disabilities, Child labourers and Street Children, Children from our Evening Tuition centres, School drop-outs from Montfort “Open School” and leaders from our Women self-help-group programmes.

Right from the very beginning, they showed that they are in India not as a tourist but to be one with the less fortunate and the privileged few who are called to help make a difference.

**Here is what they had to say after their visit to MCDS :**

*My sincere thanks to the hospitality that we were shown. The dedication and genuine passion that is shown by the people who work and volunteer for MCDS is inspiring for me personally as I intend to pursue a career in education.*



Welcome to MCDS

..... "Pilgrims" from Australia @ MCDS

The opportunity to be involved with MCDS displayed the wide range of programs employed by the society. The program run to educate victims of child labour



empowers the students to create future aspirations and options for career pathways. This gives the children a chance to change the course at their lives for the

better. MCDS is an amazing society that strives for human dignity and equality to build a greater India, and furthermore the world as a whole. – Patrick Thomas

This week has been a very good experience. The school for special children was probably my best experience from MCDS as we were not only told how the basket making, envelope making and incense making benefitted the children and adults but also allowed us to interact with them. This is what I enjoyed the most. – Harry Simpson



..... "Pilgrims" from Australia @ MCDS

MCDS presents a diverse range of projects that aim to empower the less-privileged throughout India. The idea of evoking community development through education is inspiring and provides a greater capacity for widespread change.

– Ben Jonas



An interesting interface with Dr. Ravi Kumar, our Dentist

I FOUND THE WORK BEING DONE BY MCDS TO BE TRULY INSPIRING. MOST PEOPLE IN BRO. PATRICK'S POSITION WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ONE AREA OR

WITH ONE FACILITY BUT MCDS CATERS FOR ALL ACROSS SO MANY DIFFERENT PLACES. THE SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE WAS TRULY INSPIRING. ALL THIS IS PURELY DUE TO BRO. PATRICK AND HIS DEDICATED TEAM. – Liam Holland

Thank you Bro. Patrick for the amazing experience that you enabled me to have by opening up your projects for our group to see. When I think over the past week, the moment that stays in my mind is when I was walking along the beach road to one of the centres, the sights of the homes in which communities were living in and knowing that it was the same location where the tsunami hit in 2004. It was truly an eye-opening experience to know that these people continue to live on, even after what has happened in the past. – Tait Reid

MCDS were incredibly hospitable throughout the entire trip. Brother Patrick, Nazreth and Greeto were incredible in the lengths that they went to in order to make our trip as pleasurable and enjoyable as possible. The experiences and stories they shared with us will never be forgotten. I thank everyone who provided for us including our stay. – Marcus Sosa

My week with MCDS showed me the wider picture of community development witnessing the power of confidence when coupled with financial independence, highlighted to me the effects that the poverty gap can have on a society. As a result, the observational experience was beneficial as it solidified to me the problems that face India as well as Australian individuals and their communities. – Hamish Tynan

..... "Pilgrims" from Australia @ MCDS

My experience in Chennai was great, I enjoyed meeting the MCDS community and seeing everything they do and everybody they help. I particularly enjoyed visiting



the drop-out school and hearing the stories of those kids, who against the difficulties of their surroundings and up bringings, still had a desire to learn and pursue an education. I will always remember my experience in India. – **Rory MacDonald**

Happy Interacting ... our special guest with **MCDS SPECIAL CHILDREN**

My time with MCDS was very touching. The things I was able to see because of Bro. Patrick really hit me. It was lovely to see the ways that MCDS empower people. I can really use this knowledge back home, in Australia. To see the women who lived in difficult situations and empathizing with their struggle in life really opened my eyes. The transit schools was another great project run by MCDS. Just the fact that it gave the students the opportunity in life. Sometimes I take for granted my education but now I truly am grateful after what I have seen. – **Daniel Szabe**

During my short yet , intriguing experience of India, I am proud to say that I worked and volunteered at a number of homes and centres for those from the slums, those who are disabled, dying and simply abandoned. However to this day, I have never met anyone as active, motivated and empowered

as Brother Patrick. He is a man with million programs running at once, yet he never trades quantity for quality. His MCDS society and its work with those who have been subjected to child labour is, if nothing else, inspiring. The work done to provide these children with a childhood opportunity and above all a chance at success is necessary and required in a world that is infectious and unforgiving to those who are not born with the



Gift giving ... an integral part of Christmas

luck of fortune and compassion. Above all, MCDS provides a life for those who are condemned by modern society. – **Jack Kayias**

..... "Pilgrims" from Australia @ MCDS

My time at MCDS has been truly thought provoking. A moment that spoke volumes was when I experienced the amazing work that the children at the school for special children did. Teaching them a skill is by far the best way to ensure that a child becomes self sufficient. In my short time, I learnt how important it is that we dream big because mediocre dreams lead to mediocre lives. I know how big a dream it is for Bro.Patrick to see MCDS thrive from what I have seen, his dreams have come true. The "passion fruit" at the society



Silent night...

headquarters sums up the organisation. The plant was planted on the bottom floor, but after years of toil ,it has climbed upto the top of the building. Similarly, MCDS has truly become one of the greatest societies , not only in India but the world. Great work MCDS!

– Chris Saji

I felt inspired by visiting the women from the Self-Help-Groups and hearing their many stories. The confidence they displayed and how proud they were of their achievements made me want to be a better role model for young women back in Australia. I hope the SHGs continue to grow and develop.

– Marnie Tiggemann (Teacher)

It was truly a pleasure and great honour to meet Bro. Patrick and the MCDS family. They were all so welcoming and generous throughout our time in Chennai. The work undertaken by MCDS is truly inspiring. MCDS have inspired us to continue to advocate and empower those who are less privileged. As a result of this experience, our hearts and minds are much richer and it is a blessing to have worked with MCDS in the quest for peace, justice and equality for all.



No cake like Christmas cake

– Michael Lucas (Teacher)

..... "Pilgrims" from Australia @ MCDS

It was an eye opening experience to be a part of the MCDS community for such a short time (3-4 days),witnessing the vast variety and depth of the work the



A Christmas message from the Director

organisation is involves. What really inspired me was the way MCDS aims to work the two facets of service.- both charity and advocacy. Helping those in need while fighting the situations that negatively affects the people. The idea of community development was something I was aware of but Bro. Patrick explains

so clearly and the rationale behind MCDS is truly evident. Thank you MCDS. We shall keep you in our thoughts and prayers. - **Anthony Callisto (Teacher)**

Many thanks for the hospitality that you showed us in Chennai. Listening to the students, you helped to put their pilgrimage into a context and helped them to understand what Christian compassion looks like in action. You reinforced the message we had shared with the students that we came to India not to see a poor country or to help others(we can do that in Australia), but to see our own lives in a different perspective ,and learn from others. I am so grateful to Nazareth and Greeto for their time. You have a remarkable staff. I saw how MCDS works because it builds on the strengths of the local people and places solutions in their hands. MCDS works with the people and not far the people – it is a model of community development and sustainable practice. The characterisation of compassion, integrity and transparency were evident throughout. For me, meeting with the women self-help-groups was a privilege – their voices were strong, confident and empowered. Thank you so much. The boys said last night that they hope the relationship will be maintained and I look forward deepening our connection .



With our Women leaders

– **Helena Sweeney (Teacher)**



# Sports Corner

## Asian Games 2014



In the recent Asian Games, there were several controversies, mostly revolving around poor officiating. The vast majority of allegations occurred in boxing, highlighted by the controversial semi-final loss of Indian lightweight boxer Laishram Sarita Devi against eventual silver medalist Park Jina of South Korea. The judging of the match, Sarita's refusal to accept the Bronze medal, and her behaviour at the medal ceremony received widespread international attention and sparked numerous debates.

The high volume of controversial boxing decisions led to accusations against the judges for bribery, widespread incompetence and favouritism. Criticism of the new scoring system has also come up. All said and done, it is time the sports authorities and the government wake up to the reality. There is urgent need to brush up the standard of sport in India – more so, before the Olympics in 2016 and the next Asian Games at Jakarta, in 2018



## Indian Football League

The greatest thing that could happen to Indian sport is the IFL. Wherever the matches are played, the stadiums have been jampacked. Each team consists of the best Indian players and players from abroad, excellent but past their prime. It is evident that the teams are put through systematic training by coaches and support staff with considerable experience. Officiating on the whole has been below par. The coverage and the commentary have been superb, thanks to expertise from abroad.

What happens to Indian Football when the league is over? It is evident that the participating Indian players have a long way to go, even comparing with their team mates. They have to attract young talents and nurture them or else the league will lose fans and followers.

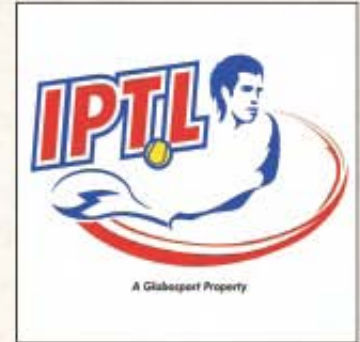


## ..... Sports Corner

The Indian league of IPTL played at New Delhi will be remembered for a long time by tennis fans in Delhi and by the millions. It was a privilege to see some of the best in the game in action, particularly the one between Roger Federer and the current World No.1 Novak Djokovic. The 2-day event had everything in it particularly the last one between the two greats. The result was not important, the game was and the inspiration.



## Indian Premier Tennis League



## Champions Trophy - Hockey



Having already qualified for the Rio Olympics after winning the Asian Games, India came into Champions Trophy with the great deal of expectations. This tournament played at the Kalinga Stadium at Bhubaneswar saw the world's leading hockey playing nations in action.

Unfortunately India lost in the Semi-finals to Pakistan and Pakistan lost to Germany in the Finals.



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# Why Do Women Cry So Easily ?



A little boy asked his mother, "Why are you crying?"

"Because I'm a woman," she told him.

"I don't understand," he said.

His Mom just hugged him and said, "And you never will."

Later the little boy asked his father, "Why does mother seem to cry for no reason?"

"All women cry for no reason," was all his dad could say.

The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why women cry.

Finally he put in a call to God.

When God got on the phone, he asked, "God, why do women cry so easily?"

God said: "When I made the woman she had to be special. I made her shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world, yet gentle enough to give comfort.

I gave her an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that many times comes from her children.

I gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone else gives up, and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue without complaining.

I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances, even when her child has hurt her very badly.

I gave her strength to carry her husband through his faults and fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart.

I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife, but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him unfaltering.

And finally, I gave her a tear to shed. This is hers exclusively to use whenever it is needed."

"You see my son," said God, "the beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman must be seen in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart - the place where love resides."

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