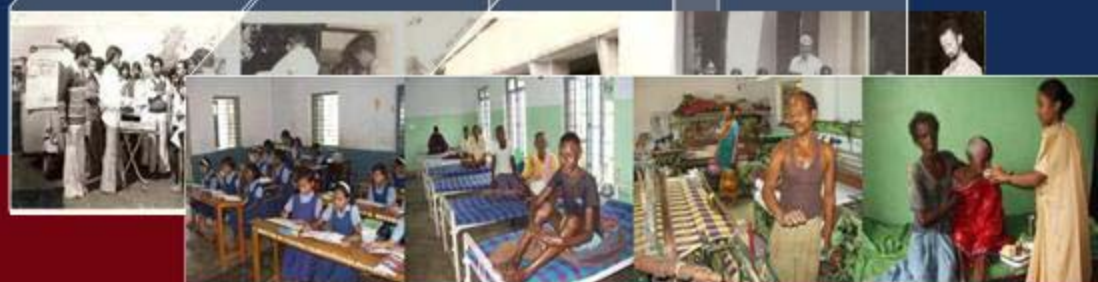




Damien Social Welfare Centre



44 Years Of Service

Gandhi Bhawan
Polytechnic Road, Dhanbad-826001



Leprosy work is not merely medical relief; it is about transforming frustration in life into the joy of dedication; personal ambition into selfless service.

- Mahatma Gandhi

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THE *L*IFE AND SPIRIT OF VENERABLE FR. DAMIEN



Joseph de Veuster was born, in Tremelo, Belgium, on January 3, 1840, entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, at Louvain, Belgium. Brother Damien was ordained at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace, Honolulu, on May 21, 1864.

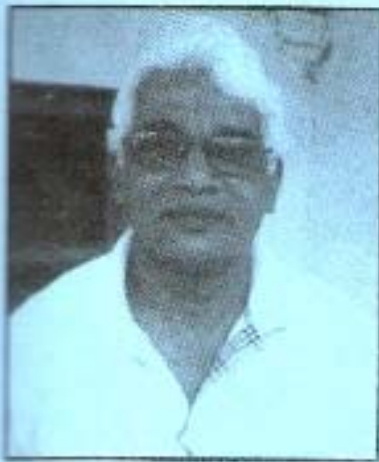
In 1873, Fr. Damien volunteered to go to Molokai, to work among the victims of Hansen's disease, who were exiled there. After 11 years of heroic service there himself contracted this disease and succumbed to it on April 15, 1889. In May 1956, his mortal remains were returned to St. Joseph's Church, Louvain.

Pope Paul VI declared Fr. Damien, venerable on July 7, 1977 and on May 15, 1994, Pope John Paul II declared him, **Blessed**. His feast is fixed for May 10, each year.

Fr. Damien's life and death among these affected people has been much admired throughout the world. Gandhiji commented "The political and journalistic world can boast of very few heroes, who compare with Fr. Damien of Molokai". During his life-time, some people were inspired to share his work. Today, his spirit continues to animate countless others, who quietly serve those, whom the world is still inclined to brush aside. There are a great number of institutions named after Fr. Damien, engaged in this noble work. One such is the Damien Social Welfare Centre.

DSWC is engaged in work for the leprosy patients in all its aspects: Survey, Health Education in Leprosy, Treatment, Rehabilitation and Welfare (inclusive of the leprosy patients permanently disabled, and the formal education along with vocational training of their children).

The spirit of Fr. Damien is not concerned only with the physical ravages of Hansen's disease. To quote Gandhiji again "Leprosy work is not merely medical relief, it is transforming frustration in life into joy of dedication and personal ambition into selfless service". Fr. Damien's spirit lives and burns on, bringing a ray of hope and meaning, into the lives of those marginalized and easily neglected by society.



Fr. Walter Crasta

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

This gives me immense joy as we present to you the Souvenir on the 44th Anniversary of the foundation of DSWC in Dhanbad. This is for the first time the Damien Day is being celebrated after 44 years of relentless, dedicated services to the people of Dhanbad and around in the field of leprosy. These celebrations are like mile-stones that we take a pause and look back to assess the distance we have covered and the achievements gained. This is

also a point of time where we re-energize and recommit ourselves to face the future challenges ahead.

When I look back over the 44 years beginning from the visionary founding Fathers in Fr. Kavanaugh and the associates, the later dynamic and energetic Directors in Fr. Larry Hunt and Fr. Vijay Bhat who made tremendous amount of contribution in stabilizing and establishing DSWC, through all sorts of challenges. I feel proud to say that we have come a long way with great achievements.

The times have changed the life situation of people, the socio-economic life and the very thinking process even at the smallest unit level has been influenced by the globalization concept. The advent of MDT and subsequent integration of the Government has influenced DSWC and its work and necessitated some changes in the functioning of the Centre. Accordingly the rules and regulations and the policies have been revitalized as for the changed times. The concept of charity has been better clarified and so also the objectives have been re-defined, keeping in mind the spirit of the founder fathers remain intact.

On this occasion, while thanking the fore fathers of DSWC for having given us a good lead in the race, I would like to recall and thank all those people who have been associated with the centre in one way or the other: The Patrons-the Bishops of Jamshedpur and their constant support, Governing Body and the General Body members for their valuable suggestions and guidance, Dr. Eric Titus for having given us the leadership as the President of Governing Body, all the associate Directors, the doctors who have been continuously giving their services, the Samaritan Sisters for managing the hospital, the fathers and sisters at Gomoh, all our staff at Nirmala Hospital, at NGH, DBH, Gomoh, BMP, BRTC and at the Central Office who have given their best in the continued services towards the leprosy affected people. I also would like to thank all our donors and well wishers beginning with GLRA/DAHW, all the other donor agencies and individuals from abroad and all our local donors who have recognized the hand of God in the services rendered to these lowly people of our society. My humble prayer today is "May the spirit of the founding fathers and their dedicated service to the leprosy affected people encourage and enable us not only to eliminate but to eradicate this Hansen's Disease from our neighbourhood and all the people affected by this disease be enable to be re-instated in the National mainstream with due human dignity."

Ajay Kumar Singh, I.A.S.
Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad



DHANBAD

: 0326-2312401 (O)

: 0326-2312601 (R)

Fax : 0326-2312602



Date

MESSAGE

It is indeed a matter of pride that Damien Social Welfare Centre, Dhanbad has completed 44 years in providing treatment, education and rehabilitation to the people affected by Leprosy in the district of Dhanbad. I congratulate the Director and Staff for their commendable service to the Society and wish them all success in continuing this noble service and all the best to all on the celebration of the Damien Day.

Deputy Commissioner,
Dhanbad

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JAMSHEDPUR

BISHOP'S HOUSE

GOLMURI P.O., JAMSHEDPUR-831 003, JHARKHAND, INDIA

Rt. Rev. Dr. Felix Toppo, S.J., D.D.

Bishop : Catholic Diocese of Jamshedpur

President : Jamshedpur Diocesan Corporation



MESSAGE

I am glad to know that Damien Social Welfare Centre (DSWC), Dhanbad is celebrating Damien Day on the occasion of its 44th Anniversary of the Foundation. DSWC had a humble origin. Fr. Mike F. Kavanagh, S.J., seeing the miserable conditions of the begging leprosy patients on the streets of Dhanbad, thought of starting a centre for them. His main aim was to bring relief to the thousands of leprosy patients in the Dhanbad District. Further, he wanted to save the children of leprosy patients from infections and give them good education and rehabilitate them in the society. With the collaboration of Bishop T. L. Pichay he bought pieces of land in Govindpur and Gomoh. It can be said that while the world ostracized the leprosy patients Fr. Mike Kavanagh embraced them and gave them human dignity since they too are the children of God.

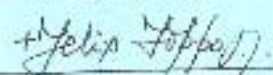
During the last 44 years DSWC has fulfilled its objectives and continues to give relief to the leprosy patients and their children. It has grown and now it can boast of Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, De Britto Hostel and School, Nirmala Girl's School and Hostel in Govindpur, Nirmala Girl's Hostel in Gomoh, Baramasia Mercy Post, Baramasia Rehabilitation Training Centre and Home for the Aged (VIPs).

All the Directors and the Associate, past and present, deserve our praise and appreciation for the special and skilled care they have been given to the leprosy patients. We also appreciate the presence and collaboration of Samaritan Sisters and Sisters of Charity of Nazareth.

One of the salient features of DSWC is that many people from Dhanbad town, seeing the good work done for the leprosy patients, have come forward to assist the patients.

I thank and congratulate the present Director, Fr. Walter Crasta and all his associates for the yeomen's services they are rendering to the leprosy patients and giving an example of high degree of charity.

Sincerely Yours,



+ Felix Toppo, S.J.
Bishop of Jamshedpur

Date : May 4, 2008

Place : Golmuri



MESSAGE

Damien Social Welfare Centre
Dhanbad

Father Walter Crasta

Würzburg, 5 May 2008

Message for Damien Day Celebration

We take it as a great privilege to send this message of greetings on the occasion of the Damien Day Celebration (on its 44th Anniversary of the Foundation) of the Damien Social Welfare Centre in Dhanbad, India.

So many years of service in the field of leprosy are an opportunity of celebrations. The German Leprosy and TB Relief Association sends herewith kind regards and best wishes to make this special occasion for the Damien Social Welfare Centre. We express our deep appreciation and gratitude to the team of Dhanbad.

Since the year 1965 the Damien Social Welfare Centre in Dhanbad was closely associated with GLRA India / DAHW - Deutsche Lepra und Tuberkulosehilfe Germany - the German Leprosy and TB Relief Association).

We are glad that we were able to contribute to your good work for so many years and we wish the team of Dhanbad all the best for their future work.

Würzburg May 2008

German Leprosy and TB Relief Association

Alois Pöschmann
President

Jürgen Hammelehle
Chief Executive Officer

The Office of the Parish Priest

(CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE)

MESSAGE

14th April 2008

Fr. Walter Crasta
Director
DSWC
Dhanbad - 826 001



Dear Fr. Walter,

I am happy to hear that Damien Social Welfare (DSWC) intends to celebrate **Damien Day** on 9th May, one day before the anniversary of the beatification of Fr. Damien De Veuster, Patron of DSWC, who sacrificed himself for the cause of Leprosy.

You have rightly said DSWC has come a long way from its humble beginning in 1964, to its present state of 2 hospitals with 200 beds, rehabilitation to the young cured-deformed patients and welfare to the destitute patients and to the leprosy affected and patients' children.

Leprosy, though declared eradicated, is still there. I wish DSWC, while cooperating with the Govt.'s Leprosy Management programme a few years ago, began a joint-intensive Health Education, in Leprosy and AIDS (the latter, a public health problem, and there is no dearth for funds, both in India and abroad), so that, in the absence of varied leprosy Surveys, voluntary reporting is promoted and patients treated in our OPD clinics.

Thanks to the Multi-Drugs therapy and the subsequent big count-down in leprosy in the last few years, we need to go a step beyond the routine food-drug-delivery-health services in our hospitals and convert, at least, Nirmala Leprosy Hospital to the General Hospital (keeping one ward each for Leprosy and Tuberculosis), to provide health services to the rural poor, at a reasonable cost, as Govindpur is surrounded by villages, lacking basic health facilities. This would bring in revenue and enable the Management to treat genuinely poor leprosy patients, free of cost.

With the drastic reduction of active caseload, the care of leprosy patients doesn't cease, but rather, the young, cured patients badly-deformed need, also not only treatment for ulcers, but, innovative-Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR).

For the conversion of Leprosy Colonies into healthy villages, greater efforts are to be made both in Formal Education and Vocational/Job-Oriented Training to the leprosy patients' children in our Residential schools and further empower the talented with higher/professional studies, helping them in placement and assimilation into society. The fast growing economy of our country needs more technical/skilled hands today.

Finally, Leprosy being a multi-faceted problem : Physical, Psychological, Social and Economical, a good blend of mind and heart is needed to tackle this, in a innovative and humane way.

As I conclude, I wish you and your team all the best in carrying out this tough task, yet noble and sublime.

Sd/-
Fr. Vijay A. Bhat

Leprosy is curable

MESSAGE



Dear Fr. Crasta,

Mother Teresa used to say that the world today is hungry not only for bread but hungry for love; hungry to be wanted, to be loved. One of the deepest sorrows of the of the human being is being unwanted. Damien Social Welfare Centre has been trying to give to the most unwanted segment of the society - the leprosy and tuberculosis patients, not only bread but, more than anything else, acceptance and personal dignity. In our society, many leprosy patients are not considered part of their own families by their children and even by their parents. DSWC has been giving them a secure feeling of wanted, cared for and loved by offering them a shelter and home. The governments of Jharkhand and India as well as the WHO may claim that leprosy is under control, but those of us involved in its eradication and care in touch with ground realities, are well aware that leprosy is spreading. This throws up a challenge for organizations like Damien social Welfare Centre in a big way - we will not be discouraged, we will not lose our focus.

The Dhanbad Coalfields not only has high density of leprosy patients and other types of poverty and misery, it also has a big concentration of philanthropic and generous persons. I am sure they will not fail in your mission.

Sd/-

(Fr. Alex Misquith, S.J.)

Director (2001-2003)

JAMSHEDPUR JESUIT PROVINCE

Loyla Hall, Post Box 153, Jamshedpur 831001

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Phone : 0657-2222933



MESSAGE

Fr. Walter Crasta

11 April 2008

Damien Social Welfare Centre

Gandhi Bhavan, Polytechnic Road

P B No 47, Dhanbad

Dear Father Crasta,

It gives me great pleasure to write these few lines for you and your collaborators. I want to congratulate you for your endeavours in health care, education of children and rehabilitation. DSWC has grown much over the years and it is no more a small enterprise. Much is given to you. Much will be asked of you.

In this regard, I would like to recall for you the spirit that animated the Founders of DSWC who branched out into the education of poor children. Frs Larry Hunt, John Prabhu, Joe Lacey, Walter Kongari, Abraham Enthemkuzhy and others, together with Francic Sylvester, always sought to champion the cause of the poor of Dhanbad District. They did so especially by means of educating the poor; because of its potential for the good of the poor. Fr. Hunt was known to go to the railway station and *bustees* and send children to De Britto to be educated. Fr. Lacey would always admit such children. Everyone was educated and helped to acquire a trade. Every child had to work and study hard and make it to the end of the course. And most of them did make it. The Founders never gave up on anyone. They were famous for their complete trust that the poor kids would make it good. It is no secret that Fr. Hunt would cry out of sheer joy when kids would later come back and share with him their success stories. These are the men whose spirit we can all emulate because they saw the face of Christ in the poor.

You have my whole hearted support and that of the Jamshedpur Jesuits in the difficult task ahead. Much has been given to you. Much is asked of you. I urge you always to see the face of Christ in the poor you are called upon to work for.

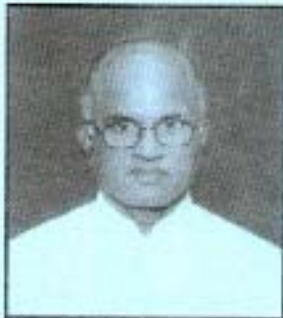
Yours fraternally,

Fr. J. A. Kalapura S.J.

James A. Kalapura, S.J.

Provincial

MESSAGE



St. Mary's English School
Kharkhai Link Road
Bistupur, Jamshedpur 831 001

25/04/08

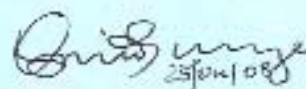
Dear Fr. Walter,

Greetings !

I'm happy to learn that you are bringing out a souvenir on the occasion of the 44th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Centre. Fr. Damien is the inspiration for not only DSWC - but also for many other similar organizations, who are working to alleviate the suffering of leprosy patients. May the spirit and vision of Fr. Damien live long and continue to touch and inspire more and more people.

I've had the good fortune of associating with the wonderful work that the DSWC is doing through its various units and the personnel involved. I wish and hope that more and more people of good will come forward to join hands and support this work.

My heartfelt wishes to the Management, dedicated staff and all the beneficiaries. May God bless the work and grant you success.



(Fr. Gerald Martin D'Souza)
Director (1995 - 2001)

MESSAGE

Dear Fr. Walter,

I join you with prayerful wishes on this momentous occasion of DSWC's 44th year in service of those impacted by leprosy.

For five decades the organization has been a beacon of hope and compassion to those afflicted ; and through its dedication and tireless work has borne testament to the vision and courage of Fr. Kavanaugh. What started as compassionate care has progressed through treatment, rehabilitation, and educating the young to now building a community that is self-sustaining and above all free of social barriers.

May God sustain you and your team, all the frontline workers, the Samaritan Sisters and every member of the community who stands with you in your efforts, and bless you all abundantly.

Sd/-

Noel Aranha

49, Holly Hedge Drive

Scarboroug

Ontario M1J 1x2

Canada

MESSAGE

A small initiative was undertaken by Lt. Fr. Michael Kavanaugh, S.J. with Rev. Sadiq and Rev. Titus in the year 1964 has now grown into a multifaceted Organisation catering to the needs of leprosy affected persons and their families in and around Dhanbad.



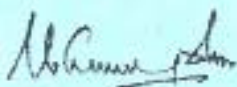
Damen Social Welfare Centre, Dhanbad is now running 2 Hospitals with 200 beds. Outdoor patient services are being conducted through 4 clinics. Medical services are being extended to 21 leprosy colonies in and around Dhanbad.

The institutional rehabilitation initiatives and the community based rehabilitation programme of DSWC for the handicapped and needy leprosy affected persons demands appreciations and I salute the commitment of Fr. Crasta and the team for this cause.

Apart from medical activities, DSWC runs 2 Schools with around 850 Children where majority of the leprosy affected children and children of leprosy affected persons get priority and they are being converted into good citizens.

The German Leprosy and TB relief association has been supporting the anti-leprosy and rehabilitation Initiative of DSWC for more than two decades. It's our privileged to be associated with DSWC in this philanthropic venture.

We wish the best of success to the organisation to contribute towards a Leprosy free world.



Sudhakar Bandyopadhyay

Regional Secretary (East)

German Leprosy & TB Relief Association - India

Eastern Regional Secretariat, Kolkata

"You also go and do like wise " (St. Luke 10 : 37)

**SNEHARAM PROVINCE
CONGREGATION OF SAMARITAN SISTERS**

Good Samaritan Convent, Samlong.
P.O. Namkum, Ranchi Dt., Jharkand State. - 834010
Phone & Fax 0651 2460624
Email sneharam@yahoo.com



01-05-2008

MESSAGE

Dear Rev. Fr. Walter,

I am very happy to learn that you intend to publish a souvenir on the occasion of the Damien Day, which is also the 44th anniversary of the foundation of D S W C.

D S W C, yes, that tiny mustard seed which was planted by Rev. Fr. Kavanaugh and his companions in 1964, has grown into a huge tree extending it's branches and giving comfort to various aspects of the life of the leprosy affected people providing them preventive, curative and rehabilitative services. When the society was considering leprosy as a curse of God or punishment for the sins of past life, this institution was able to house many sick patients who were alienated from their near and dear ones because of the stigma of the disease, and were able to give new life and future to their children. The centre has contributed it's might towards the eradication of leprosy from this part of the country.

We, Samaritan Sisters were also fortunate to be part of this mission. I wish all success to this institution and pray that it may continue to plan it's strategies according to the changing needs of the time.

May God bless all those who are engaged in the great mission and strengthen their hands and means so that leprosy be eradicated and those affected with leprosy and got cured be settled in society just like anybody with any other sickness.

With all best wishes,



Sr. Clementina Chettoor C.S.S.
Provincial Superior

The Beatitudes

Happy the gentle :
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right :
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful :
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart :
they shall see God.

DSWC OVER THE YEARS

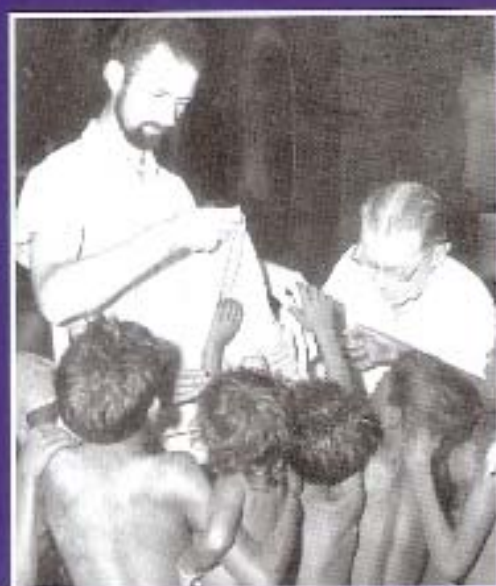




Old Site of BMP Field Hospital



Old Nirmala Leprosy Hospital,
Govindpur



Old Nirmala Girls School
& Hostel Govindpur

DAMIEN SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE DOWN THE LANE

The Damien Social welfare Centre was started in 1964 by Fr. Michael Kavanaugh sj With Rev. E. Sadiq, Rev. Titus and a small group of enlightened citizens of Dhanbad, of all creeds, to assist the leprosy patients in and around the city at St. Anthony's Church, Dhanbad. Initially it was restricted to the distribution of food with the help of Catholic Relief Services and some medicines from Mercy Hospital, Jamshedpur. In 1965 Dr. A. K. Mukherjee offered his services for the clinic work. 2100 cases of leprosy were registered. With the help from the Carmel school, Lions Club and Black Diamond Dramatic Society, 33 small schools were started in the colonies. The first grant of Rupees 9,000/- came from the German Leprosy Relief Association.

In 1966 Rev. E. Sadiq of the Anglican Church gave permission to use the old cemetery at Baramasia for conducting clinics. Within six months the clinics were attracting patients from more than 130 adjacent villages. 18 crippled patients were given accommodation. Catholic Medical Mission Board, New York, donated medicines. A colony with 35 patients was begun at Bhowra. Three sisters of the Missionaries of Charity from Asansol rendered their services every Saturday for a few months.

From July 1967 the full time programming began with the coming of the Samaritan sisters and Sr. (Dr.) Luka of the Holy Family Congregation, Trichur, Kerala. 25 mobile clinics began to treat around 3300 patients with the jeeps donated by Caritas International and Oxfam.

Nirmala Hostel was opened with 35 girls at Govindpur with a grant from the Holy Childhood Association through Fr. Koppberg of West Germany. A large plot of land was bought through the generosity of the same agency. On the other hand GLRA began financial support for the medical care. Its Executive Director Mr. Hermann Kober, visited the Centre for the first time and sanctioned grants for the equipment and staff quarters.

DSWC became a registered Society in 1969. Nirmala Leprosy Hospital was inaugurated on 8th April. Dr. S. Mukherjee, an eye specialist joined the hospital voluntarily on a part time basis. Oxfam donated a jeep with trailer and the Lion's Club helped in purchasing an ambulance and building a school at Naya Duniya. 200 huts were built in 13 colonies.

Fr. Michael Kavanaugh left for the US and Fr. Larry J. Hunt took over as the Director in 1970. A shoe industry was opened with the help from Oxfam at Nirmala. Oxfam also supported to build six staff quarters, one heavy-duty machine and four sewing machines.

Cont...

In further response to the problem of leprosy in Dhanbad district DSWC conducted a survey of the population between 1968 and 1970 to determine the prevalence of the disease, to identify new cases of leprosy and to encourage the patients to register with DSWC to receive regular treatment. Out of these initial surveys grew DSWC's LEPROSY CONTROL PROJECT. The Survey covered a population of 11 lakhs in four blocks of Dhanbad district namely: 1. Dhanbad 2. Jharia-Jorapokhar-Sindri 3. Baliapur and 4. Nirsa - Chirkunda. DSWC set up a 24 units in the area with six specially trained Para Medical workers in each unit supervised by the non medical supervisors and medical officers. The aim was to lower the quantum of infectivity and to lower the transmission of infection. Survey, Education and Treatment methodology was adopted under the guidance of the National Leprosy Control Programme. The Centre followed the WHO guidelines for treatment and launched the Multi Drug Therapy treatment.

DSWC was acutely aware of leprosy as a social problem as well as a medical one for its victims. In conjunction with the public health surveys, it conducted an active public health programme throughout the district. The goal was not only to make the people aware of the nature of the disease or make them aware if they themselves had the disease but also importantly to provide them with the facts about leprosy so that they could understand this disease, which afflicts their neighbors. To those suffering from leprosy, the message was "Leprosy Is Curable at all stages". To others who were frightened of the disease, the message was "Leprosy is the least contagious of all infectious diseases." It also recognized most of the pain suffered by the patients was emotional rather than the physical one. The health education programme was intended to erase the social stigma associated with the disease which has made the victims outcasts from society and which disabled them from living a normal human life.

In a further effort to restore dignity and self esteem to leprosy patients, DSWC undertook a rehabilitation project at Baramasia, in Dhanbad, Known as Baramasia rehabilitation Training Centre (BRTC) in 1974 with funds provided by the GLRA. DSWC sought to provide an alternative of vocational training to those leprosy patients who have been forced by the society to depend on begging for their livelihood. In 1974 BRTC initiated cane industry which met with relative success until 1979 when cane became unavailable.

Frank Klein of DSWC undertook a major initiative to re-asses and reorganize BRTC in 1980. DSWC created a separate department for the rehabilitation programmes and a new emphasis was placed on organizing small industries, teaching of production skills appropriate to the local raw materials and providing half way assistance for young entrepreneurs who do not have the facilities or tools to

Cont.

practice their trades. On the other hand they are unable to compete in the open market because of the society's negative attitude to their medical conditions or who are lacking in the necessary self confidence or self assertiveness skills which would bring them success. So, Leprosy patients are now given the opportunity at BRTC to learn and demonstrate their skills in such areas as farming, maintenance, jute handicrafts, embroidery, cycle repair and weaving. BRTC not only trains the patients who live and work there but, more importantly, helps the patients to help themselves and to rediscover their worth as human beings.

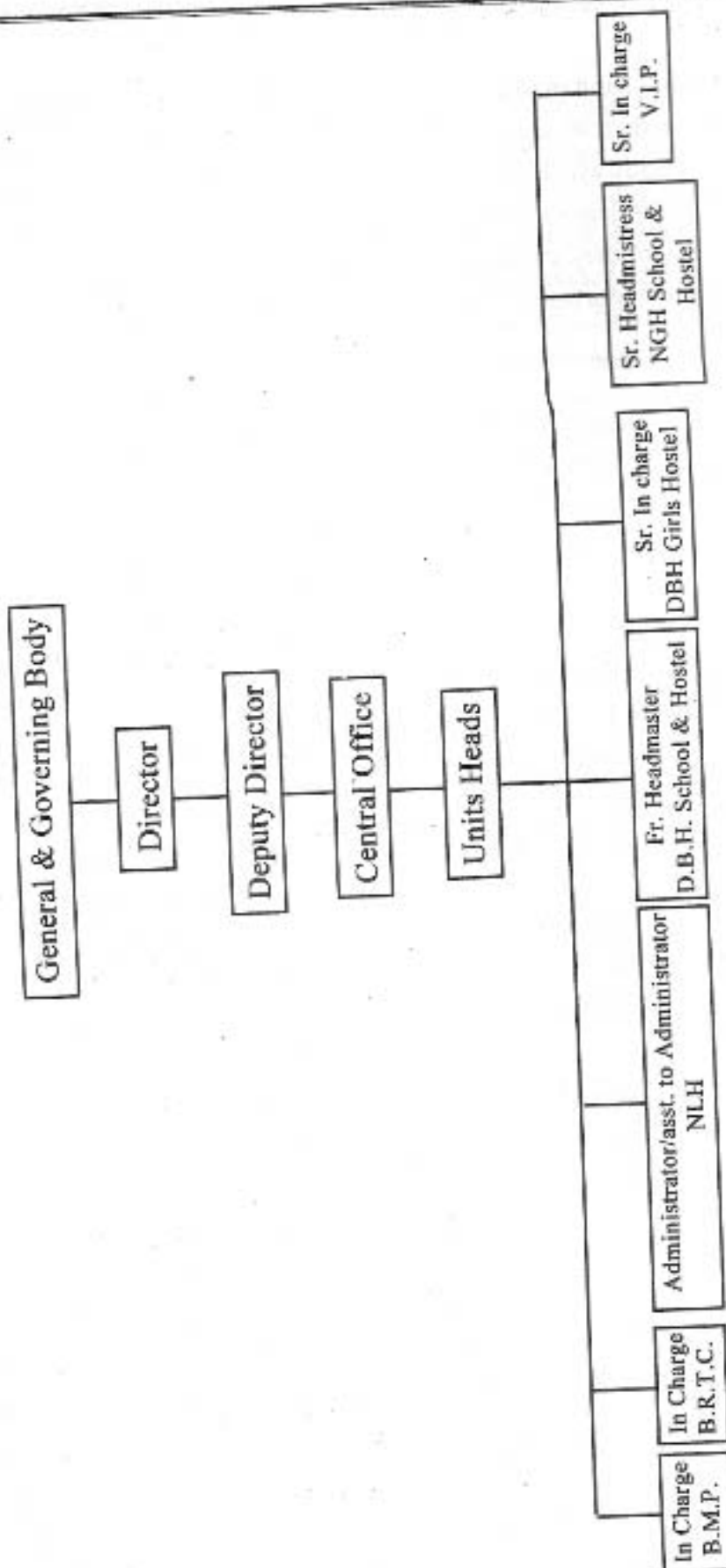
DSWC also became active in providing WELFARE SERVICES to 20 self settled leprosy colonies located throughout the Dhanbad district. DSWC also helped to improve housing and sanitation facilities in these colonies and a major effort was made to provide them with medical support. But the colonies remained self-supporting and independent.

Those leprosy patients from the colonies and elsewhere in Dhanbad district who no longer have anyone to care for them or had any means of earning were provided with complete welfare and medical care in the Home for the Aged (VIP section) in Nirmala campus at Govindpur. Presently there are 74 in number and many are waiting to be admitted.

DSWC recognized that the hope of the colonies and all leprosy patients rested in the future of their children. DSWC committed itself to providing educational services for all the children of the leprosy affected people in the colonies. The Nirmala girl's Ashram located at the hospital campus at Govindpur has now an enrollment of 215 girls. They are given an academic education as well as one in home economics, tailoring and handicrafts. The De Britto School in Gomoh provides Education for 613 boys and girls today. DSWC also makes sure that the children of the deformed and chronic ulcer patients get the job oriented special training and provides financial support such as training in nursing, teachers training, secretarial courses, studies at the university level and even M.B.A., hotel management, Computer Education. Up to now more than sixty such trained persons are working in bigger cities throughout India.

Besides leprosy and TB, DSWC took care of Polio and Malaria treatment and care. Today it has limited itself to leprosy and TB treatment. A new TB Section was opened in 2004 with funds arranged by Fr. John Guidera sj. The RNTCP programme was launched in 2008 in collaboration with the District TB Officer.

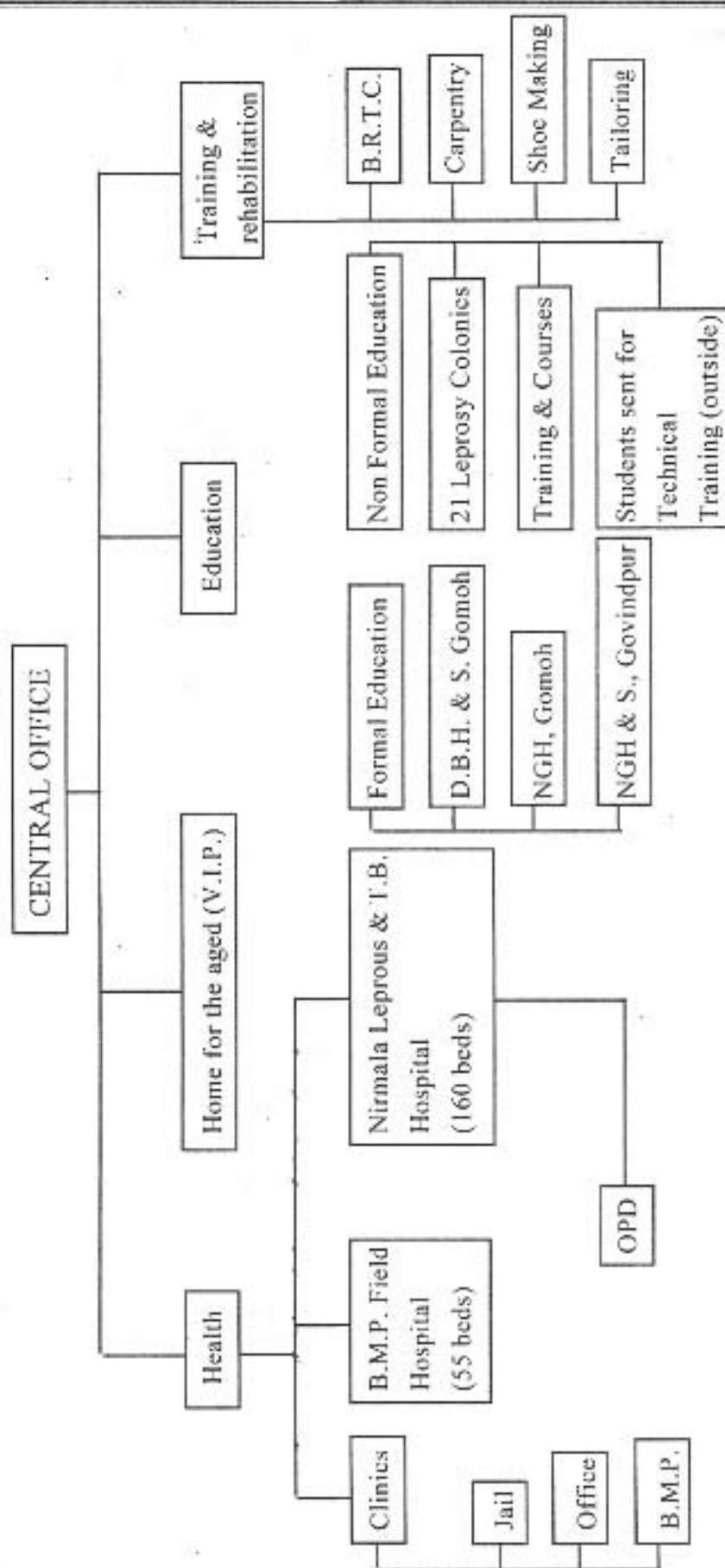
Organization Chart of Damien Social Welfare Centre



BMP	:	Baramasia Mercy Post, Dhanbad (55 Beds field Hospital)
DBH	:	De Britto School & Hostel, Gomoh
BRTC	:	Baramasia Rehabilitation and Training Centre, Dhanbad
NGH	:	Nirmala Girls School & Hostel Govindpur
NLH	:	Nirmala Leprosy Hospital, Govindpur (120 Beds)
V.I.P.	:	Home for the aged at NLH campus, Govindpur (80 Beds)

A Birds Eye View of Damien Social Welfare Centre

Gandhi Bhawan, Polytechnic Road, Dhanbad - 826 001

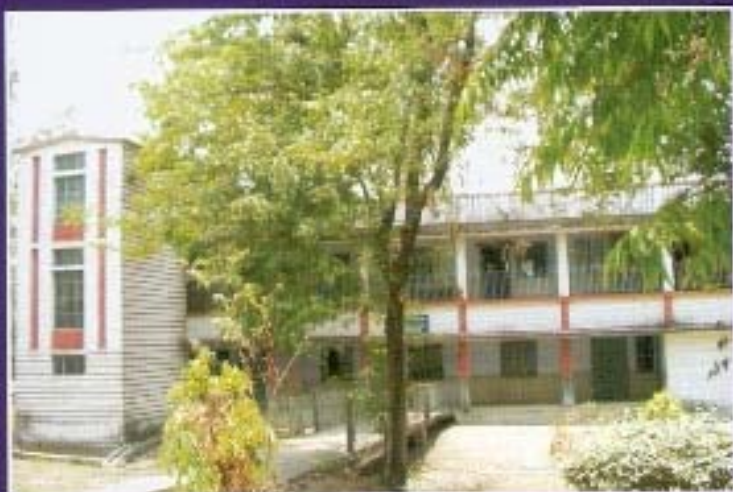


GITANJALI

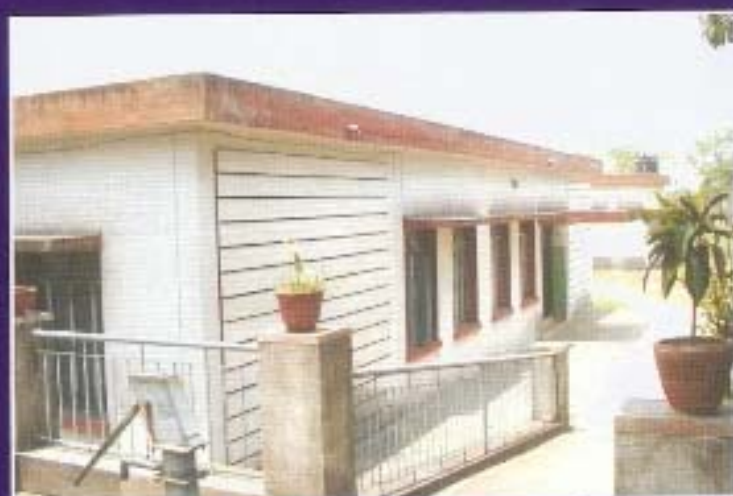
At last I woke up from my slumber
and opened my eyes, I saw thee standing by me,
Flooding my sleep with thy smile.
How I had feared that the path was long and wearisome,
And the struggle to reach thee was hard !

HEALTH SERVICES





Training Section



T. B. Section



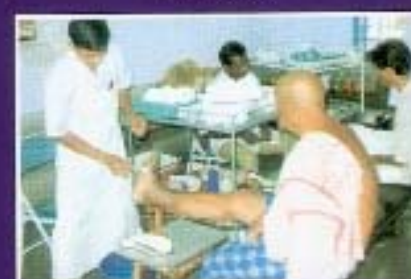
Nirmala Leprosy & TB Hospital, Govindpur



Patch Examination



Laboratory



Dressing



Physiotherapy



Doctor's Visit at BMP

Health Services

NIRMALA HOSPITAL :

The word "Nirmal" in Hindi means "pure" or "clean" Here the feminine form applies to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. This immaculate mother is the Patron saint of the leprosy Hospital.

BIRTH HISTORY :

In 1967, Bishop L. T. Pichachy S.J., then the bishop of Jamshedpur, sent out invitations to several religious congregations to help out Fr. Michael Kavanagh sj., who had begun the work among the leprosy patients. The response was poor. It was the Samaritan sisters, a newly founded congregation, (founded in 1961) who true to their name, responded to the needs of the distressed. Srs. Magdalen, Claudia, Josephine, and Joan joined Dr. (Sr.) Luka of the Holy family Congregation started services in a humble two ward hospital at Baramasia. Patients in growing numbers came flocking into the Hospital, but there was a mightier job that demanded attention. It was a fact that several others afflicted by the disease, preferred to hide and remain unrecognized. The sisters went in search of these needy desperate ones in hiding. Though dogs chased them sometimes and even the doors were shut, the highly motivated sisters found a way out to this problem. Even the problem of the language did not make them handicapped. With the help of CRS, they began distributing milk powder, oil and clothes thus finding out the timid victims of the disease were easily located for treatment. N.H began to accommodate the patients who were seriously ill

In the same year Caritas International and Oxfam supplied jeeps which began to run 25 mobile clinics and serve 3300 patients. German Leprosy Relief Association sanctioned grants for equipments.

In 1968 a large plot of land was acquired with the help from the Holy child Association through Fr. Koppberg from West Germany and on April 7, 1969, new Hospital at Govindpur was inaugurated.

Dr. S. Mukherjee, an eye specialist joined the Centre and the hospital in 1970. The same year saw Fr. Larry Hunt replace Fr. Mike Kavanaugh, who left for States. A grant from Oxfam made it possible to care for the patients with suitable foot -wear. It also saw to 6 staff quarters, 1 heavy-duty machine and 4 sewing machines.

Fr. Paul Chittilapilly, the founder of the Samaritan sisters, named the convent Nirmala Ashram as his sisters were engaged in the mighty work of providing physical, emotional and spiritual purification to people who are in dire need.

To conduct leprosy work in a scientific manner, DSWC in collaboration with German Leprosy and Rehabilitation Association (GLRA) started a six moth-long training programme for Para Medical Workers at Govindpur. The hospital started conducting out reach programmes to the marginalized in the villages around it such as Mother and Child Care through CRS, Immunization, Polio, DPT, and Tetanus-Toxide in collaboration with the Govt. of Bihar at the district level through these trained Para Medical Workers.

The warm - hospitable attitude and the concern of the sisters has been draw people from every walk of life to Nirmala Leprosy Hospital. They found themselves enlightened and enriched by the welcome, love and concern they experienced. Medically enriched; young students come to learn, while youth sought life-experience in the

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