

7.2.05

Dear Sascha,
Peace!

Thanks a lot for your phone calls and for your kind letter as well dated 30.12.04.

As you may know through the TV and News from different people and organisations – Dec. 26, 2004 is a very sad day for India and specially for Tamil Nadu. The words can't express fully and correctly about what had happened to the fishermen and other people who lived along the sea-shore side from Chennai down to Kanyakumari.

In no time thousands of people were washed away by the Tsunami. There was no chance for many to escape from this horrible situation. The parents saw the children being taken away to the deep sea and they were helpless. They simply wept over this and for days many could not get the dead bodies.

In some cases the children saw their parents being washed away by the tidal wave. In many villages, many do not know, who died and who still live and if so where they are! It's a mystery!

I myself visited the affected area in Cuddalore. I know this area well, for seven years I studied in Cuddalore. With the group we went to this place to take bath in the sea. You may remember this place. Some of our godchildren are studying in Cuddalore. Many houses had been washed away. Boats and thousands of fishing nets are broken and disappeared and so on and further.

The government officials and social organisations did their best to the affected members and families. As an immediate action and as a first step they were given rice, mats, utensils and other things needed to sustain themselves for the first four days. Some medical camps have been established to take care of not Tsunami affected people.

Now as a long range plan, we have to well plan out what will be the best for the future of these people! This should be well discussed and well planned out and properly exerted for many reasons.

1. The money should be properly spent and the help should reach the affected.
2. The affected people alone should be selected. It is a tough work. But it has to be done. This is the time for many to say that he/she is als a Tsunami affected person while he/she was not in the area while the

tsunami took place. Many are from the village, but he/she was not in the village for the last 3 to 5 years.

3. What type of project we should undertake for these people is a must and must be discussed with the people if it is necessary.
4. The affected people through our project should have some peace of mind and their future should be well protected.
5. Once in three months a report about what is going on is be reported to our donors with some photos to help them to know how the money is used and for what purpose.
6. A few assistance, 2 to 4 people, will be with me to help me to carry out the project.
7. The people may be given from our fund some immediate help when they really deserve it.

Before you transfer the money kindly call me over the phone and I will tell you when to transfer and how much.

Please give my sincere thanks to your sister and to those who work for this project. We need a group of people to support this project for 2 to 4 years.

With love

Don Bosco