

Kanithi Sekhar

I am **Kanithi Sekhar** hailing from Boddugudem of Chintoor Mandal. I completed X class in a government school in the year 1997 and was roaming around in the forest without doing anything. The financial condition of the family was not conducive enough for me to do my higher education. Hence I used to work in the field and at time get disappointed with me. Once Fr. Peter Daniel came to my village and found me in the village sitting under a tree doing nothing. He came to me and picked up conversation with me and invited me to come to the center at LITDS. I started to stay with him in the center and there began the transformation of my life. Within one year he motivated me to do my higher studies and placed me in Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada, to do my intermediate. Though I went over there with another tribal companion of mine I found it extremely difficult to stay and study over there. Moving away from the forest to a big city was too much for me to get adjusted and hence I ran away from the college to the forest. But Fr. Peter Daniel knowing that I am back to the forest from the college he came running to my village and took me back to the college again. For your information I did run away from the college five times but Fr. Peter Daniel was always there to take me back to the college. He saw to it that I complete my intermediate and he succeeded in doing so. Yes I passed in intermediate with good marks. At that time the local government announced that the intermediate tribal boys can apply for teacher's post in the tribal area. Hence I immediately applied and got the job as a government school teacher. As I was teaching I got the opportunity to do my in-service training and qualified myself as a full-fledged teacher. Now I am the Head Master of the government Primary school and also the president of the Tribal Teachers Association. I am also the President of the Old Students Association of LITDS (LOSA). As I share this I look back into my journey of life and thank God and thank all the donors who made this possible in my life. I am committed to teach the tribal children of my own community and motivate them all to become someone to contribute to the growth of the tribal community.

Thanks a lot for listening to me patiently my story.

Kanithi Sekhar.