



- ✦ Vocational Training and Income Generation Projects
- ✦ Rural Health Worker Training
- ✦ Credit Cooperative Societies
- ✦ Nutritional Support and Food-for-Development Programmes

These initiatives reached remote villages and underserved communities where government services were often unavailable. Through these efforts, thousands of families gained access to education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and a better quality of life.

One of Father Burns' greatest contributions was his commitment to empowering women and marginalized groups. Through women's associations, vocational training centres, and cooperative societies, he helped create pathways toward self-reliance and social transformation. His work extended beyond Darjeeling to Kurseong, Kalimpong, and Sikkim, leaving a lasting impact across the region.

Despite facing severe health challenges, including cancer and major heart surgery, Father Burns continued his mission with unwavering dedication. Even in advanced age and declining health, he remained actively engaged in community service, prayer, and advocacy for the poor.

A particularly touching example of his compassion is remembered by many. After seeing a poorly clothed child shivering in the cold streets of Darjeeling, Father Burns was deeply moved. Determined to help, he mobilized support from international friends and donors, launching programmes that provided warm clothing, blankets, mattresses, and bedding to children from impoverished families. For years, this initiative brought comfort and dignity to countless children during the harsh winter months.

Colleagues, community leaders, and beneficiaries alike regard Father Burns as a selfless servant of humanity. Through Hayden Hall, he helped restore dignity and hope to countless individuals who had been trapped in poverty, illness, and social exclusion. His work represents a model of professional social development based on careful planning, community participation, and sustainable empowerment.

For the Gorkha people, Father E.P. Burns is far more than a social worker or missionary; he is a symbol of compassion, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to human welfare. His legacy is permanently etched in the hearts of the people he served. Future generations will remember him as a visionary humanitarian whose life demonstrated that genuine service to humanity is the highest form of spirituality.

Father E.P. Burns' extraordinary contribution to the social, educational, and health development of the Darjeeling Hills has earned him a place among the most respected and beloved figures in the history of the Gorkha community.

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